



## WHAT IS PAWS & PALS?

Paws & Pals is an outreach service which is a proud initiative brought to you by Safe Pets Safe Families. Paws & Pals partners with homeless organisations and facilitates, pop up veterinary clinics for homeless and vulnerable people and their pets.

Clinics are staffed by volunteer veterinarians and vet nurses who provide check-ups and routine treatments like vaccinations, microchipping and worming. We also have a referral service for any serious veterinary matters and grooming and dog washing services are also available on the day to clients.

Clinics are scheduled approximately every three months, and clients can access our services with a referral through their service providers. Our Community Partners include Baptist Care and Hutt St Centre. Other service providers are also welcome to access our services.

Transport is available through our volunteer drivers to assist those who do not have access to transport on the day.

Our volunteers also assist with providing pet food, treats, blankets and essential items for people (subject to availability)

ANOTHER WAY YOU CAN HELP...

PET FOOD BANK

## FILL THEIR BOWL PROJECT

- > Pets are often forgotten when emergency food is provided to vulnerable people. SPSF is committed to changing this and making sure their bowls are full too. SPSF provides food to many charities so people in need can feed their pets.
- > This project is an important part of the SPSF objective toward keeping people and pets together and prevent unnecessary surrender and euthanasia.
- > You can help by kindly donating pet food to our Pet Food Bank. One simple donation provides a meal and peace of mind for a struggling family and their pet.



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POP UP VET CLINICS

REMOVING BARRIERS

FOR THE HOMELESS

AND THEIR PETS



[WWW.SAFEPETSSAFEFAMILIES.ORG.AU](http://WWW.SAFEPETSSAFEFAMILIES.ORG.AU)





## HOW PAWS & PALS STARTED

Paws & Pals started in South Australia in 2014 by Jennifer Howard, when she saw a need to extend services to help people and pets living rough in SA.

Initially handing out pet food and dog coats in winter time until our first ever free pop up vet clinic. The successful clinic was run in collaboration with our community partner, the Hutt St Centre, and saw 30 people and their pets for veterinary treatment.



## WHY IS AN OUTREACH SERVICE SO IMPORTANT

The sad reality is pet owners in our community who experience homelessness face tough decisions every day. Without access to a steady home or steady income, covering the basics on a daily basis alone can be a struggle.

Veterinary care can be expensive, especially when relating to complex health issues. For those sleeping rough, it can feel impossible to find enough funds even to cover a basic check-up, let alone when their pet is unwell.

Even finding appropriate transport to get to a vet can be a challenge in itself. That's where our Paws & Pals program comes in.

By removing barriers that prevent disadvantaged pet owners from seeking veterinary care, the Paws & Pals outreach service works to ensure that those experiencing homelessness can regularly provide the attention and care they need to their much loved best friends.

## SAFE PETS SAFE FAMILIES

Safe Pets Safe Families, our parent organisation, is completely volunteer-run and receives all of its funding from fundraisers and public donations. Our founder, Jennifer Howard, saw a gap in the welfare system for homeless and vulnerable clients who had pets but could not afford regular veterinary care for their pets. The establishment of regular, pop up clinics allows for all animals to be assessed, treated, and groomed, and referred for specialist veterinary care, if necessary.



SAFE PETS SAFE FAMILIES

## DONATE TO A SPECIAL CAUSE!

You can also help by donating pet food and money to help with expenses such as worming, flea treatments, and microchipping.

We are a registered charity and your donations are tax deductible. By helping us, you can give people the opportunity to get the help they need by ensuring that their treasured pet is being looked after too.