



FOSTER PROGRAM TRAINING MANUAL



Humane Society of the Palm Beaches

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Congratulations on becoming a Foster Parent!

Welcome to our Foster Program! This manual is designed to provide foster parents with needed information to be successful with Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League's foster program. This amongst our other resources will be very vital tools throughout your fostering journey.

The foster care program was established to provide animals with temporary homes until they are ready to be placed up for adoption. By opening your heart and home, you will be providing a safe environment to prepare them for adoption.

Each individual animal is screened for health and temperament during their intake exam. All animals are vaccinated and treated medically according to the age of the animal. Fosters may require return visits for additional boosters, vaccinations, and checkup visits. This will be scheduled by the Veterinarian Technicians that work in conjunction with our foster care program.

Once an animal has been selected for this program, the Foster Care Coordinator will contact you about the available animal and coordinate an appointment to pick them up and take them home.

We encourage foster parents to try to find suitable homes for their foster animal(s). If someone is interested in the animal(s) you are fostering, the foster animal must stay in your care until it becomes available for adoption. Palm Beach County ordinance requires all animals be spayed/neutered before adoption. All animals are to be sterilized, up to date on vaccinations (according to age) and microchipped, prior to adoption. If the pet you are fostering is not spayed or neutered, they must come back for surgery unless contraindicated.

Caring for foster animals can be a very positive and rewarding experience; however, the role of a foster parent is not always easy. Occasionally, unforeseen medical or behavior problems arise. A foster parent must communicate all concerns and be observant, compassionate, patient and understanding.

Thank you for helping us save lives in our community!

Contact + Hours

Foster Care Staff

Holly Fritz, Foster Care Coordinator
Denali Mendonca, Foster Care Coordinator
Nanci Romain, Foster Care Coordinator
Heather Beatty, Foster Care Coordinator
Katie Buckley-Jones, Foster Care Manager

Jessica Gonzalez, Foster Veterinary Technician
Irene Toth, Foster Veterinary Technician
Hannah Hancock, Foster Veterinary Technician
Amanda Favara, Foster Veterinary Technician

Hours

Sunday-Saturday
Office Hours: 10am-6:00pm
Normal Appointment Hours: 10:00am-5:30pm

Foster Care Contact

(561) 686-3663 ext. 101 Foster@peggyadams.org

Foster Technicians Contact (Medical)

(561) 513-0513 Fostertechs@peggyadams.org
Phone availability 7am-9pm

Admissions Lobby Contact (Lost/Stray Animals)

(561) 686-3663 ext. 139 Receiving@peggyadams.org

Adoptions Contact

(561) 686-3663 ext.146 Adoptions@peggyadams.org

Behavior Contact (Dog/Cat Trainers)

(561) 686-3663 ext.171 Behavior@peggyadams.org

Volunteer Department Contact (On-Campus Volunteering)

(561) 472-8867 T.murray@peggyadams.org

Welcome

Foster Situations Include

- Puppies and kittens that are too young/underweight for adoptions
- Animals that are suffering from illness, injury, or recovering from surgery
- Animals that are severely overweight or underweight
- Animals in need of socialization
- Pregnant or nursing mothers

Application Process

If you are reading this, you are likely already approved to foster. But if not, and you are interested in becoming a Foster Parent, you first need to apply through our website. We will review your application and contact you if we have any questions. Once you have been approved to foster, you will receive a welcome email, and other important training/ orientation material.

Our animals are sent out “first come first serve” for fostering and usually must be picked up the same day that we contact you. To be added to our “On Deck” list as available to foster, email us once approved (Foster@peggyadams.org) and we will reach you in the order of which we were notified.

Time Commitment

The time commitment for foster care may range from one night to over a year. On average, a foster parent will commit between one and six weeks to a foster animal. Long-term care (months or even over a year) may be needed under certain circumstances. The time spent in your home varies according to the foster animal’s needs. Please also consider the possibility of additional time for vet checks and/or emergency care, record keeping, and return of the foster to the shelter during business hours.

We ask that you only take on the number of animals that you can house comfortably. If you find that you are “in over your head” please contact the Foster Care office to discuss the situation and, if necessary, arrange a return appointment. We are always here to support you.

Volunteer Hours

You automatically accrue 2 hours per day for each foster animal you take. These hours are automatically calculated into a printable PDF form upon the return of your foster animals. Alternatively, you can contact a Foster Coordinator to schedule an appointment to have any needed documentation signed regarding volunteer hours.

Compassion Fatigue + Emotional Considerations

We understand there will be much time and energy that you, as a foster parent, will invest into a foster animal. Caring for these fosters can be emotionally and physically demanding depending on the intensity of care they may require. Naturally, you will develop a bond or emotional attachment to your fosters.

