

**FOLLOW-UP PROTOCOL FOR ASSESSING ANIMAL WELFARE AND ELDER  
ADULT ABUSE AND NEGLECT©**



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The purpose of the **follow-up protocol** is to assist the Division of Aging and Adult Services and Adult Protection Services (APS) personnel in interviewing an elder adult client (or those referring elder adult clients) **to seek elaboration on concerns an elder adult raised about threats to and/or harm of pets or other animals.**

The following statement may be read to the elder adult (or referring agent) to create the context for the questions and to indicate their purpose:

**“EARLIER, YOU SAID THAT YOU HAD CONCERNS ABOUT THREATS TO YOUR PET OR OTHER ANIMALS AND/OR CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR PET OR OTHER ANIMALS BEING HARMED BY SOMEONE. I WOULD NOW LIKE TO ASK YOU SOME ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR CONCERNS. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THIS INFORMATION WILL HELP US TO DETERMINE IF OUR AGENCY CAN ASSIST YOU IN DEALING WITH THESE CONCERNS.”**

**IF RESPONDENT SAID “YES” TO QUESTION ABOUT HARM  
TO PETS OR OTHER ANIMALS (Protocol item #13)**

- 1. HOW WAS YOUR PET OR OTHER ANIMAL HARMED?**
- 2. DID THIS HAPPEN ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION?**
- 3. HOW LONG AGO DID THIS HAPPEN (or WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME THIS HAPPENED)?**
- 4. WHO HARMED YOUR PET OR OTHER ANIMAL?**
- 5. WHY DO YOU THINK THIS PERSON HARMED YOUR PET OR OTHER ANIMAL?**

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6. WHO ELSE WAS PRESENT WHEN YOUR PET OR OTHER ANIMAL WAS HARMED?

7. HOW SEVERE WAS THE HARM TO YOUR PET OR OTHER ANIMAL?

7a. \_\_\_ minor harm (e.g., missed feeding once)

7b. \_\_\_ minor injury (e.g., minor cut , sprain)

7c. \_\_\_ serious injury (e.g., broken limb, burns)

8a. WAS THE PET OR OTHER ANIMAL TAKEN TO A VETERINARIAN?

\_\_\_ YES If answers "YES", TAKEN BY WHOM? \_\_\_\_\_

8b. DID THE VETERINARIAN SUSPECT THAT THE INJURIES WERE NOT THE RESULT OF AN ACCIDENT (e.g., hit by car, caught leg in a fence)? \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

8c. DID THE PET OR OTHER ANIMAL RECOVER FROM ITS INJURIES? \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

\_\_\_ NO 8d. DID THE PET OR OTHER ANIMAL RECOVER FROM ITS INJURIES? \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

9. WAS THE HARM TO YOUR PET OR OTHER ANIMAL REPORTED TO THE POLICE OR AN ANIMAL CONTROL AGENCY OR A HUMANE SOCIETY?

\_\_\_ YES If answers "YES", WHAT WAS THEIR RESPONSE? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ NO

9a. DID YOU TELL ANYONE ELSE ABOUT THIS?

\_\_\_ YES If answers "YES", WHOM DID YOU TELL AND WHAT WAS THEIR RESPONSE? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ NO

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**10. HOW DID YOU FEEL WHEN YOUR PET OR OTHER ANIMAL WAS HARMED?**

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**11. DO YOU THINK YOUR PET OR OTHER ANIMAL WAS HARMED IN ORDER TO:**

**FRIGHTEN YOU?**

**INTIMIDATE YOU?**

**MAKE YOU CHANGE YOUR LIFESTYLE OR THE WAY YOU LIKE TO  
LIVE?**

**FORCE YOU TO GIVE MONEY, POSSESSIONS, OR OTHER  
PROPERTY TO THE PERSON HARMING THE PET OR OTHER  
ANIMAL?**

**MAKE YOU CHANGE WHERE YOU LIVE OR YOUR LIVING  
ARRANGEMENTS?**

**CAUSE YOU EMOTIONAL DISTRESS ABOUT THE HARM TO OR LOSS  
OF YOUR PET OR OTHER ANIMAL?**

**KEEP YOU FROM TALKING TO OTHERS ABOUT CONCERNS OR  
NEEDS THAT YOU HAVE?**

**12. WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF HARM TO YOUR PET OR OTHER ANIMAL  
HAPPENED AGAIN?** \_\_\_\_\_

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13. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD OR SOMETHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO TELL US ABOUT WHEN YOUR PET OR OTHER ANIMAL WAS HARMED?

