



PET COMPANION SHELTER RENOVATION

There is a direct link between domestic violence, child abuse and abuse of animals.

Alexandra House is a haven for individuals and families who are fleeing violence in their homes. Our beloved pets are an integral part of our households, and they deserve nothing less than a refuge where they can remain protected from harm by their family's side. We are committed to improving our emergency shelter spaces by converting three rooms into pet-friendly rooms. Plus, we are planning to create a new pet park where pets and their families can play together in a secure and joyful environment.

In moments of crisis, abusers often wield power by targeting innocent animals, further manipulating, and controlling their victims. Through our commitment to becoming a pet-safe shelter, we aim to remove these barriers, offering survivors safety, support, and assurance that their beloved pet(s) will be protected from harm. The creation of a pet shelter program is critical, as recent research reveals alarming statistics: nearly half of victims delay leaving abusive relationships out of fear for their pet's well-being. A large majority of victims with pets in domestic violence shelters report that their partners have inflicted harm upon their beloved animals, with many victims ultimately returning to abusive situations due to concerns over their pets' safety. Furthermore, studies underscore that instances of animal abuse often serve as ominous predictors for escalated violence, highlighting the critical need for interventions that safeguard both human and animal lives alike.

- Nearly 48% of victims delayed leaving an abusive relationship for fear of pet safety.
- 71% of victims with pets entering domestic violence shelters reported that their partners had injured, maimed, killed, or threatened family pets.
- Nearly 1 in 4 victims return to an abusive situation due to fear over their pet's safety.

Phase 1 - Planning

Evaluate existing shelter space and determine how many rooms could be renovated and converted into pet-friendly space. Establish partnerships with local rescue groups, veterinarians, and humane society. Secure construction bids and external funding sources.

Phase 2 - Renovation

Renovation of three bedrooms to make them pet-safe, adding a dog door to the secure kennel area, dog vestibules, outside play yard, etc. Establish organizational policies and procedures for operating a pet-safe shelter. Begin collecting donations of pet supplies.

Phase 3 - Grand Opening

Announce the opening of our pet-safe shelter and begin co-sheltering pets with their families.

Linus' Pet Haven was named in honor of a former participant's pet, Linus. Candice, her son, and dog Linus were in desperate need of emergency shelter but were unable to receive help from Alexandra House's 24-hour emergency shelter due to our inability at the time to allow pets to co-shelter with their families. Candice couldn't leave Linus behind as his safety and life depended on her protection. Once Candice was in a safe place and out of her immediate crisis, she started working towards making Alexandra House a pet-safe shelter so that no other family must face the difficult decision of leaving their beloved pet behind or getting away safely from their abuser.

