



## **Become A SAAV Foster Parent<sup>1</sup>**

Domestic Abuse is about the power and control an abuser exercises over the abused. Abusers often use abuse or threat of abuse of a victim's animals to leverage power over the victim through threats, cruelty, and even death. 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) all volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to raising community awareness about the role of animals as victims of family violence and stopping the cycle of abuse within our homes.

Through The SAAV Program, we provide safe, confidential temporary shelter for a period of up to 90 days for the animals of domestic abuse victims who are attempting to leave an abusive relationship. The SAAV Program is made possible through a collaboration with Dane County Humane Society ("DCHS") and Domestic Abuse Intervention Services ("DAIS"). Please visit us online at [saavprogram.org](http://saavprogram.org) to learn more.

The SAAV Program is 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 her animals behind. SAAV's shelter services are provided to victims in Dane County who are receiving services from DAIS at the time of intake into our program. SAAV also provides nationwide community education regarding the link between domestic abuse and animal cruelty.

The SAAV 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 into our program, and again at 60 days after intake into our program. Therefore, 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 her 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 information of the foster parent will not be given out to the domestic abuse victim or her abuser and the name and information of the domestic abuse victim will not be given to the foster parent. This, also, is for the safety of both the foster care provider and the domestic abuse victim and her animals. There is no contact between our foster parents and the victim at any time, again, for safety reasons.

Fostering for the SAAV Program can sometimes be more demanding than typical shelter fostering, because animals in our program can sometimes be frightened and/or shy. Before placement into a foster home, however, animals are given a behavioral assessment by DCHS. If an animal enrolled in the SAAV Program is not appropriate for foster placement, we place the animal in another confidential shelter location (ie, but not a foster home). If you feel emotionally prepared to participate in The SAAV program, are willing to attend a SAAV Foster Orientation session, and if you have the ability to donate time, facilities, and energy to an animal survivor of abuse, please complete the attached SAAV application (including the DCHS application) and become a part of our network of foster families. We would love to have you!

**THANK YOU!**

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<sup>1</sup> Persons wishing to become a SAAV Foster Parent must complete both the foster application for the Dane County Humane Society ("DCHS") and the SAAV Foster Care Addendum, since our program is provided in collaboration with DCHS.

*Helping Victims of Domestic Abuse,  
By Helping Their Animals*

**SAAV Foster Care Addendum**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ alternate \_\_\_\_\_

I have attended the SAAV informational training session \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
(email [info@saavprogram.org](mailto: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 all of its terms and conditions. I understand that I have the right to ask questions regarding this Agreement 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 the valuable charitable mission of SAAV Program, Inc.

I hereby knowingly, voluntarily, and irrevocably, agree to forever release, waive, discharge and covenant **NOT TO SUE** the SAAV Program, Inc., the Dane County Humane Society (“DCHS”), and/or Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (“DAIS”), including any and all of their officers, directors, agents, employees, veterinarians, volunteers and fosterers, for all damages in any way arising out of my participation as a volunteer for the SAAV Program, 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 the SAAV Program, Inc., DCHS, and/or DAIS. This release and covenant not to sue extends to any claims, charges, lawsuits, or actions of any kind against the SAAV Program, 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 the SAAV Program, Inc., 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 the SAAV Program, DCHS and/or DAIS to any and all damages resulting from the breach, including, but not limited to: attorneys’ fees and costs incurred by the SAAV Program, DCHS and/or DAIS.

This Agreement does not, however, release or modify defense and/or indemnity obligations that any insurer of SAAV Program, Inc., DCHS and/or DAIS may have to defend or indemnify me as a volunteer for claims covered under the insurance policies of SAAV Program, Inc., DCHS and/or DAIS.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_