
CAT FOSTER GUIDE

Please read through this informational handout when taking home cats to foster, as it will equip you to have all the necessary knowledge required to care for a cat. The foster department is your help center. We are here to answer any questions and concerns you may have. If there is something you need help with, simply ask. We are here to support you.

ROLE

- Temporarily house a cat/kitten for either age, behavioral reasons, space, or medical reasons
- Provide basic care for the foster animal(s) by feeding, socializing, cleaning, and playing with them
- Administer routine flea prevention and any prescribed medication
- Attend scheduled follow up appointments and routine checks
- Be the animal's advocate by marketing them on social media
- Write a bio about the foster and upload a photo to our website

The length of time you foster a kitten depends on the age and weight of the kitten(s). A kitten must weigh no less than 2 lbs to get surgery to be spayed/ neutered. They normally reach weight at around 8-9 weeks. Once, it reaches surgery weight you will upload photos/memos and schedule the surgery from our website. After you drop them off for surgery your role as a foster for those kittens ends.

SUPPLIES

We will provide (if you need something not listed below simply talk to a foster coordinator and we can see if it is available):

- Rescue
- Carrier
- Science Diet dry & wet food
- Bowls
- Breeders Edge Formula
- Blue Dawn dish soap (for flea baths)
- Toys
- Intestoguard (Stomach troubles)
- Blankets/ Peepads
- Playpen (if needed)

REQUIREMENTS

We ask all our fosters to follow certain guidelines when fostering, this is in the best interest of the animal. If you have concerns about any of these points, please contact the foster department for help.

- Only feed your fosters the food we provide (Science Diet).
- Keep all fosters quarantined for a mandatory two weeks to prevent the possible spread of illness and to decrease stress on the animal.
- Commit to bringing animals in for medical appointments and follow ups/ communicate health concerns with foster techs.
- Veterinary care/ medical attention is to be dealt with at Peggy Adams (*you can NOT use a private vet*).

- Contact foster techs if you notice: nasal discharge, sneezing, coughing, lethargy, loss of appetite, worms, diarrhea, or any other health concerns.
- Give us a minimum two-week notice if you can no longer foster.
- Kittens must be weighed daily and monitored until they are of weight (over 3 lbs for a small breed and 2 lbs for a large breed) to be spayed/ neutered.
- If you need behavioral help, contact our behavior department for advice.
- Contact a Foster Coordinator immediately if someone is scratched or bitten.

Reasons to Contact Foster Techs

If you notice any of these symptoms, please contact a foster tech immediately. Do not just bring in the animal without an appointment, they will not be able to see you. Email, call, or text them to schedule a time to be seen. Be watchful for: Lethargy, Vomiting, Eye Discharge, Nasal Discharge, Hair loss, Diarrhea, Sneezing, Coughing, Bloody Stool, Inappetence, Weight Loss, and Not Drinking.

Types of Cat Fosters

There are multiple reasons we would send a cat/kitten out to foster. Below we illustrate some circumstances.

Nursing Mom and Kittens: A foster would take home a mom with a litter of kittens. You must foster the mom with the litter until the babies are at least 2 pounds. At that point, they will have surgery to be spayed or neutered. The mom must then be separated from the litter after that time, to have her “dry up”. Foster parents are responsible for socializing these kittens and helping the mom feel comfortable during this period.

Bottle Fed Kittens: The foster parent in this situation will take home orphaned kittens- kittens without a mom to care for them. This is a bit more responsibility for the foster parent, as they will be bottle feeding every couple of hours. You are required to take a class and then get hands on training for neonatal and transitional kitten procedures before taking home a litter.

*Courses/classes are required

Medical Problems: We have some cats who have suffered (or suffer) from injuries and need a home for rehabilitation purposes. Medical troubles may include: Ringworm, mange, skin troubles, pinpointing an allergy, eye issues, recovering from a surgery, sever kennel cough, or some type of trauma/ injury. Instructions for administering medication and treatment will be given, in addition to proper training.

*Courses/classes are required.