
SafePet Program Overview

Updated: March 2025

The York County SPCA (YCSPCA) SafePet program provides temporary emergency boarding for pets whose owners have fled a domestic violence situation, plan to leave a domestic violence situation, have been displaced from their home due to a natural disaster, or are homeless. The SafePet program and services are free to pet owners with referrals from United Way or YCSPCA partner agencies.

This program is only available for York County residents. The YCSPCA cannot accept pets into this program without a referral from a partner agency.

Our partner agencies include:

- YWCA ACCESS York & Victim Assistance Center
- YWCA Hanover's Safe Home
- YWCA Access York-Still Waters in Hanover
- Bell Family Shelter
- LifePath Christian Ministries
- American Red Cross
- Next Door Program
- Adult Protective Services
- York County Area Agency-Aging
- Friends & Neighbors of Pennsylvania
- Pressley Ridge Crisis Stabilization Program
- York City Ecosystem for York City Neighborhoods

Length of Stay:

SafePet in-shelter boarding can be utilized thirty (30) days from the date of intake.

Upon intake, each pet owner will sign the *consent for boarding* agreement. If the pet is not claimed on or before the 30th day, the pet becomes the YCSPCA's property. At that point, the YCSPCA has the authority to evaluate and assess the animal's adaptability and determine the most humane path forward for the animal.

Medical:

During intake, the pet's owner will sign a *consent for treatment* and an *anesthesia/surgery* form. Spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, routine medical exams, and vaccinations are a mandatory part of the program for pets staying ten (10) to thirty (30) days. For pets in the

program less than ten days, only rabies and microchips will be provided to the pet. If the pet requires any of these procedures, the YCSPCA will provide these at no cost to the owner or the referring partner agency.

Communication During Stay:

Communication and contact preferences between the YCSPCA and the pet owner will be on a case-by-case basis. The YCSPCA understands that some pet parents are in a protected and intimate state. In times like these, it may be best to use the referral agency as the point of contact. If direct contact with the pet owner is possible, only approved YCSPCA staff can discuss the case and animal using the regular phone number, safe phone number, or alternative contact list provided.

Visiting Pet During Stay:

The YCSPCA understands the positive impact visits can have on the pet and their owner. Visits are permitted at the YCSPCA by appointment only. Appointments for visits can be scheduled with Client Services Manager, Glory Rivera at 717-764-6109 ext. 210, or by emailing grivera@ycspca.org.

Notifications:

The YCSPCA requires notification if the defendant in a domestic violence situation could be pursuing the pet owner. Notification is also required if there are any threats of violence towards the pet or the YCSPCA.