Occasionally, there will be foster animals that will not thrive, despite our efforts. Our vets and staff make the best decision based on each animals’ quality of life. At Peggy Adams, we never euthanize for lack of space or length of time, so we can guarantee every decision is made with the best interest of the animal. Everything within our limits and capabilities will be done to treat any health or behavioral issues, but things may appear that are not within our ability. Situations like these can wear down and truly take a toll on you, thus affecting your role as a foster. If you ever feel overwhelmed or “burnt out”, please contact the foster coordinators.

Foster Parent Role Description

Major Objective: A foster parent provides a temporary home for an animal (or multiple animals) until they are ready for adoption or until they are adopted. Foster parents are incredibly important because they typically care for animals that would benefit from not being in the shelter, including kittens and puppies too young for adoption and animals with a medical or behavioral condition that is best addressed in a home setting. Foster parents help Peggy Adams save more animals by freeing up space at the shelter to help other animals in need.

Duties/Responsibilities:

- Feed, socialize, groom, train and provide medication if needed.
- Provide positive reinforcement techniques.
- Give animals positive human interaction.
- Observe their health, behavior and attend to their needs.
- Bring foster animal(s) back to the shelter for follow-up visits and communicate appropriately.
- Kittens and puppies must be weighed daily, then documented on a chart
- Follow Protocols

Volunteer Qualifications:

- Able to provide a safe, loving, and stable environment.
- Behavior/medical fosters will require training/experience with specific issues such as behavior/medical problems required for animals with behavior/medical needs
- Willing to nurse injuries/illnesses – have common sense and patience.
- Able to transport the foster animal to and from the shelter.
- Possess physical ability to handle animals in your care.
- Self-motivated and the ability to make appropriate judgment calls.
- Maintain communication with the Foster Care Coordinators/Techs and ask questions when needed.
- Be available to bring or drop off foster animal(s) to meet prospective adopters.
- Follow Foster protocol as outlined in the Foster training manuals.
- Submit photos and memos for adoption purposes.

Helpful but Not Required

- Attend or drop off and pick-up foster animal to special events
- Assist with the marketing of your foster animal with photos, bios, and social media postings.

Training Requirements:

Level 1

- Foster Orientation

Level 2

- Transitional, Weaning Kitten Training
- Basic Medical Class + Presentation
- Hissy/Spitty Kitten Behavioral Class

Level 3

- Ringworm/Mange Class + Presentation
- Neonatal Class + Hands-on Training
- Advanced Medical Training

Policies + Procedures

To provide maximum customer service to our foster parents and to ensure the health of our animals, we request your cooperation with the following practices. Carefully review them as violating any of these policies may result in removal of the program.

- All veterinary care must take place at Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League unless otherwise scheduled by the League.
- If an animal needs medical attention, contact the Foster Care Vet Tech on how to handle the situation.
- Please arrive on time for medical follow-up visits, otherwise, they may be canceled/rescheduled.
- If you cannot make your appointment, please contact the Foster Care Vet Techs.
- After examining an ill foster animal(s), we may send you home with medications or we may keep the animal for observation. It is imperative that you trust the judgment of the League and understand we will do the best we can for all the animals in our care. Returning or losing foster animals to a serious illness can be very upsetting. The Foster Care Coordinator is always available for you to talk to.
- We recommend you work with your veterinarian regarding the core vaccination protocol for your personal animals.
- We ask that quarantine all new fosters from any resident pets or other fosters in the home for at least 2 weeks. This is in the best interest of your own pets! Certain viral diseases have an incubation period of 14 days or more. The League will not be responsible for the treatment of your owned animals.
- Please provide the Foster Care Coordinator with a 2-week notice if you cannot continue fostering your animal(s). If leaving town for any reason, please contact the Foster Care Coordinator to arrange to return your foster animal(s) to Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League. It is acceptable for your spouse or roommate to care for your animal(s).
- Felines are always to be kept indoors except when transporting them in a carrier.
- Canines are to be on a leash when outside unless in a secured fenced in yard. Dog Parks are not permitted for Foster dogs.
- Never leave your foster in your car or drive with the windows down.
- Immediately inform the Foster Care Coordinator if you are scratched or bitten by your foster.
- You are required to feed the foster animals only with the food provided to you by the foster department. Switching the food to a brand besides Science Diet could result in problems since no other brands are provided at our facility.

General Care

The needs of a foster animal will vary, according to which animal(s) you take into your home.

See below for basic care of all foster dogs and cats.

Grooming

Peggy Adams does not provide grooming unless it medically necessary for the animal, however, the foster department can provide items such as nail clippers, shampoo, and/or brushes for you to utilize- when in stock. You are responsible for any routine brushing or bathing required to keep the foster clean, comfortable, and safe.

Feeding

We feed all animals a consistent diet provided by the League, which is made up of Hill's Science Diet wet and/or dry food. Some animals will require a nutritional supplement(s) in addition to their food. Dietary needs are different for each animal and will be determined by the medical team before an animal is sent into foster care.

Refrain from giving animals of any table scraps, cow/goat's milk, or alternative brands. Be sure to leave fresh water readily accessible always.

