



Guidelines for Receiving Pet Food Assistance

Safe Paws Pantry (SPP) is a program created to help keep Iowa families and their pets together. We do this by providing fresh, high-quality pet food to families experiencing financial hardship so no one is forced to decide between caring for themselves and caring for their companion animals. Pets are family members and sometimes they're the only family a person has.

Please read the below guidelines for the Safe Paws Pantry program.

* Safe Paws provides temporary assistance to individual pet owners. We do not provide food to shelters, breeders, or to feed feral animals. Pet food is not available for resale.

* Safe Paws requires proof that all animals we help are spayed or neutered, assuming they are healthy enough for surgery. **If your animals are not spayed or neutered, assistance will be provided for your first visit but documentation will be required on any subsequent visit.** Please see the reverse side of this document for details.

* Only one person per household may apply for pet food assistance. ID is required at time of pick up.

* Participants may utilize SPP for three (3) months in a rolling 12-month period without documentation of additional support. SPP will provide additional assistance with documentation of unemployment or if receiving disability or social security benefits after reaching the rolling three (3) month limit.

* Participants approved for long(er) term pet food assistance have a (6) month limit in a rolling 12 months.

* Participants agree to not adopt additional pet(s) while participating in pantry program. Safe Paws will not adopt any animal in their care to participants of SPP for six (6) months after the last use.

* The amount of pet food provided is based on the number and size of your pet(s) as well as availability of food.

How do I prove that my pet is spayed or neutered?

If you do not have the original paperwork from your pet's adoption or surgery, you can ask the clinic for certification. If your pet was altered before you became its guardian, go to any vet clinic and ask to have your pet evaluated. Safe Paws will accept a written note on the clinic's stationary as proof.

What happens if my pet is not spayed or neutered?

If your pet is not altered, pet food will be provided during your first visit, but you must bring proof of spaying or neutering to your second visit to continue participating in the Safe Paws Pantry program.

What if I can't afford to have my pet spayed or neutered?

Safe Paws will provide you with a list of low-cost clinics. If you need further assistance, let us know.

What if my pet cannot be spayed or neutered?

If your pet cannot be spayed or neutered due to age or health issues, please bring documentation from a veterinarian or ask your vet to write a note explaining why your pet cannot be safely altered.