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 services
for families escaping domestic violence

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.
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.

Dogs Trust Freedom Project Greater London
PO Box 50208, London EC1V 7XP
Tel 0800 298 9199
Email freedomproject@dogstrust.org.uk
Website 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
Website 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
Website 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
Website 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
Website 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.

The Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare - PetLink
Ringmer, Lewes, East Sussex BN8 5AJ
Tel 01825 880478
Email petfostering@raystede.org
Website www.raystede.org
Registered Charity 237696
Areas covered Kent, East & West Sussex.
Pets fostered Any domestic pet considered.

Refs for Pets
30 Chaucer Street, Nottingham NG1 5LP
Tel 07971 337264
Email sarah@wais.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 1094012
Areas covered Nottinghamshire.
Pets fostered Any domestic pet considered.