



Optional additional foster opportunity

Domestic Abuse is about the power and control an abuser exercises over the abused. Because of this, abusers often use abuse of a victim's animal companions as a means to leverage power through threats, cruelty, and even death. Statistics show that many victims and children of victims remain in violent situations because they are afraid of leaving their animals behind. **SAAV Program, Inc.** is a 501(c)(3) all volunteer non-profit organization that provides emergency foster care to the pets of domestic abuse victims seeking shelter from abuse. Since 2003, SAAV has been made possible through a collaboration of Dane County Humane Society ("DCHS") and Domestic Abuse Intervention Services ("DAIS").

Through the SAAV Program, a victim's animal companions are placed into foster care for a period of up to 90 days so that their owners can become established in a non-violent situation. Bonds with animal companions are very strong, and through this program, victims and their children have another valuable tool to assist them in getting the help they need to leave the violence behind.

The SAAV program is a unique foster opportunity. Participants in the program will be asked to foster the animals of survivors of domestic abuse during the time that the survivor is in a shelter for victims of domestic abuse or receiving other services from the shelter. By offering foster care to animals of victims of domestic abuse, you will increase the chances that a survivor will seek help.

The SAAV foster period is limited to 90 days, with a requirement that the guardian contact DCHS at 30 and 60 days to renew participation in the program. Therefore, you will be asked to make a maximum of a 90 day commitment to the animal(s) in your care. You will also be asked to act quickly - when an animal enters the shelter under the SAAV program it is important that the animal goes into foster care as quickly as possible. This is to ensure the protection of the animal and the abuse survivor.

The name and information of the foster parent will NOT be given out to the abuse survivor, the abuser, or any other parties. Only the foster coordinator will have access to both the identity of the pet guardian and the foster care provider. Foster parents and the guardians are not to initiate contact. This is to ensure the safety of both the foster care provider and the animal's guardian.

Fostering for the SAAV program will, in many ways, be more demanding than typical shelter fostering. If you are not confident that you can make a full commitment to this program, please do not enroll. If you are not confident that you can comply with the requests of the foster coordinator regarding the care and ultimate release of the animal (either to the guardian or to DCHS) please do not enroll. This program is not for everyone. There are many needs for volunteers both at the Dane County Humane Society and the Domestic Abuse Intervention Services. Please contact either of these organizations for more information on ways to help.

If you feel emotionally prepared to participate in The SAAV program and if you have the ability to donate time, facilities, and energy to an animal survivor of abuse, please complete the attached SAAV addendum.

SAAV Foster Care Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **alternate** _____

I have attended the SAAV informational training session
_____ date _____
(call 608-838-0413 ext.121 for details)

I am an approved foster home for DCHS _____ approximate date
approved _____

I am interested in fostering: (please check the appropriate categories of animals)

_____Cats	_____Kittens
_____Dogs	_____Puppies
_____Rabbits	_____Ferrets
_____Small Mammals	_____Birds
_____Reptiles	_____Fish
_____Horses	_____Livestock Animals
_____Other: _____ _____	_____Other: _____ _____

I understand that serving as a foster parent may expose me, my children, and/or other persons or animals in my household to risks including, but not limited to: property damage, bodily injury, or even death. I recognize that the volunteer services that I am providing are for the purpose of the charitable mission to prevent domestic abuse and/or animal abuse. I am willing to assume these risks in consideration of the charitable mission of SAAV Program, Inc.

I hereby knowingly, voluntarily, and irrevocably agree to waive liability, and agree to defend and indemnify the SAAV Program, Inc., DCHS and/or DAIS for any and all liability, damages, costs and expenses, including reasonable attorney fees, arising out of or in any way relating to my volunteer activities for the SAAV Program.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING BELOW, I AM WAIVING AND SURRENDERING VALUABLE LEGAL RIGHTS. I AM SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT VOLUNTARILY TO AID IN THE CHARITABLE MISSION OF SAAV PROGRAM, INC.

Signature _____ date _____

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Printed Name _____