



Disclaimer

Thank you very much for your interest in fostering.

FOSTER CARE AGREEMENT

I, agree to act as temporary Foster Home for Serendipittys Sanctuary of Hope (herein known as SSOH). I agree to abide by the following conditions whenever fostering any animals for SSOH. All animals entering foster care must have gone through SSOH protocols prior to leaving SSOH.

1. Any animal(s) fostered by me will be kept in a SSOH-approved foster home. I understand that any animal(s) I foster is/are the property of SSOH, and I agree to turn it/them over to SSOH immediately upon request. I agree to bring any animal(s) fostered by me to the rescue sanctuary veterinarian for exams, vaccinations, weight checks, or other reason deemed necessary by SSOH at a mutually agreed upon date and/or time.

2. I understand that I am responsible for adhering to all SSOH standards of care and applicable local and state laws dealing with animal welfare. I agree to allow inspections by the Illinois Department of Agriculture as needed.

3. I agree to a premises check upon the request of SSOH which can include a visual inspection of the living quarters of all SSOH foster animals in that environment and testing for transmissible disease.

4. Any animal(s) fostered by me will be fed, watered, and exercised appropriately. I agree to provide an adequate and nutritious diet,

including any necessary supplements, as recommended by SSOH. I also agree to abide by any instructions given by SSOH regarding the feeding of specific brands or types of supplemental food and/or nutritional supplements to my foster animals. Although SSOH will make every attempt to furnish food and/or litter for those foster care volunteers who are unable to afford these supplies on their own, I understand that the availability of these supplies is based on donations from the public and limited to stock on hand and that I will be responsible for providing necessary supplies in the event that they are not available through SSOH. SSOH cannot and does not guarantee to be able to provide free food, litter or supplies for our foster animals.

5. I will not allow any foster dogs or puppies to have any unsupervised off-leash time. I will provide a kennel, crate and/or securely fenced yard for their safety. I will not allow foster cats or kittens to go outside at any time except to transport them to and from the rescue sanctuary or to a veterinarian, if needed. I agree to transport any foster cats, kittens, puppies, and small dogs in a sturdy carrier. I agree to transport any foster animal(s) in an enclosed vehicle only, and I will not allow them to ride in the bed of a pickup or a convertible.

6. I agree that animals will not be kept outside unless otherwise discussed and approved by SSOH.

7. I understand that SSOH will take every precaution to ensure that any animal(s) I foster are reasonably healthy and that any known health problems will be disclosed to me prior to my taking the animal into my home, but SSOH cannot be held responsible for any unforeseen health problem that may develop after the animal(s) is/are in my care. I understand that SSOH may require me to return my foster animal(s) to the rescue sanctuary to assess or treat any health problem, at its discretion.

8. I understand that I am not authorized to seek outside veterinary care for SSOH foster animals without approval from SSOH and may be dismissed from the foster program for doing so. If I choose to treat the animal(s) at a veterinarian of my choice, I understand that I will assume full responsibility for payment of the vet bill, and that SSOH will be unable to reimburse me for any such payment.

9. I agree to provide adequate, positive socialization for any animal(s) fostered by me to help ensure their temperament will be as sound as possible. I also agree, when requested, to give a progress report to SSOH. I agree to bring my foster animal(s) into the rescue sanctuary veterinarian for any required vaccinations, de-worming, or other medication prescribed and provided by SSOH at no cost to me. When the foster period is over, I will call SSOH to return the animal(s) and will do so at the agreed upon time.

10. I agree to keep my foster animal(s) separate from my own pets, and that the possibility of foster animals fighting, injuring, or spreading illness to my own pets does exist. I agree that I will keep my own pet up to date on vaccines, preventatives and de-wormers according to my own veterinarian, while I am fostering any animal(s) for SSOH. I understand that if I choose to allow my foster animal(s) and my own pet(s) to have access to each other, I do so at my own risk, and will not hold SSOH liable for any illness or injury that may occur to my own pet(s).

11. I agree to keep SSOH animals safe from harm/illness as a result of contact with resident pets.

12. I understand the potential for contagious illness is high in animals. Therefore, I agree not to mix any of my foster animals or animals from more than one litter unless approved by SSOH. I also agree not to foster animals from any other organization while I am fostering for SSOH, unless granted specific approval by SSOH.

13. I understand that SSOH has the right to limit the number of animals in my care at any given time.

14. I assume responsibility for any events that occur in connection with my fostering of an animal for SSOH. I understand the possibility of my children or others being bitten, scratched, or contracting disease does exist. I agree to be responsible for my children and anyone else handling any animal(s) fostered by me in a safe and hygienic manner and will not hold SSOH responsible for any injuries that may result from my failure to do so.

I AGREE TO NOTIFY A SSOH REPRESENTATIVE IMMEDIATELY OF ANY BITES THAT BREAK THE SKIN that occur to any person or animal while any foster animal is in my care.

15. Any animal fostered by me is to be adopted to a permanent home only under the supervision of SSOH, to an adopter approved by SSOH, even if the adopter is me or a member of my household. All foster animals **MUST** be returned to SSOH for sterilization and completion of adoption paperwork prior to permanent adoption. I understand that if I find a suitable home for any animal that I am fostering, all of the above conditions must apply, and that the adopter must pay the adoption fee.

