



The **FAM** Network

Helping families and pets
move forward together.

The FAM Network

A Referral Guide for
In-Patient Substance
Abuse Programs



Prepared By
The FAM Network

Prepared For
Referral agencies for in-patient
treatment of substance abuse

About The FAM Network

The FAM Network is an organization that assists survivors who are leaving situations of domestic violence and those seeking treatment through in-patient substance abuse programs by fostering their pets in stable home environments while their owners receive the help and support they need.

In early 2014, The FAM Network was incorporated as SafePet Ottawa. This was done with the idea that in-home fostering provides a more stable living situation, giving families more time to dedicate to recovery and lessen the stress felt by the animals during this separation. This was the origin of our current fostering system.

Since 2014, The FAM Network has been operating with the support of our network of fosters within the city of Ottawa and its rural areas. We have taken in and helped to place over 600 animals within this time. This would be impossible without the dedication and commitment shown everyday by local shelters, our fosters, volunteers, and veterinary clinics.

In 2020, we adopted the new brand and name The FAM Network as a part of our national expansion plan. Prior to that, we were known as SafePet Ottawa.





Mission & Vision

Our Mission: The FAM Network removes one of the barriers for people fleeing domestic violence, sex trafficking and seeking in-patient treatment for substance abuse and mental health.

Our Vision: To ensure that at risk persons and families will never have to decide between taking care of themselves and taking care of their pets.



Program Requirements

To access The FAM Network program participants must:

- Be either fleeing domestic violence, seeking in-patient treatment for substance abuse or mental health, or be fleeing from sex trafficking
- Be working with a referring agency who will remain our main point of contact; and
- Be able to have their pets transported to, and eventually received from, a designated location provided by The FAM Network Intake Team.



Intake Process

When you receive a call that someone needs to exit to safety and they have pets, this is the process to have the pets enter The FAM Network program:

1. Notice is received by you that you have a client in need of our assistance
2. Have the client complete our fillable PDF intake form and contact (can be signed digitally) and then send them to info@thefamnetworkcanada.com - in your email please include the proposed exit date.
 - a. If you do not have a blank copy of the forms please contact us to receive a copy
3. A FAM Network representative will begin the process of finding an intake exam with one of our participating veterinary clinics as well as find an appropriate foster home.
4. During the entrance exam a veterinarian will examine the animal(s), bring them up to date on vaccines, deworm them and recommend any necessary veterinary treatment to The FAM Network. There is no charge to the owners for any of these services.
5. Once the exam is completed a member of The FAM Network team will pick up the animals and bring them to their approved foster home.
6. The animal becomes the responsibility of The FAM Network as soon as they are dropped off at the designated drop-off location

Items That Can Be Sent With Pets

The FAM Network has all the necessary supplies to care for the pets in our program, and will issue supplies to the foster homes as needed.

The following is a list of items that can be sent with the pet(s) into the program. Any other items will be refused and/or thrown out.

We do not recommend sending **any** supplies as they may get lost and not returned.

Any items accepted in to the program may not be returned in the same condition or may be replaced by The FAM Network at its discretion.

- Food
- Leash & Collars
- Crate/Carrier
- 1 familiar item of bedding
- Medication
- Veterinary Records
- Maximum of 2 favourite toys
- 1 item of clothing (for the pet(s))

If there are additional items that the client would like sent with their pets, please check with a FAM Network representative first.

Upon exiting The FAM Network program, we will send home with the pet(s) essential items for their new beginning with their families.





Exit Process

When a client either no longer meets program requirements, or is ready to be reunited with their pets the following must happen:

1. Notify The FAM Network that the pets need to be returned to the client. Provide The FAM Network with a minimum of **48 hours** notice that the pets are ready to be picked up
 - a. If you provided an exit date & time on your entrance documents we will be prepared for that date & time.
2. A FAM Network volunteer will bring the animals to a veterinary clinic
3. The veterinary clinic will complete a physical examination
4. After the examination is completed, the pet parent will be able to retrieve their animal(s) from the veterinary office.

Once the exit exam is completed, within a few hours, the animal(s) must be picked up.

Important Information

1. The FAM Network will not release any client information or the information of our participating referring agencies & community partners
2. Urgent intakes may be handled differently
3. The client must arrange for someone, if not themselves, to transport the animals to or from one of our participating clinics (location & time provided by The FAM Network).
4. Only approved people may attend any veterinary visits with the client - non-compliance with this may result in expulsion from the program. It is vital that The FAM Network is informed of who will be dropping off or picking up the animal(s).
5. The information on the foster home where the animal(s) will be kept will be kept confidential
6. We ask that you advise your clients to remove any ID tags from the animal(s) collars prior to the intake veterinary exam





FAQ

- Does it cost anything to place an animal with The FAM Network?
 - No, there is no cost to families needing to access The FAM Network program
- Can people see their pets while they are in the program?
 - No, for the safety of our foster homes & veterinary clinics we cannot provide their information
- Is there a limit on how long animals can stay in the program?
 - The FAM Network does not have a time limit that pets can remain in the program – we're here as long as we're needed for
 - For the pet(s) to remain in The FAM Network program the owners must be staying in shelter or be accessing a transitional housing support program. Once they have exited from the shelter or are no longer using the THSP they will have 48 hours to notify us of their intention to collect their animals, or they will be considered abandoned
- Does FAM Network only foster dogs?
 - No, The FAM Network fosters **all** species of animals.

Thank You

Thanks to your participation we are able to keep families together during an unstable and uncertain time in their lives.

These families get to keep their bestfriend, confidant, and fur-family member no matter what happens.

Your ongoing support means the world to our volunteers, foster homes, board members and - most importantly - the families we help.