Quarantine + Confinement

Be sure to house your foster(s) in an appropriate area. Try to use a space that is easy to sanitize (ex., tile flooring). If you are fostering a litter of puppies or kittens, a safe enclosure such as a playpen or a well-padded and insulated bathtub is desirable. This type of enclosure will allow you to make observations while providing plenty of room for a mother and her growing litter. Please do not keep very young kittens in an area with couches, recliner chairs, tables, etc. They can easily fall or get stuck & sustain injury. Small areas are safer and limit potential risks. Additionally, confinement is mandatory for a minimum of 2 weeks to prevent any potential illness from being spread to owned pets.

Medical Visits

All medical visits are strictly by appointment only with our foster techs. Walk-ins will not be accommodated. You must call or email and arrange a date to come in. Prescription pickups along with preventative refills should also be communicated in advance. You must wait while your animal is being examined, we do not facilitate drop offs.

Foster Supply Checklists

The supplies needed to foster will be provided by Peggy Adams. Keep in mind that our shelter runs off donations, so some supplies' availability is based off what we have in stock. If there is an item you need that is not on the list, ask us and we can always check.

Adult Cat

- Carrier
- Litter Pans
- Litter
- Dawn Dish Soap
- Bowls
- Wet/Dry Food
- Toys
- Nail Trimmers (If needed)

Kittens

- Carrier
- Litter Pans
- Litter
- Dawn Dish Soap
- Bowls
- Wet/Dry Food
- Intestoguard (Probiotic)
- Scale
- Toys
- Nail Trimmers (If needed)

Neonatal Kittens

- Carrier
- Litter Pans
- Litter
- Dawn Dish Soap
- Karo Syrup
- Bottles + Nipples
- Toys + Stuffed Animal
- Formula
- Pee Pads
- Heating Disk
- Scale
- Blankets (If Needed)

Adult Dogs

- Leash
- Collar
- Harness
- Poop bags
- Toys
- Bed (If needed)
- Crate (If needed)
- Nail Trimmers (If needed)

Puppies

- Leash
- Collar
- Harness
- Poop bags
- Toys
- Intestoguard (Probiotic)
- Bed (If needed)
- Crate (If needed)
- Nail Trimmers (If needed)

Neonatal Puppies

- Carrier
- Dawn Dish Soap
- Karo Syrup
- Bottles + Nipples
- Formula
- Pee Pads
- Toys + Stuffed Animal
- Heating Disk
- Blankets (If Needed)
- Scale

*Please return any equipment that PAARL's Foster Department loans to you at the end of your fostering experience.

Health and Diseases

Animals can carry diseases that can be transmitted across species (zoonotic) and diseases that are only transmitted between members of the same species (non-zoonotic). Please abide by our health and safety protocols to protect yourselves and your resident pets.

Protecting Resident Pets

When bringing any new animal home, please keep in mind that it may be carrying an illness that could affect your resident animals' health. PAARL cannot treat your owned pets for any illness they might incur from your foster pets. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you keep your fosters and your resident pets always separate. If you chose to take on the liability and mix foster animals with your owned animals, we suggest a two-week separation period when new fosters first come into your home. This period will help to provide the opportunity for many common infectious diseases to incubate and to surface.

You should never leave your resident pets and fosters alone together for any amount of time, especially unsupervised. Also, please do not take your foster pets to any public areas such as dog parks, stores, etc.

All resident pets should be fully vaccinated and on preventatives before a foster animal is to enter the home. If you have an immune-compromised animal, you need to be extra-cautious in your decisions to foster certain animals.

Protecting Yourself

Zoonotic diseases are always of concern to those who handle or work with animals on a regular basis. You need not come into direct contact with an infected animal to contract a disease. Many zoonosis is transmitted via bodily fluids, and they can travel on skin, clothing, tools, toys, and other items (i.e., fomites). Here are some guidelines to help prevent the spread of contagious diseases (please be sure everyone in the household follows these guidelines as well):

1. All fosters should wash hands frequently when handling animals, this includes before and after handling them or their environment.
2. Please use protection and caution when cleaning feces and other animal bodily fluids.
3. We provide a disinfectant spray referred to as Rescue to help fight against deadly pathogens. Spray the items with the solution and allow it to remain on items for 5 minutes and then wipe them well. All areas (floors, walls, furniture, etc.) and materials (bedding, toys, litter boxes, food, and water dishes, etc.) that have come into contact with foster animal(s) must be disinfected before you expose new foster animals. You can use Rescue sanitizer in laundry. *Rescue spray is hydrogen peroxide based.
4. If possible, use disposable litter boxes. If you must use a plastic litter box, it must be disinfected before use by the next foster animal.
5. It is always a good idea to let your physician know that you work with shelter animals. They may have recommendations for your health.

PAARL will provide all routine deworming, vaccinations, and included testing. Please inquire with the Foster Techs to learn what testing we do for animals in our care. If you suspect there is a medical issue with your foster, contact the Foster Techs to set an appointment to assess and/or treat the animal.

