

The North East SPCA (in partnership with North East Outreach & Support Services) Presents:



### ***The Safe Haven Project***

*"...where no one gets left behind."*

Did you know... in **88%** of homes where child abuse occurs, companion animal abuse is also taking place.

Did you know... in **60%** of homes where ANY sort of abuse occurs, companion animal abuse is also taking place.

Did you know... **56%** of domestic violence victims seeking refuge in women's shelters receive threats from their abusers to harm or end their pet's life.

Statistics do not lie, and this is why many women experiencing domestic violence fail to leave their situation- fear for their beloved 4-legged companions. Here at the North East SPCA we aim to create a Safe Haven for all unwanted, neglected and abused animals across the North East. This mission starts with giving victims of domestic violence the peace of mind that the pets who have been there for them through it all, aren't left behind in an abusive situation and will be there happily waiting for them when the storm passes.

In a partnership with North East Outreach & Support Services, which also serves as the North East area women's shelter, we are working to create a program that allows us to take in and care for domestic abuse companion animals for as long as it is needed- **FREE OF CHARGE TO VICTIMS**. This program will allow for victims to take refuge in the women's shelter and focus on healing

mentally, spiritually and physically while knowing their pets are being loved, taken care of, and housed somewhere that the abuser cannot access them.

Currently safekeeping of these animals falls on the shoulders of local veterinary clinics and/or a network of selfless fosters around the area, with all costs associated to come out of their own pocket. Wouldn't it be wonderful if there were a central location that these animals could go, where they would be loved & cuddled on the daily, made sure their bellies were full, had playmates to keep them busy, and didn't have to fear for their lives? At the Harry & Eve Vickar Shelter, we plan to be that very place.

This much needed money will go towards daily care such as food, treats, bedding, litter, medication, as well as variable costs associated with housing more animals for their temporary stay at the shelter - but stay strictly allocated to the animals within the Safe Haven Project. It may also be allocated to offset some of the costs associated with animals that have already been abused or injured in domestic abuse situations to ease the financial burden on victims.

We believe that no woman should ever have to put her life in jeopardy for fear of the safety of her pet and with the help and support of the entire North East, we believe YOU can help us make this dream a reality.

**Source:**

<https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/policy-advocacy/link-between-animal-child-domestic-abuse>