



# ASKING CHILDREN ABOUT PETS

## GUIDELINES FOR HUMAN SERVICES PROFESSIONALS

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**When speaking with children, it is advisable to ask them questions about their experience with pets and other animals. By asking about animals in the home, family violence can be identified earlier, making intervention more likely to succeed and safeguarding children, pets, and their families.**

1. Have you or your family ever had any pets? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. If yes, what happened to them? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you have a pet or pets now? ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Have you ever lost a pet you really cared about? ☐ Yes ☐ No
5. If yes, what happened? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Has your pet ever been hurt? ☐ Yes ☐ No
7. Have you ever felt worried about bad things happening to your pet? ☐ Yes ☐ No
8. Has anybody ever tried to make you do something you didn't want to do by threatening to hurt your pet? ☐ Yes ☐ No
9. If yes, what happened? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Have you ever seen someone hurt an animal or pet? ☐ Yes ☐ No
11. If so, tell me what happened. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Have you ever hurt an animal or pet? ☐ Yes ☐ No
13. If so, tell me what happened. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Have you ever been frightened or hurt by an animal or pet? ☐ Yes ☐ No
15. If so, describe what happened. \_\_\_\_\_
16. What happens when your family pet misbehaves? \_\_\_\_\_
17. Have you ever been punished for something your pet did, like getting into the trash? ☐ Yes ☐ No
18. Has your pet ever been punished for something you did, like not doing the dishes when you were told to? ☐ Yes ☐ No

**NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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