Recognizing Illness

It is important that foster parents be able to interpret changes in an animal's appearance, bodily functions, and behavior to quickly recognize signs of illness. Although certain symptoms can be cues to consult with veterinarian, they are not equivalent to a diagnosis. If you observe any of the symptoms listed below, contact the foster techs.

Symptoms:

- Inappetence
- Uncontrolled Eating/ Increased Physical Activity
- Consistent Crying/Whining/Growling
- Persistent Scratching
- Headshaking
- Frequent, Uncontrollable Urination/ Discolored or Odorous Urine
- Discoloration/ Changes in Stool
- Dry Coat
- Decreased Activity/ Limpness
- Sneezing, Green or Yellow Nasal Discharge
- Mouth Breathing
- Coughing
- Ocular Discharge
- Weight Loss

Serious Illness

Occasionally, symptoms may appear that can be an indication of something underlying that is more severe. If you see any of the symptoms listed below you should contact a foster tech and describe the animals' condition and then further instructions may be given.

Severe Symptoms

- Vomiting blood/ Bile
- Labored Breathing/ Excessive Panting
- Incessant Coughing
- Pronounced Limping
- Paralysis
- Unconsciousness
- Seizures
- Fainting
- Dehydration/ Tenting of Skin
- Severe Diarrhea (Especially Accompanied by Vomiting)

Common Diseases

PAARL sometimes places animals that have not been fully vaccinated into Foster Care. This is because animals get rounds of vaccinations and deworming that cannot be given all at once. Many of the animals have an unknown or limited history, so we must assume that they could become ill at any point.

Common Diseases/Illnesses

- Upper Respiratory Infections (URI)

URIs are very common amongst shelter animals. This is a virus that must run its course. 90 % of the viruses involved in this complex may be Herpes virus and Calicivirus. The bacterial component may involve Chlamydia and Bordetella. All these infections are commonly found in shelters. We will usually treat with antibiotics to prevent any secondary bacterial infection from starting. At times, the cat may also develop conjunctivitis and need to be treated with eye medication as well. This virus can last from 2-4 weeks, but it often depends on the immunity of the individual pet.

- Kennel Cough

Kennel cough, also known as canine infectious respiratory disease, formerly canine infectious tracheobronchitis, is an upper respiratory infection affecting dogs. A URI may be a combination of kennel cough (trachea-bronchitis) and canine infectious respiratory disease. We placed this pet on antibiotics to prevent any possible progression to a bacterial infection like pneumonia. This is still a virus that must run its course, and this may take anytime between 2 and 4 weeks. At times we may add a cough suppressant to help if needed.

- Feline Leukemia (FeLV)

Feline leukemia virus is the second leading cause of death in cats. The virus can cause anemia or lymphoma, but because it suppresses the immune system, it can also predispose cats to deadly infections. Yet, exposure to the feline leukemia virus does not have to be a death sentence; many cats who encounter the virus are able to resist infection or eliminate the virus on their own. The life expectancy can be about 2-5 years after a confirmed diagnosis.

- Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)

This cat is FIV+, a slow virus, that affects a cat's immune system. They can live a normal life but keep in mind they are immunocompromised. Keep the cat indoors and reduce any stress. The virus is spread by blood transfusions, badly infected gums, or penetrating wounds. Life expectancy can be about 10 years. You will need to follow up with your veterinarian for further care, as necessary.

- Ringworm

Ringworm is a rash caused by a fungal infection. Ringworm is a zoonotic disease—it can be passed from an infected cat to a human who is in contact with it. Common clinical signs of feline ringworm include the following: circular areas of hair loss, scaling or crusty skin, alterations in hair or skin color, inflamed areas of skin, excessive grooming and scratching, and dandruff.

Common Diseases

- Mange

Mange refers to skin diseases caused by mites. Mange, caused by different kinds of mites, affects many kinds of animals, including humans.

There are two major forms of mange, each caused by different mites:

- Sarcoptic Mange (also known as scabies)

- Demodectic Mange (also known as red mange or demodex)

- Parvovirus

Parvovirus is a contagious virus mainly affecting dogs. Parvo is highly contagious and is spread from dog to dog or cat to cat by direct or indirect contact with their feces. Vaccines can prevent this infection.

- Coccidia

Coccidiosis is an intestinal tract infection caused by a single-celled organism called coccidia. It is diagnosed by doing a fecal exam.

- Intestinal Parasites

All animals are given rounds of deworming medication as a treatment for intestinal parasites, this could include hookworms, roundworms, tapeworms, and whipworms. Dead or dying worms are usually seen in the stool.

- Canine Distemper

This is a highly contagious viral disease of domestic dogs. It is an incurable, often fatal, multisystemic (affecting multiple organs) disease that affects the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and central nervous systems. Distemper is not commonly seen anymore. Fully vaccinated dogs are protected from the disease.

