

Jordan Chiles Presents Variety Courage Award, Sponsored by Purina, to World Champion Aly Raisman for Her Advocacy for Abuse Survivors

Gymnast and survivor advocate honored at Variety's Power of Women Event presented by Lifetime in Los Angeles, spotlighting the vital role pets play in trauma recovery

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 30, 2025 /[PRNewswire](#)/ -- As Domestic Violence Awareness Month comes to a close, Purina recognized world champion gymnast, activist and author Aly Raisman at the 2025 Variety Power of Women event presented by Lifetime on Wednesday, October 29 for her unwavering advocacy and leadership on behalf of survivors of abuse. Raisman was also recognized for showing survivors how the unconditional love of a pet can be a vital part of the healing journey, which is closely aligned with the [Purple Leash Project](#), a joint initiative between Purina and RedRover to support domestic abuse survivors and their pets.

In a poignant moment of solidarity, fellow world champion gymnast and advocate Jordan Chiles presented the award to Raisman.

"Aly, you've used your platform to change laws, to hold institutions accountable and to create safe spaces for survivors to be heard. You've shown that being powerful doesn't mean being fearless – it means being afraid and doing it anyway," said Chiles in her speech. "This award recognizes not just Aly's advocacy, but also her understanding that survivors on both ends of the leash need support."

Raisman's advocacy work has brought national attention to survivor resources, mental health support and the often-overlooked importance of the human-pet bond in recovery. Her own dogs, like Mylo, have played a meaningful role in her personal healing journey, underscoring how pets can provide comfort, companionship and hope to those facing trauma.

"Healing is like a path without a map. It just takes time. Hope can look different to each of us and shows up in many forms," Raisman said as she accepted the award. "One source of hope for me has been my dog, Mylo. Almost five years ago today, I adopted him. It's hard to put into words the impact that Mylo has had on my life. He reminds me to never take for granted the love, safety and gift of being present."

In her remarks, Raisman also highlighted that nearly half (48%) of domestic abuse survivors delay leaving because they can't bring their pets with them – a statistic that, through the Purple Leash Project, Purina is working to change by providing resources and support to help domestic violence shelters across the U.S. become pet friendly.

"Aly Raisman's willingness to advocate for survivors and prevent future abuse by sharing her own experience is a remarkable example of courage in action," said Nina Leigh Krueger, CEO of Purina. "The role that Aly's dogs have played in her healing journey speaks to the incredible power of the bond we share with the pets we love, and it's one of the many reasons why Purina is so committed to protecting abuse survivors and their pets in times of crisis."

Aly is the second survivor and advocate to receive the Variety Courage Award presented by Purina. In 2024, Purina honored actor, advocate and domestic abuse survivor, Sarah Hyland with the inaugural award at Variety's Power of Women event presented by Lifetime in Los Angeles. Since then, Purina and Hyland have partnered to raise awareness and funds for the Purple Leash Project through the Courageous

have partnered to raise awareness and funds for the Purple Leash Project through the *Courageous Together* collection, a collection of items for pets and people, curated by Hyland with the goal of empowering survivors and sparking conversation. Launched in September, the collection is available at Shop.PurpleLeashProject.com – 100% of every purchase is a donation to RedRover to help keep abuse survivors and their pets together.

Since its inception in 2019, the Purple Leash Project has helped increase the percentage of pet-friendly domestic violence shelters in the U.S. from less than 10% to nearly 20%, with 59 grants awarded to help shelters across the country accommodate pets, so that survivors don't have to make the impossible choice between leaving their abuser or staying with their beloved pet.

"Our Purple Leash Project partnership with Purina has helped domestic violence shelters across the nation become safe havens for both survivors *and* their pets," said Katie Campbell, RedRover president and CEO. "Making more shelters pet-friendly simply saves more lives, both two-legged and four-legged."

For more information about the Purple Leash Project, Purina's commitment to supporting domestic violence survivors and their pets, or to make a donation, visit Purina.com/Courage.

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Over the past five years, Purina has contributed more than \$150 million towards organizations that bring, and keep, people and pets together, as well as those that help our communities and environment thrive.

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