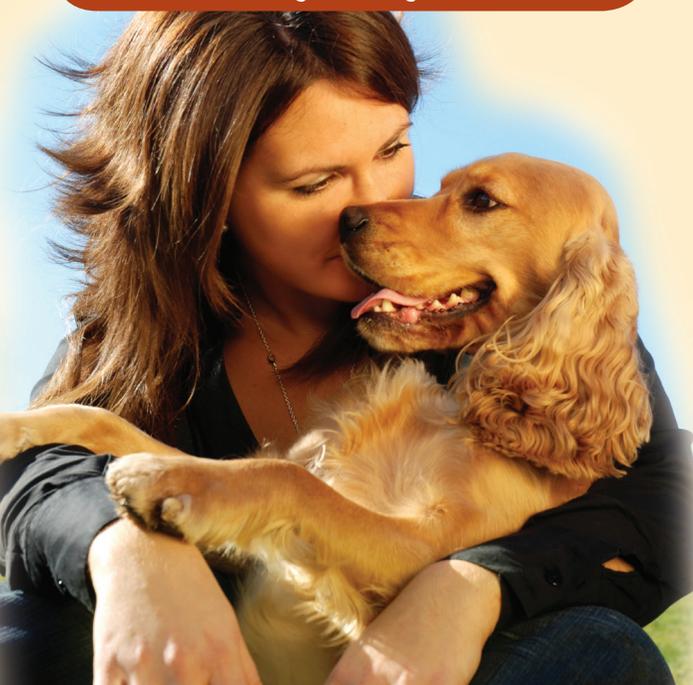


# Safe for Pets Too.

*In Transition with You.*



## A Program to Shelter Animals Affected by Family Violence



### What is Safe For Pets Too?

Safe For Pets Too (SFPT) is a program to provide temporary emergency boarding and care for at-risk animals belonging to individuals looking for shelter from family violence.

### Why do we need a place to shelter pets?

Some abusive partners will hurt an animal to frighten or punish others in the family. In violent homes anyone can be a target – including a beloved pet. When a woman fears for the well-being of her pet, she may even delay getting help for herself.

A NB study on the link between family violence and the abuse of pets found that of the 70% of the abused women in the study had a pet or farm animal. Of these, 45% said their partner had threatened harm to the animal and 41% said their partner had actually harmed or killed the pet. (Doherty, D and Hornosty, J (2007), *Exploring the Links: Violence, Firearms and Animal Abuse, Report to the Canada Firearms Centre, Ottawa Canada*)

### Who can participate in SFPT?

Women leaving abuse with concerns that their pet may be harmed, killed or neglected and/or who need temporary shelter for the pet may access SFPT.

### How do abused women get a pet into SFPT?

To get a pet into SFPT, contact the nearest Transition House or Family Violence Outreach office. They can explain the program in greater detail. The telephone numbers of all the agencies authorized to do intake for SFPT are at the end of this pamphlet. These agencies can give you the intake and waiver forms that you must read, complete and sign. Once that is done, the staff person will also sign the forms and make arrangements with SFPT to pick up your pet for up to 30 days of temporary foster care. These forms are a contract between you and SFPT. In them, you authorize SFPT to care for you animal temporarily. You will include a date that you expected to pick up your animal. You may be able to request an extension if needed.

### Can I get my pets get into the service at any time?

SFPT is a “volunteer” service that operates week-days from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. It may take up to 3 business days before SFPT can arrange to pick up your pet. Try to plan ahead as you will need to complete the forms and make arrangements for transporting your pet to the designated pick up area. You may have to leave your pet in another location for a few days until SFPT can arrange pick up can.

### What kinds of pets can be in the program?

The program typically deals with cats and dogs. However, other small caged animals such as birds, hamsters or guinea pigs may be accepted. The program may, as the need arises, be able to find shelter for larger animals that are at risk.

### What do I need to bring when I arrive to fill in the forms?

To help with the placement of your animals, bring the following, if possible:

- Animal’s health records
- Animals inoculation records
- Proof of ownership (ex. license, adoption, purchase and/or registration papers, receipts and records for veterinary care, etc.)
- Food, medications
- Special toys, blankets
- Written summary of pet – temperament, fears, likes, dislikes etc.

*Note: SFPT cannot accommodate an aggressive pet.*

### What if I am leaving in an emergency situation?

In an emergency, when safety is at risk, call 911. Municipal Police or RCMP are aware of the SFPT service but are not responsible for doing intake. They will suggest that you contact the nearest transition house or family violence outreach office to access SFPT for an at-risk pet.

### What happens after I complete and sign the intake forms?

After signing, your form will be sent off to SFPT and this will start the sheltering process. The transition house /outreach agency will keep a confidential copy of the forms in their files too. SFPT will send an animal transportation person to pick up your animal as soon as possible.

When your animal is picked up, it will be taken immediately to a participating veterinarian to be checked for health, injury and temperament. There is no fee for this examination, but if your animal is sick or injured or requires treatment there may be a cost. Arrangements to pay these fees would be made with you before the pet is returned to you.

At that point, SFPT will place your pet in a safe, loving foster care situation for up to 30 days. If the animal is considered vicious SFPT may not be able to place it. For safety reasons, you will not be able to visit with your pet during this time; but if you wish, you can request to get regular updates about the status of your animal.

### How do I get my animal back?

At the end of the 30 days, the transition house or family violence outreach staff will arrange with SFPT for you to pick up of your animal at a designated location.

### Who is responsible for this program?

This program is a collaboration of several non-profit organizations and policing agencies including the New Brunswick Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NBSPCA), the New Brunswick Veterinary Medicine Association, transition houses, family violence outreach, RCMP and municipal police, Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick, and others concerned about the welfare of people and animals.

### Agencies authorized to do intake for the Safe For Pets Too program are:

#### Transition Houses:

Accueil Sainte-Famille (Tracadie-Sheila)	395-1500
Crossroads for Women (Moncton)	853-0811
Escale Madavic (Edmundston)	739-6265
Fundy Region Transition House (St. Stephen)	466-4485
Gignoo Transition House (provincial)	1-800-565-6878
Hestia House (Saint John)	634-7570
Maison Notre-Dame (Campbellton)	753-4703
Miramichi Emergency Centre for Women	622-8865
Passage House (Bathurst)	546-9540
Sanctuary House (Woodstock)	1-866-377-3577
Serenity House (Kent County)	743-1530
Sussex Vale Transition House	433-6579
Women in Transition House (Fredericton)	459-2300

#### Family Violence Outreach Coordinator:

Acadian Peninsula	395-6233
Chaleur Region	545-8952
Charlotte County	469-5544
Edmundston	263-0888
Fredericton & Greater Area	458-9774
Kennebecasis Valley	847-6277
Kent County	743-5449
Miramichi	778-6496
Moncton	855-7222
Restigouche County	790-1178
Saint John	632-5616/ 649-2580
Shédiac	533-9100
Sussex	433-6579
Woodstock	328-9680

For general information about this service, contact: safeforpetstoo@gmail.com