This list is not all inclusive. There may be other conditions that your foster animal may be diagnosed with. If you see any signs of illness contact the Foster Techs.

Administering Medications

Administering medication to your foster is often necessary and unavoidable. Medications can come in the form of pills, capsules, pastes, and liquids that are administered by mouth. Ointments, creams, and drops may be administered to eyes, ears and/or skin. Proper administration of medication is crucial for the animal to receive maximum benefit from the prescribed treatment. Medications should always be given for the full amount of time prescribed, even if their health appears to have improved.

Administering Pills

When giving pills, gently tilt the animal's head back while opening its mouth with your other hand, then drop the pill to the back of its throat. Softly hold the animal's mouth closed with its head pointed straight up and blow air on its nose to engage swallowing. As an alternative, pills can be disguised in wet food formed into a meatball, however, this does not always work with cats.

Administering Pastes

Premeasure the paste in the syringe provided to you. It is best to place the syringe of medicine towards the side of the mouth- just past the teeth- directed towards the back of the throat. Gradually press the syringe to release the medicine. You want to go slow, so the animal has time to swallow and breathe.

Administering Liquids

Liquid administration is very similar to pastes in the sense that is given via a syringe or a dropper. Place the syringe in the side of the mouth with the head slightly tilted upwards to encourage swallowing. Dispense the medicine slowly to avoid any aspiration. Animal may foam at the mouth if it is bitter tasting. Consult the Foster Techs with any concerns.

Administering Eye Drops/Ointments

Gently clean away any debris around the cat's eyes with warm water and a washcloth before administering any medication. This can be soothing and prepare your cat for administering the medicine. To administer eye drops, tilt the animal's head back slightly and bring the bottle over the eye ensuring to not touch the tip of the bottle to the eye, as this is cross contamination. Drop the prescribed dose into the instructed eye. As for eye ointments, hold the ointment tube using the thumb and index finger of your dominant hand with the tip pointed downward. With your other hand, use your thumb to gently pull down the lower eyelid. Hold the tube close to the eye, but make sure you do not touch the eye's surface with the ointment applicator. Squeeze the prescribed amount of ointment directly onto the eyeball, and then release your pet's head. They will blink, and the warmth of the eyeball should help melt the ointment and spread it over the surface of the eye. It is normal to see the ointment accumulate in the corners of the eye after administration.

Administering Ear Drops/Ointments

Draw up the liquid into the dropper or prepare the squeeze bottle as directed. Gently pull the flap of the ear up and slightly back using your other hand. Apply the prescribed number of drops into the ear canal, while continuing to hold the ear flap up. Rub the base of the ear against the head in a circular motion. Be cautious and gentle as your foster may object to this procedure.

Emergency Protocols

There are many symptoms to indicate an animal is not feeling well. Always be observant of your foster animals. Symptoms of illness may include diarrhea, vomiting, loss of appetite, lethargy, weight loss, runny eyes or nose, sneezing, and coughing. If the animal is lethargic and shows no interest in food or water, please call the Foster Care office as soon as possible. For kittens under three weeks, vomiting and diarrhea constitutes an emergency. If you suspect that your foster animal may be getting sick, please do not wait until after hours or your next scheduled appointment. Call us during hours of operation if you can!

During Business Hours

Foster Techs are available at the shelter from 9am until 6pm Sunday through Saturday -excluding major holidays.

If you suspect your foster needs medical care during these hours you must call the Foster Techs to notify them. Text and call, leaving a detailed message of what symptoms are occurring. Be prepared to give the staff member information including your name, the animals name, animal ID number, age of the animal, the symptoms of illness. Call their cellphone at 561-513-0513. Follow up with an email (Fostertechs@peggyadams.org), if they do not answer the phone. Walk-ins are not accepted and do not give the medical staff adequate time to prepare, please call and schedule an emergency appointment.

After Business Hours

There are no vets or medical staff on the premises after hours, so we encourage you to contact us before a situation escalates. If it is an absolute emergency, please call the Foster Techs on their cell phone 561-513-0513. They are available via phone from 7am-9pm every day. If you cannot get a hold of them call the:

- Foster manager, Katie Buckley-Jones, at 561-513-0474

We do have relationships with 24-hour clinics, but you need approval and a referral from our staff prior to making a visit. Most emergencies are not onset, so keep in contact before symptoms worsen.

We cannot guarantee reimbursement of private vets. Communicate any outside treatment with the Foster Techs.

Unexpected Deaths

Geriatric animals and young kittens/puppies are more susceptible to illness and death, through no fault of your own. It can be sudden without warning signs. It is imperative we are able examine the animal to determine the cause of death. We will handle disposal of the animal's remains for you. The loss of an animal is never easy, and it is understandable if you need a break. Our foster parents are vital to our organization. This program and your participation save thousands of animals lives every year.

