

## What Refs For Pets will do?

- We will collect your pet.
- We will house your animals with a home checked foster carer.
- We will provide you with updates about your pet.
- We will collect payments from you to pay for your animal's food.
- We will re-unite you with your pet when you are ready.

## What you need to know

- You will not be able to visit your pet. This is for the safety of your self and the fosterer. The service is confidential.
- You will be required to pay for your pet's food whilst it is being fostered.
- We are not a 24 hour service but if you leave a message we will get back to you as soon as we can.



For more information on this service contact:

→ **07971 337264**  
**refs4pets@yahoo.co.uk**



If you need to talk to someone about domestic violence ring the 24-hour helpline on:

→ **0808 800 0340**

For more information on domestic violence and animals go to:

→ **www.thelinksgroup.org.uk** or  
→ **www.ndvf.org.uk**



Women's Aid  
Advice Centre Nottingham  
Working towards ending  
Domestic violence against  
women and children

Registered charity number: 1094012

Are ***you*** living in fear of your partner and ***need to leave*** but are scared about leaving pets behind?



Refs for Pets  
***can help!***

### **Animals can be used in abusive relationships in the following ways:**

- Animals can be used to make you stay in a relationship
- Your partner may threaten to hurt or kill your pet if you behave in certain ways.
- Your partner may threaten to hurt or kill your pet if you leave the relationship.
- Your partner may refuse to look after and neglect your pet's basic needs if you leave it behind as a way to keep you in a relationship.
- When you have left, your partner may threaten your pet to make you go back.

***If you fear for your animal's safety and this is stopping you from leaving a relationship there is a service in Nottingham that can help.***

#### **Who can we help?**

We can help any woman leaving or thinking of leaving an abusive relationship.

#### **How can we help?**

We can find a temporary home for your pets whilst you are living in temporary accommodation. This might include:

- Staying in a refuge.
- Living in a hostel.
- Staying in Bed and Breakfast.
- Living with family or friends.
- Any other form of temporary accommodation you are staying in to escape domestic violence.

#### **What you need to do:**

If you are thinking about leaving you might want to talk it through with a support worker from Women's Aid - contact the helpline for help and safety advice.

If you are leaving an abusive relationship and are worried about the safety of your animals try and take your pets with you and leave them with a family or friend.

Contact Refs for Pets who will then arrange for your animals to be fostered.

If you have fled in an emergency and left your pets behind it may be possible for Refs for Pets to collect your animals with the help of a police escort.

