

Welcome...

...to Pets in Crisis, an animal safe-house fostering program. Our goal is to provide a safe and clean temporary home environment for pets that live with victims of domestic violence.

Every year thousands of women are victims of domestic violence. Current statistics indicate that 2/3 of women refuse to leave or delay leaving a home where they are being abused because of the pet that they will have to leave behind. These pets are an important source of stability and comfort for victims of domestic violence. Often after the victim has left, the pet becomes a new target for violence, usually as a means of continuing to control the victim.

About Pets in Crisis

While at a veterinary educational conference, a local veterinarian, learned about the connection between domestic violence and animal abuse. She came up with the idea of forming a foster network for pets that live in homes where domestic abuse is occurring. With the help of the YWCA Women's Crisis Center and the Wichita Police Department, a network of qualified foster homes was established.

Our goal is to provide a safe and clean home for the pets of women that have decided to leave their home because of domestic violence. This is a temporary home until the owner can provide other living arrangements for herself and her pet.

Protecting your Pet from Domestic Violence

If you have decided to leave your home due to domestic violence, it is always best to try to find a family member or friend to care for your pet. If this is not possible, then we may be able to help provide a temporary home for your pet.

When at all possible, try to obtain medical records, such as vaccination history and medical conditions, as well as any bowls, bedding, toys, leashes, carriers and medications. This will help us to care for your pet in a manner familiar to them.

Confidentiality is very important. The home that will care for your pet will never know your name or location. Visitation with your pet while it is in foster care may be available on a case-by-case basis, but will be conducted in a separate location to ensure confidentiality and safety.

You are still in control of what happens to your pet; likewise, you are also still responsible for any medical costs that may arise during the foster program. You will be advised at all times of any changes in your pet's health.

If you are interested in placing your pet into foster care, please contact the Women's Crisis Center domestic violence coordinator for more information at (316) 267-7233.

How can I become a foster caregiver?

Initially you will be asked to complete a foster caregiver application that asks questions regarding your home and lifestyle. This helps us determine the types of pets you can care for. If qualified, we will send a representative to your home to discuss in detail the program and evaluate your home for such things as fenced yard, children and other pets. We may ask many questions to determine your experience in caring for animals and to be sure your home is appropriate for this program. You may be asked to participate in training sessions involving animal care. After your background information has been approved, your name will be placed on the list of foster homes. When the need arises for an animal to be placed in a caring foster home, you will be contacted. Fostering animals can be a very gratifying way of helping both animals in need and women that are trying to improve their lives by leaving an abusive situation.

If you are interested in applying to become a foster caregiver, please call the YWCA Women's Crisis Center at 267-7233 for information.

Did You Know?

- National statistics indicate that 2/3 of women refuse to leave an abusive situation because a pet will be left behind.
- Pets are an important source of stability and comfort to victims of domestic violence.
- Abusive family members often threaten, injure and even kill pets – usually as a way of controlling others in the family.
- 85% of women and 63% of children in shelters discussed incidents of pet abuse in the family.
- ¾ of American families have pets – animals are the silent victims of domestic violence.
- Local Women’s Shelters are unable to accept pets into the shelter with their owners.



Pets in Crisis

An Animal Safe-house Fostering Program

Coordinated through:

YWCA Women’s Crisis Center/Safehouse

www.ywcaofwichita.org

(316) 267-7233