Behavior

One of the most important parts of your job as a foster parent is to socialize your foster and prepare them to be a friendly adoptable cat or dog. Some animals will adjust quickly to you and their new environment, but for some, they may become overwhelmed and frightened. Patience is key. Allow your foster(s) time to acclimate to new surroundings and let them move at their own pace. Our behavior and foster team are always accessible to lend advice.

The principles of socializing are the same for all domestic dogs and cats: love them and they will respond. Socialization is critical, as puppies and kittens have important socialization periods when they are weeks to months old. If they are not well socialized during this time, they may develop aberrant social behavior later.

Specific behaviors typically require individual behavioral modification plans to help resolve difficulties. Consult the behavior/foster staff before implicating any new training. Email the behavioral department (refer to pg.4) and copy the foster coordinators so all departments are in the loop.

Classes

We offer a multitude of classes for you to utilize, including:

- Kitten 101- basic cat/kitten behavior class to assess body language and understand your foster cat.
- Basic Dog Training Class- learn basic commands and training methods for your dog.
- Hissy/Spitty Class- understand how to deal with fractious, hissy kittens and methods to correct their behavior

*Inquire with the foster team regarding class scheduling.

Dog Behavior

Some common difficulties and challenges seen in dogs are listed below. There are many other possibilities you may witness. If you notice anything develop while in a foster home, it is important to contact the foster or behavior department immediately.

- Leash reactivity: Becoming overly excited/stimulated specifically when on a leash. This can be presented as barking and lunging when seeing other animals or people passing by.
- Separation Anxiety: Exhibiting behavioral problems only when left alone. You may see barking, destructive behavior, and/or urination and defecation.
- Stranger Danger: Some dogs show fearfulness or aggression towards people. This can be fear-motivated aggression, dominance aggression, or redirected aggression. Sometimes there is no aggression, and the dog will appear shut down and frightened.
- Chewing Destructive: chewing is a phase that all puppies go through. It usually starts around three months and can last until the dog is one year old. During this time, the dog's adult teeth are coming in and chewing helps relieve the pain, whereas adult dogs usually chew on inappropriate things because they are anxious or bored, or because they have never been taught what is appropriate to chew on. It is important to make sure your dog has not only plenty of physical stimulation, but mental stimulation as well.

Behavior

Cat Behavior

We often send cats out to foster that have negative behavioral traits. Regularly, these problems can be resolved simply by leaving a stressful shelter environment and going into a home. Although these tips are especially pertinent to behaviorally troubled cats, they most definitely apply to all felines. If you notice any bad behaviors develop while in a foster home, it is important to contact the foster or behavior department immediately.

- Cats and kittens often hide and feel overwhelmed in new environments. Limiting them to a small, restricted space will help alleviate any stress and help to avoid potential litterbox problems. Closets, bathrooms, and small bedrooms will all work fine.
- Many cats do not like to be picked up or touched on their belly. Never force a cat or kitten to be held or touched, especially if they protest.
- Spending time with a scared cat will help build their trust with you. This could mean simply being in the same room as them, engaging in play with the use of toys, or sitting near them as they eat.

Kitten/Puppy Handling

- Try sitting on the floor with a timid puppy or kitten held against your chest, supported underneath, and facing outwards, so it cannot see how big and scary you are. Stroke it and speak gently. Continue this for about 30 seconds; then put the kitten or puppy down before it starts squirming. You want this to be a pleasant experience. The puppy or kitten will not be impressed, but if you cuddle it often enough, it will learn to love time spent with you.
- If your puppies or kittens are fearful and run away from you when you approach, try sitting or lying on the floor near them and let them come to you. This is a lot less intimidating to them.
- There is no such thing as a bad puppy or kitten. Even if your litter does not enjoy being held and cuddled, they may tolerate being stroked. Always remember that it is useless to punish a naughty kitten or puppy. If one of your kittens/puppies has an accident, or scratches and bites, it is not being spiteful or bad, it is just a baby who does not understand. Instead of punishing the animal, try distracting it with something else until it forgets about the bad deed it was doing.
- Be ever-patient with scared animals. Be calm. Talk quietly. Move slowly. Sit low. The more approachable you are, the more likely a scared animal is to come out of its shell.
- Try spending time with your foster while they eat, so they associate you with positive things.
- Never let foster animal's teeth or bite on your hands. We should not teach animals that hands are toys, because as they grow older it can become a painful and dangerous habit.

Other Resources

If you follow the link below, it will direct you to a page of our website with plenty of behavior handouts and material for specific concerns. Consult the foster and behavior team before implicating any methods.

<https://www.peggyadams.org/what-we-do/behavior-training-resources>

Dog Foster

Selecting Your Foster Dog

Dogs in need of foster homes at our shelter are constantly being identified.

When corresponding with us during the placement and matching process, it is important to let us know about any special considerations you might have:

- Do you have animals that have not been spayed or neutered?
- Are your animals current on all vaccinations?
- Do you have young children?
- Do you have a high-traffic home?
- Can you keep the foster dog separate from your resident animal(s)?
- Do you have any other fosters already in your home?