\_\_\_ YES - "please go ahead and tell me" \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ NO

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR PATIENCE IN ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS. OUR AGENCY WILL CONSIDER THE CONCERNS YOU RAISED AND SEE IF WE CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE TO YOU.

**IF RESPONDENT SAID "YES" TO QUESTION ABOUT  
THREATS TO HARM PETS OR OTHER ANIMALS (Protocol  
item #14)**

14a. HOW WAS YOUR PET OR OTHER ANIMAL THREATENED?

14b. HOW STRONGLY DID YOU BELIEVE THAT THE THREAT MIGHT BE CARRIED OUT?

\_\_\_ not strongly at all \_\_\_ somewhat strongly \_\_\_ very strongly

15. DID THIS HAPPEN ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION?

16. HOW LONG AGO DID THIS HAPPEN (or WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME THIS HAPPENED)?

17. WHO THREATENED TO HARM YOUR PET OR OTHER ANIMAL?

18. WHY DO YOU THINK THIS PERSON THREATENED TO HARM YOUR PET OR OTHER ANIMAL?

19. WHO ELSE WAS PRESENT WHEN YOUR PET OR OTHER ANIMAL WAS THREATENED?

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**20. HOW SEVERE WAS THE THREAT OF HARM TO YOUR PET OR OTHER ANIMAL?**

- 20a. \_\_\_\_ minor (e.g., threatened to skip feeding for one day)
- 20b. \_\_\_\_ threatened minor injury (e.g., minor cut , sprain)
- 20c. \_\_\_\_ threatened serious injury (e.g., broken limb, burns)

**21. WAS THE THREAT TO HARM YOUR PET OR OTHER ANIMAL REPORTED TO THE POLICE OR AN ANIMAL CONTROL AGENCY OR A HUMANE SOCIETY?**

\_\_\_\_ **YES**    If answers "YES", WHAT WAS THEIR RESPONSE? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_ **NO**

**21a. DID YOU TELL ANYONE ELSE ABOUT THIS?**

\_\_\_\_ **YES**    If answers "YES", WHOM DID YOU TELL AND WHAT WAS THEIR RESPONSE? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_ **NO**

**22. HOW DID YOU FEEL WHEN YOUR PET OR OTHER ANIMAL WAS THREATENED?**

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**23. DO YOU THINK YOUR PET OR OTHER ANIMAL WAS THREATENED IN  
ORDER TO:**

- FRIGHTEN YOU?**
- INTIMIDATE YOU?**
- MAKE YOU CHANGE YOUR LIFESTYLE OR THE WAY YOU LIKE TO  
LIVE?**
- FORCE YOU TO GIVE MONEY, POSSESSIONS, OR OTHER  
PROPERTY TO THE PERSON HARMING THE PET OR OTHER  
ANIMAL?**
- MAKE YOU CHANGE WHERE YOU LIVE OR YOUR LIVING  
ARRANGEMENTS?**
- CAUSE YOU EMOTIONAL DISTRESS ABOUT THE HARM TO OR LOSS  
OF YOUR PET OR OTHER ANIMAL?**
- KEEP YOU FROM TALKING TO OTHERS ABOUT CONCERNS OR  
NEEDS THAT YOU HAVE?**

**24. WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF THREATS TO HARM YOUR PET OR OTHER  
ANIMAL HAPPENED AGAIN?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**25. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD OR SOMETHING  
ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO TELL US ABOUT WHEN YOUR PET OR OTHER  
ANIMAL WAS THREATENED?**

**YES - "please go ahead and tell me"** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**NO**

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR PATIENCE IN ANSWERING THESE  
QUESTIONS. OUR AGENCY WILL CONSIDER THE CONCERNS YOU RAISED  
AND SEE IF WE CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE TO YOU.**