



MY DOG IS MY HOME

Share Stories. Share Data. Change Systems. Change Lives.

Compiled Results from the Report: Exploring Access Among Animal Guardians Experiencing Homelessness in New York

Some estimate that 5% to 10% of homeless people have companion animals.¹ MDIMH recently conducted a survey of homeless pet owners at a NYC street clinic² and found some startling statistics:

Homeless people with companion animals face serious obstacles to accessing housing:

“Interviewer: What (did the shelter tell you to do) about your dog?”

‘Monica’: They said get rid of her. Get rid of her.”

- 65% of respondents reported that they had been denied access to temporary housing because of a companion animal.
- 55% said the ‘biggest’ reason they couldn’t stay in temporary housing was because “the shelter would not let my animal in.”
- 50% reported that they will not stay in temporary housing “unless my animal is allowed inside.”
- 46% reported that in the past year, there was a time when they wanted to stay in temporary housing but couldn’t.

They face these obstacles, despite the fact that:

- 67% reported that they acquired their animals before they were homeless.
- 64% reported that their animals were spayed or neutered.
- 52% reported that their animals are up to date on vaccinations.
- 48% reported that their animal was certified by a doctor to provide them with emotional support for a mental or psychiatric disability.
- 36% reported that their animals were trained to do a specific task to help them with a disability.

These obstacles have led them to experience long periods of homelessness:

- 46% reported experiencing homelessness described as “Chronic”.
- 60% had been homeless for over 6 months, 52% for at least a year, and 28% for two or more years.

Providing access to housing with accommodations for their companion animal could provide the key to getting this population housed!

See the complete results of our research here: *Exploring Access Among Animal Guardians Experiencing Homelessness in New York City*

¹ Pets of the homeless.org estimate-This translates to 4000 to 8000 homeless in NYC with animals.

² The clinic and survey were conducted on June 15th, 2019 at the Graffiti Church in Manhattan.