

SafePet Pet Foster Parent Application Form

Please consider me as a SafePet volunteer to help provide temporary care for the pets of abused women seeking shelter.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

What type of animal are you willing to house and care for?

Dog Cat Rabbit

Small animal (mouse, hamster, snake) Horse

Other (specify) _____

How long would you be able to care for a pet?

1 – 2 weeks Less than 1 month

1 – 2 months As required

Other (specify) _____

With which veterinary clinic/hospital are you registering?

Do you currently have a pet? Yes No (circle one)

If yes, are you currently a client of the hospital you listed above?

Yes No (circle one)

If you are not a client of the clinic/hospital you listed above, please provide references below.

If you do not currently have a pet — or if you have registered as a SafePet volunteer at a veterinary clinic/hospital that is not your usual clinic/hospital:

Please provide the name and contact information of at least 2 individuals (e.g., veterinarian, employer, family doctor, dentist, pastor) who can confirm your information.

1. Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

2. Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

.....

Signature _____ Date _____

Supporting women and children at risk of abuse by caring for their pets

Opening up your home to help the pet of a woman (and her children) who is trying to leave an abusive partner, may seem like a little gesture, but it can provide the support she needs.

Besides the rewards that come with assisting community members in distress, SafePet provides socially conscious animal lovers the opportunity to:

- Temporarily care for a pet, and help families decide if owning a pet is right for them.
- Temporarily and from time to time, enjoy the companionship of a pet if long-term pet ownership is not possible (e.g., if you are a frequent traveler, if you cannot afford to own a pet).

For more information about SafePet visit: www.ovma.org

SafePet

Administered by the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association.

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 Ontario


ONTARIO VETERINARY
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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safepet@ovma.org
www.ovma.org



SafePet:

Give a woman's pet
a temporary home
so that she can leave
an abusive partner.

Become a pet foster parent.
Give a temporary home to a pet today.
Find out how inside...

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Disponible en français.

What is SafePet?

SafePet was established in 2003 by the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association to assist women leaving abusive partners by providing temporary housing for their pets. The program matches volunteer pet foster parents — who register through veterinary clinics in Ontario — with the pets of abused women (and their children) who are seeking safety in women's shelters but don't have anywhere to leave their pets.

Why is SafePet an important program?

Every day women across Ontario leave abusive partners. The decision to leave home often saves their lives and the lives of their children. Deciding to leave and then actually doing so, is not easy. For many women, the decision to leave is often further complicated by a reluctance to leave their pets behind in absence of temporary housing options.

*48% of surveyed Ontario women who had left their abusive partner said that their pets delayed their decision to leave an abusive partner.**

*61% of surveyed Ontario women who had left their abusive partner stated that their partners had brutalized or killed a pet.**

That's where SafePet and caring people like you can make a world of difference.

How can you help?

By opening your home and becoming a pet foster parent through SafePet you can offer peace of mind to an abused woman for whom the temporary placement of her precious pet provides the support needed to seek safety.

*According to a survey conducted by the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in 1998



If you are a woman seeking safety, please know that help is available. Contact a local women's shelter today.

How does SafePet Work?

Step One Register as a 'pet foster parent'

Individuals interested in becoming pet foster parents through the SafePet program must register for the program through a local veterinary clinic.

Individuals applying to become pet foster parents through the SafePet program will be asked to identify the following:

- The type(s) of animal(s) you are willing to house.
- The length of time you are willing to look after a pet.
- Any restrictions you might have (e.g., size/weight of pet).

Step Two Pets are matched with pet foster parents

Women's shelters seeking temporary pet foster parents on behalf of women entering a shelter can arrange this through a local veterinary practice. This process is confidential. As a safety measure for both the abused women and volunteers, the woman's identity is never disclosed.

All volunteers need to be confident that they can provide a safe temporary home for pets.

Step Three Fostering a pet until its owner is able to care for the pet

When a pet matching a pet foster parent's pre-determined specifications is identified, veterinary staff will call the pet foster parent into the clinic to meet the pet(s), review care instructions and discuss other issues for the temporary placement of that pet (e.g., diet, medical needs, exercise). The pet then goes to the pet foster parent's home. The pet foster parent must agree to provide the pet with its appropriate diet, exercise and other special needs as required.

During the pet's shelter period, the pet foster parent may consult with the participating veterinarian if any concerns or health issues arise.

Step Four Pet is returned to a healthy family environment

The animal(s) is returned to the veterinary clinic when the abused woman (a) has found longer-term arrangements for her pet(s), (b) is once again able to take care of her pet(s), or (c) when the pre-determined timeframe has ended.

A volunteer is under no obligation to continue to house a pet if an arrangement does not work. Both the volunteer and the woman seeking assistance with her pet(s) sign legal documents to eliminate confusion with regard to expectations.

Who should become a temporary pet foster parent under the SafePet program?

If you love animals and if you care about the people in your community, please consider offering shelter to a pet through the SafePet program. If you are not sure that you are a suitable pet foster parent, feel free to discuss your eligibility with a local veterinarian.

Register as a pet foster parent

If you are interested in becoming a pet foster parent through the SafePet program, complete the form on the back of this brochure and visit any veterinary clinic/hospital across Ontario.

Need more information?

For more information about SafePet:

- Talk to your local veterinarian
- Visit www.ovma.org
- Call 1.800.670.1702

If you are a woman seeking safety, you can call the Assaulted Women's Helpline at 1.866.863.0511 (TTY 1.866.863.7868) or call a local women's shelter.

