

## Become a Pet Foster Care Volunteer

Vera House can always use Pet Foster Care Volunteers ready to open their homes to needy pets at a moments' notice. If you think you would be interested in helping in this way, please contact us at 315.425.0818

**Pet Foster Care Program Coordinator**  
**Chris Benton**

## Community Support

Community support is also needed to keep our Pet Foster Care Program operating sufficiently. We are always in need of:

- ◆ Dog & Cat Food, dry & canned
- ◆ Cat litter & litter pans
- ◆ Dog & cat bedding
- ◆ Carriers & crates
- ◆ Food & water bowls
- ◆ Dog & cat toys



Additionally, participation from local veterinarians is very much appreciated as oftentimes Foster Pet animals need medical attention.

## How You Can Get Help

Vera House 24-Hour Crisis & Support Lines

☎ 315.468.3260

☎ 315.422.7273

Vera House TTY Crisis Line

☎ 315-484-7263 (business hours)

Pet Foster Care Program Information

☎ 315.425.0818

To Report Animal Abuse in Onondaga County  
SPCA Cruelty Investigation Office

☎ 315.454.3469

To learn more about the connection between family violence and pet abuse, please visit the Humane Society of the United States website:  
[www.humanesociety.org](http://www.humanesociety.org)



# Vera House Pet Foster Care Program



Keeping Pets Out of Harm's Way

*A free service provided by:*

**Vera House, Inc.**  
6181 Thompson Rd  
Syracuse, NY 13206

☎ 315.425.0818

[www.verahouse.org](http://www.verahouse.org)

**VERA HOUSE**  
INCORPORATED

## Vera House Pet Foster Care Program

In many cases, family violence victims delay leaving abusive situations because they fear for their pets' safety. As a response, in 2001 Vera House created the Pet Foster Care Program to give clients the peace of mind knowing that their pets will be well cared for.

We have a network of prescreened volunteers ready to accept companion animals into their home on a short-term basis while their owner is seeking shelter. We also have support from the Liverpool Village Animal Hospital, which provides pets with neutering, vaccinations and medical treatments on an as needed basis.



The Pet Foster Care Program is free of charge to participants. Vera House encourages owners to visit their pet or to check-in with them while in foster care, and will arrange visitations in a safe, neutral area.

## What kind of animals use the Pet Foster Care Program?

- ◆ Dogs
- ◆ Cats
- ◆ Birds
- ◆ Caged reptiles
- ◆ Small, caged animals (rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils)



Unfortunately, there is a documented relationship between family violence and pet abuse. For 2004, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) focused on the issue as it relates to violence within families. In violent homes, pets are commonly abused by batterers in order to threaten and intimidate children, spouses, significant others, and elderly family members.

Nearly half of the women entering shelters for protection from domestic violence say their pet has been threatened, injured or killed by their partner, according to several surveys. Perhaps even worse for the women involved, others report they have delayed leaving their homes because they feared for their pets' safety. ([www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org))

## Create a Safety Plan

When there is violence in the home, it is very important to create a safety plan for you, your children and your pet. If you are able to prepare for a departure with your pet, it is helpful to have the following items in a safe place, out of your partner's reach:

- ◆ Pet medications.
- ◆ Carriers for transportation.
- ◆ Collar with identification.
- ◆ Vaccination and medical records.
- ◆ Proof of ownership (veterinarian bill or rabies records in your name).
- ◆ Food, bowls, toys, grooming supplies, etc.
- ◆ Information sheet including pet's feeding schedule, habits and behaviors.

If you have to leave your pet behind for your own safety be sure to ask a law enforcement official to escort you when you return to your home to reclaim your pet.

