

# Foster a Shelter Pet!



## The Situation of Homeless Pets

More than 100 animals continue to enter our local shelters, every day. Some are surrendered or turned into shelters and others are rescued off of the streets. Many homeless animals need special treatment, time, and tender loving care to become adoptable animals. That's where fostering comes in – That's when you come in!

## The role of the foster volunteer

As a foster volunteer, you become a member of a dynamic volunteer force, a team of well-trained animal welfare advocates who are making a compassionate difference in our community. Foster-care volunteers bridge the gap between sick, injured, abused, scared or underage animals and the time they need to get healthy and ready for adoption. Foster volunteers expand the walls of animal welfare organizations by caring for the animals in their homes, providing the necessary time for the animals to heal, become stronger and feel safe, until they are ready to be adopted into permanent homes.

## How to get started

If you know that fostering will be your primary focus, you may need to attend a Foster Orientation, during which you will receive an overview of the organization, their particular foster program and information regarding their pets in need of foster care. This orientation will also allow for you to speak with the foster team, have all your questions answered, as well as provide you the opportunity to discuss your limits (if any) as a foster, ensuring the proper fit into your home.

[www.fixadoptsave.org/foster](http://www.fixadoptsave.org/foster) to get started.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**“I work all day. Don't foster animals need someone to be with them all of the time?”** As a rule, no. Most foster volunteers work full-time jobs and are able to leave their foster animals at home during the day, just as they do with their own pets.

**“How long will my foster animal be with me in my home?”** The length of time differs according to the needs of each animal placed in foster care. It typically ranges from a few days to a month or more. When you sign-up, you will have the opportunity to discuss your foster limits, preference of dog/cat and time you can provide as a foster. All these discussions will enable a proper, foster fit, for your home and time.

**“Where do I keep my foster animals?”** A room with at least one window is best, and soft bedding is a necessity, along with the requisite food and water, litter boxes, and toys. Foster animals must be kept separate from your own pets during the first two weeks of fostering. This will keep your own pets healthy and safe, by protecting them from possible contagious diseases. As an extra precaution, please ensure that your pets are current on their vaccinations.

**“Can my foster animal play with my pets?”** As mentioned above, foster animals must be kept separate from your own animals during the first two weeks of fostering. If your foster assignment requires more than two weeks of time, you may introduce your foster animal to your own pets, unless there are other conditions that would make this practice unsafe. Experienced staff is available to coach foster volunteers on the unique circumstances that arise.

**“Does each organization provide foster volunteers with necessary materials?”** Yes, each organization will provide you with all medicine and medical supplies that your foster will need. A list of emergency telephone numbers is also provided to you. Moreover, we receive donations of food, blankets, toys, and more throughout the year and are happy to provide these basic needs to foster volunteers upon request and availability, to help support the foster animal in your care.

**“What do I do if my foster animal becomes sick, or, if already being treated for sickness or injury, seems to worsen in my care?”** The organization's medical staff is responsible for the medical care of your foster animal; therefore, you must call the staff right away if a problem arises. Also, many foster animals will have regular medical appointments at the organization's clinic for continued medical treatment during their stay with you; as a foster, you are responsible for keeping those appointments.

**“What happens after my foster animal is returned to the shelter?”** Most foster animals are ready to be spayed or neutered and put up for adoption when they return from their foster parent's home. As long as the animal is medically and behaviorally sound, he or she will be put up for adoption.

**Have more questions?** Please, contact your local shelter or rescue group about foster care opportunities - [www.fixadoptsave.org/foster](http://www.fixadoptsave.org/foster)