Our Foster Team will work with you to determine what foster would be a good match for your household.

Upon finding a match, we will contact you to discuss and give you more information on the dog that has been chosen. Some dogs may require a Dr. Discharge (discussion regarding medical history with our veterinarians) or a consult with our behavior team to review any behavior modification plans for the animal. If everything goes well, we can arrange a dog meet between the Foster and your resident dog(s).

Picking Up Your Foster Dog

After our Foster Team has confirmed a match for you and you have reviewed all our training material, you are ready to pick up your foster dog. The only thing you need to bring to your scheduled appointment is your driver's license/ID or parent if you are under the age of 18 years old.

We will fit your adult foster dog with an appropriate collar. Young puppies may not need a collar but should be transported in a travel carrier/crate.

Rescue dogs can be scared and disoriented by the changing environment and are often flight risks.

Always follow these extra precautions:

- The dog must always wear a Martingale collar, including inside the house.
- The dog must always wear a leash that is being held by you, if not in a secure fenced-in back yard.
- Puppies must be transported in a travel carrier/crate and not removed from the travel carrier/crate until they are safely indoors.
- All household members must understand and follow these rules.

Dog Foster

Getting Home

If you have other animals, you will need to keep them separated with no contact between each other for at least 2 weeks.

Do not leave your foster dog unattended in a fenced yard. If you have a doggy door, please keep it closed unless you are always present to monitor the dog(s) in the fenced yard. Although your yard may seem “escape proof,” too often our foster dogs have managed to find a way out. Fully vaccinated dogs can be taken on walks but always on a leash; however, never allow your foster dog to be off leash in public. This means no dog parks or other off-leash areas. At this point, we do not know enough about the foster dog, or the other dogs at the park, to know how they will react.

Special precautions need to be taken with puppies. Puppies should be housed in a private, confined area. We recommend a bathroom or any room where they will not have full access to the residence. Very young, small puppies can be confined to a crate initially. Confining puppies not only helps protect your belongings; it also keeps them safe. You should always have hand sanitizer handy and ask everyone (friends, family, neighbors, etc.) to use the sanitizer before touching your puppies. Less contact between outsiders and the puppies is better since they have compromised, underdeveloped immune systems.

Please do not feed your foster dog “table food” or scraps. Puppies and nursing or pregnant moms should get puppy food or gruel (depending on their age) for the additional nutrition.

If you want to bathe your foster dog, you can use Dawn dish soap that we provide. Do not, however, bathe your foster dog for 24 hours after treated with a topical flea medication as the shampoo could negate that treatment.

If you need to have your foster dog moved, even temporarily, please contact us in advance so we can find another foster home. We ask that you keep your foster dog until a new placement is found, if possible. Foster dogs can never be placed in the care of a neighbor, friend, pet sitter, roommate, or even a potential adopter without approval.

Foster dogs are not allowed to travel outside of Palm Beach County. Since all medical care is provided at our shelter, it is important that foster dogs stay close enough to receive care in case of an emergency. If you plan to travel, contact the Foster Department to arrange for the care of your foster dog while you are gone.

Cat Foster

Selecting Your Foster Cat

Cats in need of foster homes at our shelter are constantly being identified.

When corresponding with us during the placement and matching process, it is important to let us about any special considerations you might have:

- Do you have animals that have not been spayed or neutered?
- Are your animals current on all vaccinations?
- Do you have young children?
- Do you have a high-traffic home?
- Can you keep the foster cat separate from your resident animal(s)?
- Do you have any other fosters already in your home?

Our Foster Team will work with you to determine what foster would be a good match for your household.

Upon finding a match, we will contact you to discuss and give you more information on the cat that has been chosen. Some cats may require a Dr. Discharge (discussion regarding medical history with our veterinarians) or a consult with our behavior team to review any behavior concerns for the animal.

Picking Up Your Foster Cat

After our Foster Team has confirmed a match for you and you have reviewed all our training material, you are ready to pick up your foster. The only thing you need to bring to your scheduled appointment is your driver's license/ID or parent if you are under the age of 18 years old.

Rescue cats/kittens can be scared and disoriented by the changing environment and are often flight risks.

Always follow these extra precautions:

- Cats and kittens must always be transported in a travel carrier/crate and not removed from the travel carrier/crate until they are safely indoors.
- Cats/kittens must remain in your house. They cannot go out into the back yard, even if it is fenced in, or the patio.
- All household members must understand and follow these rules.

Cat Foster

Getting Home

If you have other animals, you will need to keep them separated with no contact between each other for at least 2 weeks.

Kittens should be housed in a small, confined area. We recommend a bathroom or any room where they will not have full access to the residence. Very young kittens can be confined to a playpen or carrier, initially. Confining kittens not only helps protect your belongings; it also keeps them safe and avoids any accidents outside of the litterbox.

Please do not feed your foster cat/kitten(s) “table food” or any brand of food besides Hill’s Science Diet provided by PAARL.

