

FOSTER CARE:



Changing lives ... Four paws at a time!

Frequently Asked Questions

How long do foster cases last?

It completely depends on the pet and the situation. The average stay in a foster home is about 2-4 months. However, depending on the reason for foster, it may range from as short as a week where others recovering from an injury or senior pets, may stay much longer.

How much time does fostering take on a daily basis?

Daily Hours (estimate)

Pets with a cold/kennel cough – 3 hours

Weaned kittens/puppies – 4 hours

Injured pets – 3-4 hours

Baby bottle kittens/puppies – 6-8 hours

Behavior cases – 3 hours

Mom with kittens/puppies – 3 hours

What supplies are needed to foster? How much will it cost?

Foster parents provide space, food and love for their foster pets. The shelter will provide you with all the other supplies, medications and equipment needed throughout your foster experience. If you prefer to purchase your own supplies such as food and litter, save your receipts for tax deduction.

Do I need to have prior medical knowledge or expertise?

No, but you may be asked to dispense medicine to your foster pet so you will have to be comfortable following the veterinarian's instructions if fostering a sick or injured pet. An AVHS veterinarian or staff member will teach you specific methods for administering medications.

What if my foster pet becomes sick?

The shelter provides all veterinary care and associated cost. If a foster pet becomes sick, foster parents must contact the AVHS veterinarian or staff member for further instruction and an appointment with AVHS Veterinary Services.

If I have my own animals, can I foster?

Yes, but keep in mind that it's always a health risk to expose your animal to other animals. The health risk is minimal if your animals are current on their vaccinations, maintain a healthy diet and lifestyle, and are not elderly or very young. If you or someone in your household is immune-compromised, consult your doctor before fostering since working or living with animals exposes humans to a group of zoonotic (can be passed from pet to human) diseases. Please note, foster cats must be kept indoors and separate from your personal pets.

What if I have children?

Fostering is a wonderful family experience and can build a foundation of volunteerism in your children. It's important to select a pet that is of the appropriate age and demeanor for your children. You must also be diligent about providing guidance, instructions and rules to your children about caring for a foster pet. Additional info regarding children and pets can be found at www.veterinarypartner.com and searching for "Bite Prevention Starts with Proactive Parenting".

Can I adopt my foster pet?

YES! As long as foster parents meet the shelter requirements necessary for adoption, foster parents have first choice to adopt their foster pet.

How are foster pets promoted?

Photos and stories of all adoptable pets in foster homes are posted on Petango.com, on the shelter website and at the shelter where the public can view them. Foster parents can also help promote their foster pet to their family, friends, colleagues and the general public through a variety of means including flyers, emails and social networking sites.

How can I help my foster pet become more adoptable?

There are two ways to make a foster pet more adoptable. First and foremost is marketing. If no one knows about your foster pet, or how wonderful s/he is, then it will be next to impossible to find a forever home. In addition to supplying great photos and a winning biography, giving a foster pet additional exposure by telling friends and family about them will help create a "network effect" and will speed up the process of finding a forever home.

Can I return my foster pet to the shelter if I am unable to foster any longer?

We prefer that foster parents continue to foster until we find a permanent home for their foster pet. It's extremely stressful for a pet to be returned to the shelter environment. However, we understand that situations change and it may become necessary to discontinue fostering a pet and not all foster matches work out. We request that a foster parent provide as much notice as possible so that we can find an alternative foster home to transfer the pet to. Of course, in an emergency a foster parent may always bring their foster pet back to the shelter.

What if I go on vacation or have a business trip?

If given enough notice, we can usually find volunteers that can foster-sit for short durations. We ask that foster parents always keep AVHS aware of any temporary foster sitting situations.

Are foster pets ever euthanized?

Much energy, love, time and vet care is devoted to our foster pets, and the shelter is committed to finding homes for ALL the adoptable pets within its care. Some pets are in foster care because they're seriously ill, injured or exhibit a behavior that doesn't do well in the shelter environment. Your safety is our #1 priority. You must always inform the shelter staff if your foster pet exhibits any aggressive behavior.