



FOSTER PROGRAM

FAQs

Q: What types of animals need to be fostered?

Foster programs aren't just for kittens and puppies. Nearly any animal we have can benefit from foster care:

- Healthy adult animals looking for a new forever family
- Animals that would benefit from home to home adoption
- Orphaned kittens and puppies needing to be bottle fed
- Mother cat or dog with nursing kittens or puppies
- Under-aged, self-feeding kittens and puppies (4-8 weeks old)
- Animals recovering from injury or illness (may need medication)
- Shy or fearful animals that need socialization

Q: What are the duties of a Safe Haven Humane Society foster family?

- Feed, socialize, love, groom, introduce basic training, and care for the animals as if they were your own
- Bring your foster animal(s) to scheduled vet appointments and open houses to be viewed by potential adopters
- Observe and report any problems with the animal to the Foster Care Coordinator
- Comply with Safe Haven's foster guidelines and act as an ambassador of the Foster Care Program

Q: What are the financial responsibilities associated with fostering?

None! Safe Haven Humane Society provides all of the food, supplies (cat litter, toys, crates, etc.), vet care, and medications for pets in foster care. If problems arise or specific training needs are identified, Safe Haven will provide resources to address the issues, including professional training consultations and/or classes or other therapy.

Q: How long will the animal(s) be in my home?

It depends on the situation. The average stay in a foster home can range from a few weeks to a few months.

Q: How will I receive my foster assignment?

When you fill out your foster volunteer application, you are providing us great information about what type of pet will fit best with your lifestyle, home, and family. With our program, you get to choose the species, gender, age, activity level, and personality of the pet(s) you foster. Using the information you provide, the Foster Program Coordinator will contact you when animals are in need of foster care and seem like a good match for you. The coordinator will give you information about the pet, and you get the final say whether you want to foster.

Q: What are the benefits of fostering?

The benefits of fostering are numerous!

- Since Safe Haven Humane Society takes in at-risk pets from our local community and also works with other crowded Wisconsin shelters who are euthanizing due to space, you quite literally could be saving a life!
- Fostering is a great way to experience the joys of a companion animal in the home for those who are not ready for the long-term commitment of adoption
- You choose the type of animal you are comfortable with inviting into your home
- Foster Volunteers receive unconditional love and companionship from foster animals.
- Fostering can be a welcome relief from loneliness for seniors.

Q: I have my own animals, can I foster?

Yes, but we ask that you always consider your animals in deciding whether and what types of pets to foster. Does your dog get along with all other dogs, or do you need to choose a certain type of foster dog to keep the peace? Does your female cat despise other females? Do you have small critters that may be vulnerable to prey-driven dogs? These are all important considerations when introducing a foster pet to your own pets.

Q: What if I have children?

We will be careful to only match you with a pet that does well with children. Fostering is a wonderful family experience and can build a foundation of philanthropy in your children. It's important to select an animal that is age-appropriate with your children. You must also be diligent about providing guidance, instructions and rules to your children about caring for your foster animal.

Q: What if my foster animal becomes sick?

If a foster animal becomes sick, foster parents should contact the Foster Care Coordinator to schedule a visit with the veterinarian. All approved veterinary costs — even emergency ones — are paid by Safe Haven!

Q: Can I return my foster pet if it's not working out?

We prefer that foster parents continue to foster until we find a permanent home for their foster animal. It's extremely stressful for an animal to be bounced. However, we understand that situations change and it may become necessary to discontinue fostering. We request that a foster parent provide as much notice as possible so that we can find an alternative foster home to transfer the animal.

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

A: If given enough notice, we can usually find volunteers that can foster sit for short durations. We ask that foster parents always keep the Foster Program Coordinator aware of any temporary foster sitting situations.

Q: How are foster animals marketed so that they get adopted?

The photos and stories you provide are posted on our Facebook, website, and Petfinder pages. We also schedule meet and greets at multiple local businesses and community events.

Q: Can I adopt my foster animal?

YES! As long as foster parents meet the shelter requirements necessary for adoption, foster parents have first choice to adopt their foster pet. Paperwork is required and our regular adoption fees usually apply.