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**Heller Attends Animal Shelter Groundbreaking in Reno Nevada
*Heller Highlights His Legislation To Help Victims of Domestic Violence***

**Reno, NV** – Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) attended the groundbreaking of Noah’s Animal House (NAH), a stand-alone full service pet shelter to assist animals from homes experiencing domestic violence, in Reno, NV. Heller joined NAH founder Staci Alonso, her son, Noah, Committee to Aid Abused Women (CAAW) Executive Director Denise Yoxsimer, and Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve at the event.

NAH in Southern Nevada has allowed more than 1,200 pets to stay united with their families by providing roughly 90,000 nights of safe shelter. CAAW provides free, confidential, and bilingual services to families in Washoe County. In the last fiscal year, they provided shelter for 808 individuals for a total of 10,833 bed-nights.

“I am proud that Nevada is leading the way to ensure that domestic violence victims have the resources they need to feel empowered to leave abusive relationships,” **said Heller.** “I congratulate Stacie and Noah’s Animal House for providing such an innovative component at their housing facilities, so that women can leave abusive situations and have a safe place for themselves and their pets. I thank the Committee to Aid Abused Women and Noah's Animal House for their continued positive impact on our Nevada communities.”

At the groundbreaking, Heller highlighted his support for the [PAWS Act, bipartisan legislation he introduced](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2017/2/heller-peters-introduce-the-pet-and-women-safety-act) to expand existing federal domestic violence protections to include threats or acts of violence against a victim’s pet and provide grant funding to programs - like NAH - that offer shelter and housing assistance for domestic violence victims with pets.

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