

# **ANIMAL FOSTERING**

#### **About Fostering**

We welcome you to join CCSPCA's Foster Family Team! As you know, we rely on our foster families to care for our animals while being matched with their permanent families. Being a foster family is one of the most rewarding volunteer opportunities. You not only get the joy of seeing your foster dog or cat begin to shine, but also watch them become a part of their very own permanent and loving home.

## **Becoming a Foster Family**

Before you become a foster family for CCSPCA, you will receive a visit from one of our Home Visit Team members. The purpose of the visit is to not only assure a secure, loving environment for the dogor cat, but to also talk with you and your family about what type of animals you are willing to foster (i.e. age, sex, activity level, short-term foster, long-term foster, dog or cat, etc.). This will assure that you are matched with animals that fit well with your family.

## **When You Get Your Foster Dog**

When you get your foster dog or cat, it will be current on all of its vaccinations, spayed/neutered and any health issues (if any) will have been addressed. Most likely, your foster animal will have been in short-term foster for at least a week, so we have a general idea of temperament and if he/she is housebroken or litterbox trained.

When your new foster brought to you, you will also receive a supply of food and a small supply of flea preventative. If you run out of food or flea preventative, please contact the Foster Coordinator. They will see that you receive additional supplies.

If at any time the dog or cat is not working well in your home, please contact the Foster Coordinator. They will make arrangements to pick up the animal immediately. CCSPCA's goal is to assure the foster situation is a good experience for the animal and the foster family.

### What Are Your Responsibilities as a Foster Family?

Your main role as a foster family is to love him or her. Many of the dogs and cats are confused and not sure of their situation. The thing they need most of all is a lot of love and patience. In addition to love, we ask that our foster families acclimate their foster to living in a home. You may need to teach basic obedience such as sit, down, stay, come and house manners to dogs. If your foster dog has not been housebroken, we ask that you accomplish that as well. In addition, it is important to keep your foster clean and brushed. After all, you never know when you will get a call from the future family of your foster!

You are not responsible for veterinary care for your foster. If you believe your foster requires veterinary care, we ask that you get prior authorization from the Foster Coordinator. CCSPCA contracts with specific veterinarians that give us a discounted rate. The veterinarians are instructed to receive authorization from CCSPCA before treating one of our animals. Of course, if it is after-hours or an emergency situation, bring your foster dog to the nearest emergency clinic for treatment. Contact the Foster Coordinator or CCSPCA as soon as possible to apprise us of the situation.

#### **Adoptive Family**

When we believe we may have an adoptive family for your foster, you will receive a phone call from the volunteer handling the adoption. The volunteer will let you know the name of the approved adoptive family that will be making arrangements to meet your foster. If you feel the family is a good match, the animal may go home with its new family at the time of the visit. Remember, you have put the most love and time into your foster. If you have any hesitations, refer the family back to CCSPCA.

Please consider becoming a member of our Foster Family team! Without our foster families, we could not rescue and care for the many animals that come to us.