



denver animal shelter

## Safe Haven Program

Denver Animal Protection (DAP) partners with several referral organizations to provide the Safe Haven Program, which offers two to four weeks of shelter for pets of families experiencing temporary homelessness. This could be due to fire, domestic violence, or hospitalization. DAP also provides this service to pet owners experiencing homelessness during severe cold weather (under 15 degrees).

Many pet owners do not want to give up their animals but need short-term assistance to focus on tasks that can get them into a new home. The Safe Haven Program makes it possible for these people to get the resources they need to improve their situations enough to welcome their pet back home again. Animals provide companionship, comfort, and unconditional love to these families, and preserving the bond between families and their animals is vitally important.



Qualifications for Safe Haven Program:

- Must be a Denver County resident.
- Animals must be social, so they could be handled safely. (Some animals are fearful when they arrive but do come around, so a fearful animal does not automatically get disqualified; however, there could be an instance where we would need the owner to retrieve their animal if there is a safety issue.)
- The availability of this program is based on our current animal population, and we can only accept animals when space allows.

Participation in our Safe Haven Program requires referrals from a case worker. Have your case worker reach out to us through our liaison. If you do not have a case worker, please contact Denver Human Services at 720-944-3666.

## Safe Haven Frequently Asked Questions

- **How long will you hold my pet?**

Each pet will be held for two weeks, at which time we can re-assess the situation and extend the hold. The possibility of an extension is at the discretion of the Director, Shelter Manager or Shelter Supervisors, and does take into account the overall population at DAP.

- **What happens if my animal gets sick while at DAP?**

A Safe Haven coordinator will do their best to reach an owner and get approval for any medical treatment prior to administering treatment. If the City, in its sole discretion, determines that emergency care is necessary, it will seek emergency veterinarian care and may have emergency care provided. As soon as is practicable under the circumstances, DAP staff will attempt to contact the owner to advise them that the care was provided.

- **Where will my pet be housed?**

Every cat and dog will have their own kennel unless the owner requests that their dogs or cats be held together. They may only be housed together if they are the same sex or they are altered. Additionally, at the sole discretion of DAP staff, your animal may be sent to a foster home, if it is in their best interest.

- **What about disease control?**

Every animal is vaccinated upon intake unless a vaccine history is provided. The risk of disease, while low, is always a possibility. If you do not wish to have your animal vaccinated, proof of vaccination history must be provided. If you cannot provide proof and do not wish to have your animal vaccinated, DAP cannot house your pet.

- **My animal needs medication(s), will the shelter medicate them?**

If the animal needs medication such as insulin, thyroid medication, etc. the shelter veterinary team can administer such medication. Please be sure to give the shelter the original bottle the medication came in with instructions. Those instructions will be followed.

- **Am I allowed to enroll in the Safe Haven program more than once?**

Unfortunately, due to limited resources we can only provide assistance once for each animal and pet owner.

- **Are there any other important points I should know about the safe contract?**

By signing the Safe Haven contract, you will agree that your animal may be sent to foster, groomed or provided emergency veterinarian care, at the discretion of DAP staff, if it is in the best interest of your animal.

- **What if my animal is a Pit Bull or looks like a Pit Bull?**

Your animal can still be enrolled into the Safe Haven program.