



A Survivor & Her Dog: Animal Welfare Impact of the Robert Parker Fund

The trauma of domestic violence not only adversely affects Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC) survivors it impacts their pets as well.

A pet may be used by abusers as leverage to control their victim and to intimidate or coerce survivors to stay. Pets all too often become targets of violence. Many of them suffer lifelong impairments from the abuse they have received.

Such as the case SPARCC received where we were able to use the funds from the Robert Parker Fund.

A survivor had recently fled her home due to the escalation of violence perpetrated by her husband. In the chaos of the incident she was forced to leave her small cherished dog behind.

When the survivor was able to safely return home she arrived to find a horrifying scene. Her small dog had been brutally attacked by her husband so severely that she felt his jaw had been broken. Left without the financial means to seek medical care she turned to SPARCC for help.

Not only was SPARCC a safe place for her, it also was a safe place for her injured pet. SPARCC was able to financially assist with the necessary emergency veterinary care this poor dog desperately needed. Unfortunately, the jaw was broken and there was a long road to recovery, but this journey could now begin with the financial assistance SPARCC was able to provide.

Without this financial assistance I believe the outcome for this pet would have been very different.

*Funding for this project provided by the Robert Parker Fund of the
Community Foundation of Sarasota County.*

For more information about SPARCC, visit www.sparcc.net