16. I understand that Serendipittys Sanctuary of Hope cannot and does not make any representations or warranties, either expressed or implied concerning the temperament, habits, health, pedigree, disposition, age, sex, or background of this animal and that I have no right to a reimbursement of medical, adoption or other professional fees. Furthermore, I understand that the animal's future reactions to me, my family or any other person are completely unpredictable because animals, like people, have their own personalities.

17. In consideration of receiving any SSOH foster animal, I, as a foster caregiver, hereby release Serendipittys Sanctuary of Hope, from all claims of injury or damage that a fostered dog/cat/other may cause me or my property. I agree to hold harmless, defend and indemnify Serendipittys Sanctuary of Hope from any and all claims of liability to other persons for injuries or damage arising out of or in connection with services of this program or caused to them or their property by the animal(s) I am fostering through Serendipittys Sanctuary of Hope.

18. If for any reason, I do not comply with all provisions of this agreement, I agree to return the fostered animal to Serendipittys Sanctuary of Hope upon demand of the enforcement agent. If I refuse to return the fostered animal to Serendipittys Sanctuary of Hope upon demand of the enforcement agent, I understand that SSOH reserves the right to impound them as legal owner of the animal.

19. I acknowledge that a board member/volunteer has reviewed documented information about this animal with me and that I have received said documentation in writing. I am fostering with awareness of any documented medical or behavioral history.

VOLUNTEER CULTURE EXPECTATIONS

Create and Maintain a Safe Workplace:

- Take responsibility for keeping yourself, coworkers, volunteers, visitors, and animals safe.
- Be part of creating and maintaining a culture of safety, even when you're in a hurry.
- Know your own limitations and seek help when needed.
- Bring safety concerns to the attention of SSOH.

Strive for Excellence

- Make customer service a priority and strive to constantly improve the customer experience, both internally and externally.
- Be willing to continue to learn and improve oneself professionally through training, reading and other learning opportunities.
- Educate yourself on national and regional best practices in animal welfare.
- Be thorough, careful, and precise in all work.
- Think and act constructively and look for solutions to make things better for animals and people.

Support a Collaborative Rescue Sanctuary/Animal Shelter:

- Practice "we" thinking. We achieve goals together or not at all.
- Understand that whether as an individual or work groups, we all share the same goals and play different, valuable roles in achieving them.
- Support, mentor, and uplift coworkers.
- When faced with conflict with individuals or between teams, focus on the situation or problem rather than the individual(s). Maintain constructive relationships with coworkers and between teams.
- Lead by example.
- Set each other up for success by sharing information, helping each other, and keeping workspaces organized and stocked with supplies.

Demonstrate a Commitment to Healthy Communication:

- Communicate with volunteers, other professionals, and the public in a professional, positive, and helpful manner.
- Respond to emails, phone calls and in-person requests in a timely manner.
- Deliver and receive complaints, suggestions, and other communications in a respectful and openminded manner.
- Share information that affects others with them in a timely manner.
- Take a stand to stop gossip, grudges, cliques, conflicts, and negativity and be part of solutions.
- Take time to listen and understand before responding.

Be Respectful:

- Respect different opinions and workstyles.
- Respect decisions made and directives given.
- Show compassion for and have patience with your rescue sanctuary family.
- Respect all volunteers equally, regardless of job title, seniority, position, or opinion.
- Expect differences, know differences are not wrong and how to handle conflict with individuals or teams constructively.
- Look for the contribution each person makes in helping animals and people in need.

Promote Trust:

- Take responsibility for yourself and be accountable for your own actions.
- Commit to working for a safe, humane future for animals and people.
- Build trust in all your interactions, regardless of who they are with.
- If you have questions or concerns, communicate upward, rather than complaining to or gossiping with others.
- Provide accurate, thorough, objective documentation.
- Follow instructions carefully, meet deadlines when assigned.
- Ask for help and training when you don't understand something.

Acknowledge the Emotional Aspect of Our Work:

- Remember to have a sense of humor, but never at the expense of others or professionalism.
- Identify healthy ways to reduce and relieve stress.
- Take care of yourself, paying attention to your work/life balance.
- Find appropriate ways to express strong emotions as they arise.
- Respect others' response to emotions - they may be different than yours.
- Treat your colleagues as members of your Animal Services and police department family.
- Have fun!

Show Appreciation:

- Remember why you have chosen to work in animal welfare.
- Practice appreciation at all levels and every day.
- Acknowledge people when they do good things. Shout-outs should be a daily occurrence!
- Thank others when they make your day better and brighter.

Be Safe and Compassionate When Handling Animals:

- Treat all animals in your care with patience, kindness, and compassion.
- Become adept at reading animal behavior to make sound, safe handling decisions.
- Pursue and take advantage of training opportunities offered at the rescue sanctuary to help you become a better animal handler.
- Recognize each animal is an individual and should be treated as such. Avoid stereotypes and generalizations about breed, type, etc.
- Model safe, humane handling to other volunteers and the public. You are the expert.

"I acknowledge I have received, read and understand the Foster Care and Volunteer Culture Agreement, and I agree to follow it."

FOSTER

SERENDIPITTYS
SANCTUARY OF HOPE

Foster Signature

Rescue Sanctuary Signature

Printed Name

Jen Wilson

Printed Name

DL #

Founder/President

Title

Address

(309) 509-1783

Contact #

City | State | Zip

<https://serendipittys.org>

Home Phone #

Work #

Cell #

Email

Emergency Contact/Friend or Relative that does **NOT** live with you:

Name

Contact #