

FOSTERING 101

We would first like to take this opportunity to graciously thank you for considering fostering one of our animals in need. We have written this guide to hopefully answer any questions that you may have and to give you some guidance in the fostering program.

1. We ask that any animal that you own be current on their vaccinations and be spayed or neutered before we can safely place one of our animals in your home. This is very important as we do not want any accidental litters and at times you may be asked to foster one that is recuperating from surgery or ill and we want to insure that everyone stays healthy.
2. Please provide us with some information as to your animal experience and what your home situation is, for example; other pets, children, and work schedule so that we may assess what animal in need would be best suited for your family.
3. A foster's average stay is 3-4 weeks. There are some that are more difficult to place so their stay could be slightly longer. Our rescue coordinator works constantly to move these animals to safe places. When the shelter meets maximum capacity, the manager has no choice other than to euthanize to make room for the new animals that come in on a daily basis. By fostering, you not only save the life of the animal you are fostering, but you create a space to hold one more at the shelter.

WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. We ask that you provide a good quality food for your foster. We ask that you take them and care for them as your own. Please socialize, housetrain, and teach them manners to help prepare them for their new homes. Just wait to see how proud you will be when they begin to respond to all the love and kindness you show them.
2. You may be asked to take them to veterinary appointments. Those are usually set up by the shelter a few days in advance so that you may make arrangements to transport them there. If there is a scheduling conflict for you, we do have volunteers who may be able to assist. There is no cost to you for the appointment - it is billed to the HSOV.
3. We ask that you update the foster coordinator weekly by email, with photos if possible, and let her know how the foster is doing and what type of home you think the pet would do well in. For instance, whether the pet would like kids, other dogs/cats, if they are active or lazy, how do they sleep at night, how do they behave unattended, what is their bathroom break schedule, how do they handle crating, etc. All this information you provide is valuable to the shelter and rescues to locate potential adopters for hopefully their lifetime.

4. You may be asked to bring your foster to a “meet and greet” with a potential adopter. These meetings are scheduled so that it is convenient for everyone. You will have the opportunity to meet the potential adopter and share your experience with your foster and help determine if they are a good match.
5. Should you have any behavior or training issues, our coordinator and volunteers are more than happy to help you assess the behavior and offer advice/solutions. Please do not hesitate to ask for help as we want to ensure this foster program is enjoyable for you and your foster.
6. Yes, it is expected that you will fall in love with your new foster and this is okay as well! Just remember, your foster will soon find the forever family they have waited their whole lives for and another foster that needs the same temporary TLC is waiting for your home to open for them! You will find your heart has more love than you could ever imagine.
7. Your foster coordinator will work with you during your foster’s stay and will notify you when their lucky day arrives to be adopted or ride the transport van to their new home. That day you will be asked to delivery your foster to the shelter. Yes, of course it’s okay to shed tears, you will have the support of other fosters and volunteers to get you through. If you are ready your next foster will be waiting!

Should you have any further questions, we have an awesome team to help you every step of the way. Please feel free to contact any one of the names referenced below.

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