If you want to bathe your foster cat or kitten, you can use Dawn dish soap that we provide. Make sure to keep kittens warm after a bath. Towels fresh out the dryer or a blow dryer on low heat distanced from the kitten’s body may be used. Younger kittens require a warming disk constantly to regulate their body temperature. Do not, however, bathe your foster for 24 hours after treated with a topical flea medication as the shampoo could negate that treatment.

If you need to have your foster moved, even temporarily, please contact us in advance so we can find another foster home. We ask that you keep your foster animal until a new placement is found, if possible. Fosters can never be placed in the care of a neighbor, friend, pet sitter, roommate, or even a potential adopter without approval.

Foster cats and/or kittens are not allowed to travel outside of Palm Beach County. Since all medical care is provided at our shelter, it is important that foster(s) stay close enough to receive care, in case of an emergency. If you plan to travel, contact the Foster Department to arrange for the care of your foster while you are gone.

Fosters + Adoption

Consideration Before Adopting

Yes, we want all of our foster animals to find loving, forever homes. But before you do decide to adopt your foster pet, please ask yourself the following questions:

- Is this my first foster pet? If so, is it a puppy or kitten? Please keep in mind that puppies and kittens are highly adoptable once they return to the shelter. In the case of puppies and kittens, we strongly suggest fostering a few different litters over time before deciding to adopt.
- Did I take on a single animal or a litter? If you take home a single puppy or kitten, you are much more likely to get attached than if you try a small litter.
- Can I continue to provide foster care if I adopt this foster? Yes, but if we lose you as a foster home, we lose the ability to give many other animals a new chance at life. Please remember this in making your decision.
- Is there something that may prohibit this animal from being adoptable? Does it have behavioral or health issues that decrease adoptability? If so, then maybe your foster is indeed in need of your forever home.

Try viewing your foster period as a time when you are watching a pet for a friend or relative. For first timers, also try multiple foster animals before choosing to adopt. If you do decide to adopt, please be aware that you must go through PAARL's adoption procedures. This includes the completion of all paperwork, spaying/neutering, and paying any applicable fees.

Steps to Adopt:

These same steps apply if a friend or family member wants to adopt. Email their first/last name and phone number to a foster coordinator to place an adoption hold.

1. Email the foster coordinators to let them know you will be adopting your foster. At that point, an adoption hold will be placed on your animal.
2. Return your animal on your scheduled surgery return date. **Photos and memos must be submitted even if the animal is being adopted by a friend, family member, or yourself.*
3. The animal will be left at the shelter in order to get altered. This can take 1-4 days depending on how many animals need surgery.
4. The adoptions department will contact you or the adopter when your animal has been altered and ready for pick up. This normally happens the day after surgery.
5. Your new pet will need supplies to get them safely home. They can be purchased from our boutique, located at the Grace Pavillion, to further support the animals not yet adopted or they can be brought from home if you already have them.
 - a. A puppy or adult dog needs a collar and leash for them to travel in.
 - b. A kitten or adult cat needs a kennel/carrier for them to travel in.
6. The adoptions staff will review all the paperwork and finalize your adoption during your adoption appointment.

Photos + Memos

Foster parents are responsible for uploading memos (bios) and a photo for their individual foster pets. This is to be completed before the animal is returned into the care of Peggy Adams. Please complete this step the day you schedule surgery. This will allow us to make animals available for adoption on our website as soon as they are ready. Even if your foster is being adopted, you are required to submit a photo and memo. You have two methods of uploading photos/memos. See below.

Option 1: Via a Link

Go to <https://palitterbox.org/foster/> and type in the password (3132). Press enter. Follow the instructions. The photo and memo can be submitted simultaneously using this link. You will need the Animal ID found on the kennel card. Please make sure the photo is horizontal or in 'landscape mode'.

Option 2: Via Email

MEMOS

Instructions:

1. Write the memo in the body of an email. You can either use one of our templates or you can create your own. Please make it look professional as these bios show up on our website and are marketing your kittens!
2. The subject will be the animal ID. (I.E "A0000000"). Do not put the animal's name or anything else in the subject line besides the animal ID or it will not upload to our system.
3. Send the email to memos@peggyadams.org
4. Repeat for each foster. **Note:** Remove any signatures from the body of the email.

PHOTOS

You can send photos from iOS and Android devices.

- Photos are sent via email directly to our database. We will not see the emails to troubleshoot issues.
- Please submit a picture for each foster separately.

Instructions:

1. Take a clear horizontal (landscape mode) photo of each foster - face on. Horizontal photos work best as the vertical photos will be distorted in the system.
2. Create an email with the subject line being the foster Animal's ID number.
Ex: A0123456 (only the Animal ID, please)
3. Attach (do not embed) the photo(s) to the email.
4. Send the email to photos@peggyadams.org The photo(s) will automatically insert into the database.
5. Repeat for each foster.