



Denver Animal Shelter Safe Haven Program

Providing temporary housing and care to keep families together

Denver Animal Protection (DAP) partners with several referral organizations to provide the Safe Haven Program, which offers two to four weeks* of shelter for pets of families experiencing temporary homelessness. This could be due to fire, domestic violence, or hospitalization. DAP also provides this service to pet owners experiencing homelessness during severe cold weather (under 15 degrees).

Many pet owners do not want to give up their animals but need short-term assistance to focus on tasks that can get them into a new home. The Safe Haven Program makes it possible for these people to get the resources they need to improve their situations enough to welcome their pet back home again. Animals provide companionship, comfort, and unconditional love to these families, and preserving the bond between families and their animals is vitally important.

From Denver Animal Shelter's website

<https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/denver-animal-shelter/programs.html#SafeHaven>

** After discussing the 2-4 week timeline with DAS and DAP staff, they stated that the Safe Haven generally operates under a 2-week timeline; however, if more time is needed, the case worker/representative can discuss it with the organization.*

- Providing Safe Haven for an animal is decided on a case-by-case basis
- A caseworker or other representative must be available to answer questions, provide updates, and receive calls about the animal.
 - o The contact person should also update the Safe Haven on the timeline
 - o If there is no contact person, *the animal is put through the normal procedure*, including putting the pet up for adoption or, if the animal is suffering and cannot be accommodated, euthanized after the default 5-day waiting period
- The Safe Haven program keeps track of animals/owners that use it, **and it is usually a one-time stay**. In other words, the Safe Haven program rejects animals/owners that have previously used its services.

Contact numbers: 720.337.1821 or 720.337.1832