



Become A SAAV Foster Parent¹

Domestic Abuse is about the power and control an abuser exercises over their victim. Abusers often use abuse or the threat of abuse of an animal to leverage power over the victim. Statistics show that many victims and their children remain in violent situations because they are afraid of leaving their animals.

Sheltering Animals of Abuse Victims® (SAAV) is a 501(c)(3) volunteer-based non-profit organization that is dedicated to ending the cycle of abuse within families. SAAV plays a unique role in this fight by recognizing the importance of animals as vital family members and arranging for their safe harbor at a time of critical need—when a domestic abuse victim seeks refuge from an abuser.

As part of our mission, SAAV provides temporary, confidential, emergency shelter for a period of up to 90 days for the animals of domestic abuse victims who are seeking safety. Shelter for animals is provided by SAAV through a generous collaboration with our community partners, Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) and the Dane County Humane Society (DCHS).

SAAV provides a unique foster opportunity. Foster parents are asked to confidentially foster the animals of domestic abuse victims. By offering foster care, foster parents increase the chances that a victim will seek help without fear of leaving animals behind. SAAV's shelter services are provided to victims in Dane County who are receiving services from DAIS at the time of application to SAAV Shelter. SAAV also provides nationwide community outreach regarding the link between animal cruelty and human violence.

The temporary shelter period is limited to a maximum period of 90 days, with a requirement that the victim check in with us 30 days after intake, and again at 60 days after intake. As a SAAV foster you will be asked to make a 90 day foster commitment to the animal(s) in your care, though the domestic abuse victim may choose to remove an animal from foster earlier. You will also be asked to act quickly - it is important that a SAAV animal goes into foster care as quickly as possible.

The name and contact information for the foster parent is not given to the domestic abuse victim and, likewise, the name and contact information for the domestic abuse victim is not shared with the foster parent. This, also, is for the safety of both the foster care provider and the domestic abuse victim and animals we are helping. There is no contact between our foster parents and the victim at any time, again, for safety reasons.

Fostering for SAAV can sometimes be more demanding than typical shelter fostering, because animals affected by domestic abuse can sometimes be frightened and/or shy. Before placement into a foster home, animals are given a behavioral assessment by DCHS. If an animal enrolled in SAAV is not appropriate for foster placement, we place the animal in another confidential shelter location (i.e., but not a foster home). If you feel prepared to foster a SAAV animal, are willing to attend a SAAV Orientation session, a DCHS general foster orientation, and if you have the ability to donate time, facilities, and energy to an animal in need, we would love to have you! Please complete the SAAV Foster Care Application, including [the electronic DCHS foster application](#), and become a part of our network of foster families.

¹ Please return this SAAV Foster Application to us via email info@saavprogram.org, or via mail to PO Box 5152, Madison, WI 53705. The DCHS Foster Application must be completed online and the link is provided above.

Empowering Victims of Domestic Abuse, By Helping Their Animals

SAAV Foster Care Application

Name: _____

Preferred Pronouns: _____

Address: _____

Primary Phone _____ **Alternate:** _____

Email: _____

I have attended the SAAV informational training session _____ **date** _____
(email info@saavprogram.org 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 this Waiver of Liability and Release Agreement (“Agreement”) is an important legal document. I, therefore, warrant and represent that by signing this Agreement, I acknowledge that I have carefully read and reviewed the entire document. I understand that I have the right to ask questions regarding this Agreement and consult with an attorney before I sign it. By signing below I hereby acknowledge and confirm that: (1) I have carefully read this Agreement; (2) the terms of this Agreement are acceptable to me; and (3) I am knowingly and voluntarily waiving (i.e., forever giving up) any right that I may have to bargain for different terms in this Agreement. 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 cruelty. I am therefore willing to assume the risks of my participation as a volunteer in consideration of this valuable charitable mission.

I hereby knowingly, voluntarily, and irrevocably, agree to forever release, waive, discharge and covenant **NOT TO SUE** the SAAV Program, Inc. d/b/a Sheltering Animals of Abuse Victims (“SAAV”), the Dane County Humane Society (“DCHS”), and/or Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (“DAIS”), including any and all of their officers, directors, agents, representatives, employees, veterinarians, volunteers and fosterers, for any and all damages in any way arising out of my participation as a foster volunteer, including, but not limited to: property damage and/or bodily injury caused, or alleged to have been caused, in whole or in part, by the negligent acts or omissions of SAAV, DCHS, and/or DAIS. This release and covenant not to sue extends to any claims, charges, lawsuits, or actions of any kind against SAAV, DCHS, and/or DAIS, including, but not limited to, actions for breach of contract or tort. I hereby provide this Waiver and Release of Liability and Covenant Not To Sue to SAAV, DCHS and DAIS, including their officers, directors, agents, employees, veterinarians, volunteers, and fosterers, on behalf of me, my heirs, personal representatives, guardians or other representatives. A breach of this Agreement shall entitle SAAV, DCHS and/or DAIS to any and all damages resulting from the breach, including, but not limited to: attorneys’ fees and costs incurred by SAAV, DCHS and/or DAIS. This Agreement does not, however, release or modify defense and/or indemnity obligations that any insurer of SAAV, DCHS and/or DAIS may have to defend or indemnify me as a volunteer for claims covered under the insurance policies of SAAV, DCHS and/or DAIS.

I agree by signing below that: (1) I will not share information posted on the Google Groups Listserv created for SAAV foster parents; and (2) I will abide by all confidentiality instructions provided by SAAV, DCHS and/or DAIS. I understand that confidentiality is important for the safety of the domestic abuse victims served by SAAV, DCHS and/or DAIS. I also understand that due to the nature of the SAAV foster program, the animals that I will foster are not owned by SAAV, DCHS and/or DAIS and I promise to return my foster animal to DCHS upon request.

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 VALUABLE MISSION OF SAAV PROGRAM, INC.

Signature_____ Date_____

Printed Name_____