



# Safe Harbor

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN  
Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association  
Federated Humane Societies of Pennsylvania

## A Safe Harbor for Dogs

A Partnership between the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association and the Federated Humane Societies of Pennsylvania



The Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA) and the Federated Humane Societies of Pennsylvania have partnered together to develop an initiative to help unwanted dogs in commercial breeding kennels. The Safe Harbor Program was jointly created in an effort to provide commercial kennel owners a humane means of divesting themselves of unwanted dogs. Whether the kennel is closing because inability to comply with the new law and regulations, downsizing or simply has possession of dogs they no longer want, the Safe Harbor Program will offer a viable alternative for kennel owners. It will also offer a way for kennel operators to surrender unwanted dogs without fear of prosecution. Recent cases in which unwanted dogs from commercial kennels were disposed of in an inhumane manner or simply left to starve to death have made the need for this type of program clear. The implementation of the Safe Harbor Program will allow other kennel owners to avoid making similar choices in the future by giving them a positive alternative and giving the dogs a chance to be adopted into loving, permanent homes.

### How Safe Harbor Will Work

If someone learns of a situation where a kennel owner is willing to relinquish dogs, the person may contact the Safe Harbor Program Coordinator, Melissa Smith, Executive Director of the York County SPCA. The Coordinator will contact participating Federated Humane Societies of Pennsylvania member organizations who have an interest in receiving and housing these dogs. The dogs will be entirely surrendered by the kennel owner and will become property of the receiving organization. Once surrendered, PVMA will work with the receiving shelter to identify resource needs and provide volunteer veterinarians to provide necessary veterinary care to the dogs.

### How You Can Help

As a volunteer veterinarian, you agree to provide necessary veterinary care free of charge to the shelter for dogs received into the Safe Harbor Program. Necessary veterinary care will include a veterinary evaluation to determine the health and adoptability of the dog, vaccinations, medical treatment if warranted, and euthanasia where medically deemed appropriate. If the dog is assessed to be healthy enough to be adopted, participating veterinarians will also spay or neuter the dog to prevent further breeding of the dog once placed by the shelter. Volunteer certified veterinary technicians are also needed and welcome to participate to assist with surgeries and medical procedures. Behavioral screening and temperament testing will be done by the shelter. Once the veterinary evaluation and care

is received, participating shelters will evaluate and process Safe Harbor dogs as they would any other incoming surrendered animal.

As a volunteer, you are not responsible to provide medical supplies. Participating shelters will be asked to assist with needed items. Donations from corporate partners, the veterinary community, and the public will be solicited and accepted. Please see our veterinary supply checklist if your practice is interested in donating items.

PVMA is seeking veterinarians now who are willing to volunteer in the Safe Harbor Program. The goal is to establish a statewide network of shelters to receive dogs once they are relinquished and veterinarians willing to donate their time to provide necessary veterinary care. If you would like to volunteer in the Safe Harbor Program, complete the attached Volunteer Participation Form on the reverse side. If you have any questions regarding the process, please contact PVMA Safe Harbor Coordinator Barb Pollihan at 1-888-550-7862, x104 or [bpollihan@pavma.org](mailto:bpollihan@pavma.org). Participating veterinarians will be provided with press releases and background material for distribution to local press and additional information about participation as a volunteer.

### Special Thanks to Our Founding Partners

PVMA and the Federated Humane Societies of Pennsylvania extend our sincerest thanks to the individuals and organizations which participated in the work group that developed Safe Harbor.

- Dr. Lisa Murphy, PVMA President
- Dr. Robert Lavan, PVMA Legislative Committee Co-Chair
- Dr. Bryan Langlois, Humane League of Lancaster County\*
- Dr. Kelly Bendixsen, Humane Society of Berks County\*
- Dr. Lee Pickett, Humane Society of Berks County\*
- Dr. Charles Newton, University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine
- Dr. Michael Moyer, University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine
- Ms. Anne Irwin, Bucks County SPCA\*
- Ms. Cindy Starke, Luzerne County SPCA\*
- Ms. Pam Smith, Clearfield County SPCA\*
- Ms. Melissa Smith, York County SPCA\*
- Mr. Karel Minor, Humane Society of Berks County\*

\* Indicates shelters who are the founding members of the program and will serve as the first receiving agencies.





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# Safe Harbor Program Volunteer Participation Form

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  DVM  VMD  CVT  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Practice Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Pennsylvania License Number \_\_\_\_\_ Active:  Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_ Pennsylvania CVT Certification Number \_\_\_\_\_ Active:  Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interests/specialties \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I volunteer or have an existing relationship with the following shelters and rescues: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to volunteer in the Safe Harbor Program.  
*Volunteer veterinarians must have a valid Pennsylvania veterinary license and appropriate veterinary malpractice insurance. Volunteer CVTs must have a valid Pennsylvania CVT certification.*

Our practice would like to donate the following items: \_\_\_\_\_

## Veterinary Supply Donation List

Help us offset the costs associated with the Safe Harbor program by donating these items.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Exam Gloves  | Ear Cleaner                              |
| Stethoscope  | Cotton Tipped Applicators                |
| Nail Trimmers  | Gauze                                    |
| Ophthalmoscope/Otoscope                              | Cotton Balls                             |
| Eye Wash   | Bandage Material                         |
| Fluorescein Stain                                    | 1cc, 3cc, 5cc, 12cc, 35cc syringes       |
| Electric Clippers                                    | 25g, 23g, 21g, 18g needles               |
| Microscope   | IV catheters (25g, 22g, 20g, 18g)        |
| Scalpel Blades                                       | IV Fluids (LRS, Normasol, 2.5% Dextrose) |
| Dif-Quik Stain                                       | Spay Packs                               |
| Mineral Oil  | Anesthetics                              |
| Distemper Vaccine                                    | Anesthetic Machines                      |
| Rabies Vaccine                                       | Oxygen                                   |
| Medicated Shampoos                                   | Suture Material                          |
| Basic Antibiotics/Ointments, such as Amoxicillin,    | Surgical gloves                          |
| Cephalexin, Doxycycline, Vetropolycin, Veteropolycin | Surgical Lights                          |
| w/HC, Otomax, Mal-Otic, Penicillin                   | Surgical Grape Material                  |
| Injection/Ampicillin Injection (polyflex)            | Surgery/exam table                       |



**Return completed form and donated supplies to:**

Barb Pollihan, Safe Harbor Veterinary Coordinator, 12 Briarcrest Square, Hershey, PA 17033; or fax to 717-533-4761