

## Become a Pet Foster Care Volunteer

Vera House can use Pet Foster Care Volunteers ready to open their homes to a pet in need at a moments' notice.

If you think you would be interested in helping in this way, please complete our Pet Foster Care Program volunteer application online by visiting [www.verahouse.org/volunteer](http://www.verahouse.org/volunteer). Additional questions please contact us at (315) 425-0818.

## Community Support

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

- 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 Pets need medical attention.



funded by:

New York State Office of Victim Services

NYS Office of Children & Family Services


Onondaga County

State of New York


Private Donations




## 24-Hour Crisis & Support Hotline

 (315) 468-3260


## TTY Crisis Line

 (315) 484-7263 (business hours)

## Vera House 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 at [www.humanesociety.org](http://www.humanesociety.org)



## Vera House, Inc.

PET FOSTER CARE PROGRAM



## Vera House, Inc.

*Administrative & Outreach Offices*

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

[www.facebook.com/VeraHouseInc](http://www.facebook.com/VeraHouseInc) •

## 24-Hour Crisis & Support Line

 (315) 468-3260

## WHAT KIND OF ANIMALS USE THE PET FOSTER CARE PROGRAM?

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

## 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.

## PET FOSTER CARE PROGRAM



- In many cases, family violence victims delay leaving abusive situations because they fear for their pets' safety. As a response, 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 volunteers ready to accept a pet into their home on a **SHORT-TERM** basis while their owner is seeking safety through a Vera House program. We also have support from the Liverpool Village Animal Hospital, which provides care to pets 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.
- Unfortunately, there is a documented relationship between family violence and pet abuse. 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. [www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org).

