

## How to access the schemes

Referrals are taken from agencies and/or direct from the owner provided they supply confirmation they are fleeing domestic violence i.e. letter from Social Worker, Police Domestic Violence Unit or Temporary Housing Provider.

## The process

A form must be completed with pet's details including: vaccination and neutering status, pet's size, breed, behavioural problems, socialisation with other animals and children. In addition a legal contract has to be signed by the owner. Dogs that behave aggressively will not be considered for foster placement.

## Length of placement

Foster placements are for an average of 6-9 months whilst the families are waiting to be re-housed.

*Schemes may have slight variations on how they run - please check with the scheme you require for any individual requirements.*

If you are suffering violence in the home,  
phone the Freephone 24hr

**National Domestic Violence Helpline**

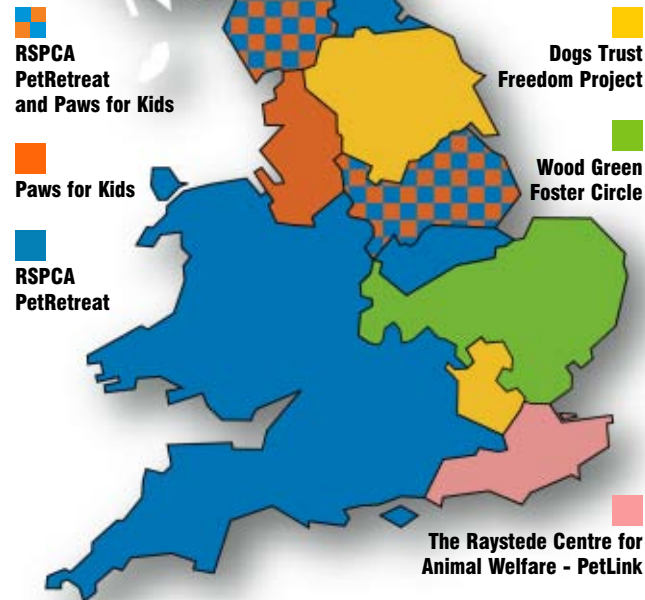
**0808 2000 247**

*(run in partnership between Refuge & Women's Aid)*

Trained staff can provide you with emotional and practical support and help you access safe, emergency accommodation if necessary.



## Pet fostering service locations



-  Covers Cumbria/The English Lake District, Derbyshire, and North East Midlands.
-  Covers the Greater London Area, Hertfordshire and Yorkshire.
-  Covers Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Merseyside.
-  Covers Avon, Berkshire, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Herefordshire, Isle of Wight, Leicestershire, Oxfordshire, Rutland, Shropshire, Somerset, South Lincolnshire, Staffordshire, Surrey, The North East, Wales, West Midlands, Wiltshire and Worcestershire.
-  Covers Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Suffolk and Warwickshire.
-  Covers Kent, East & West Sussex.



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# Pet fostering services

for families escaping domestic violence



[www.the linksgroup.org.uk](http://www.the linksgroup.org.uk)



## Pet fostering services for families escaping domestic violence

The Links Group is a multi-agency interest group that promotes the welfare and safety of vulnerable children, animals and adults so that they are free from violence and abuse. Members include leading associations and charitable organisations.

As part of The Links Group, some charities offer pet fostering services specifically for pets belonging to families fleeing from domestic violence.

For many people who leave violent relationships, the options open to them regarding their pets are very limited.

The services listed in this leaflet ensure pets are cared for in a volunteer foster carer's home until their owner is able to be reunited with them.

**All placements are strictly confidential.**

### The Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare - PetLink

Ringmer, Lewes, East Sussex BN8 5AJ

**Tel** 01825 880478

**Email** [petfostering@raystede.org](mailto:petfostering@raystede.org)

**Website** [www.raystede.org](http://www.raystede.org)

*Registered Charity 237696*

**Areas covered** Kent, East & West Sussex.

**Pets fostered** Any domestic pet considered.



### Dogs Trust Freedom Project Greater London

PO Box 50208, London EC1V 7XP

**Tel** 0800 298 9199

**Email** [freedomproject@dogstrust.org.uk](mailto:freedomproject@dogstrust.org.uk)

**Website** [www.dogstrustfreedomproject.org.uk](http://www.dogstrustfreedomproject.org.uk)

*Registered Charity Nos. 227523; SC037843*

**Areas covered** Greater London and Hertfordshire.

#### Yorkshire

PO Box 280, Leeds LS14 9BF

**Tel** 0800 083 4322

**Email** [freedomproject@dogstrust.org.uk](mailto:freedomproject@dogstrust.org.uk)

**Website** [www.dogstrustfreedomproject.org.uk](http://www.dogstrustfreedomproject.org.uk)

*Registered Charity Nos. 227523; SC037843*

**Areas covered** All of Yorkshire.

**Pets fostered** Dogs Trust will only arrange foster care for dogs over the age of six months under this scheme. Temporary care for cats can also be arranged with Cats Protection through the Freedom Project in Greater London and Hertfordshire only. All dogs and cats referred to the project will be microchipped, vaccinated and neutered.



### Paws for Kids

PO Box 329, Bolton BL6 7WA

**Tel** 01204 394 842

**Fax** 01204 399 645

**Email** [petfostering@pawsforkids.org.uk](mailto:petfostering@pawsforkids.org.uk)

**Website** [www.pawsforkids.org.uk](http://www.pawsforkids.org.uk)

*Registered Charity No. 1084861*

**Areas covered** Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Merseyside, plus Derbyshire and North East Midlands.

**Pets fostered** All domestic Pets- dogs, cats, small furries birds fish etc. All dogs and cats referred will be neutered and Microchipped. Pets must be over 6 months old.



### RSPCA PetRetreat

PO Box 837, Taunton, Somerset TA1 9FG

**Tel** 0300 123 8278

**Email** [petretreat@rspca.org.uk](mailto:petretreat@rspca.org.uk)

**Website** [www.rspca-petretreat.com](http://www.rspca-petretreat.com)

*Registered Charity No. 219099*

**Areas covered** Avon, Berkshire, Cornwall, Cumbria, Derbyshire, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Herefordshire, Isle of Wight, Leicestershire, North East and West Midlands, Oxfordshire, Rutland, Shropshire, Somerset, South Lincolnshire, Staffordshire, Surrey, The North East, Wales, Wiltshire and Worcestershire.

**Pets fostered** Established family pet(s) over 6 months old will be considered. Pet(s) will be neutered and microchipped.



### Wood Green Foster Circle

Godmanchester, Cambs PE29 2NH

**Tel** 08442 488181 ext 1261

**Email** [fostering@woodgreen.org.uk](mailto:fostering@woodgreen.org.uk)

**Website** [www.woodgreen.org.uk](http://www.woodgreen.org.uk)

*Registered Charity No. 298345*

**Areas covered** Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Suffolk and Warwickshire.

**Pets fostered** We will consider any domestic animal from people fleeing from domestic violence. All dogs and cats accepted will be neutered. Pets must be over 6 months old.



### Refs for Pets

30 Chaucer Street, Nottingham NG1 5LP

**Tel** 07971 337264

**Email** [sarah@wais.org.uk](mailto:sarah@wais.org.uk)

*Registered Charity No. 1094012*

**Areas covered** Nottinghamshire.

**Pets fostered** Any domestic pet considered.

