



# Foster Orientation

# Thank you!



- *We want to thank you for your interest in our foster program!*
- *Fostering greatly increases our animals adoptability by providing:*
  - *stimulation for our animals*
  - *accustoms them to a home-like environment*
  - *starts them on their way to being well-mannered house pets*

# Where do the animals come from?

- **Stray animals** – animals brought into the shelter that do not appear to be owned (running loose, found abandoned)
- **Owner Surrender** – when an owner can no longer care for their animal
- **Returned adoption** – HSW makes a lifetime commitment to every animal we rescue. If, for any reason, an adopter can no longer keep a pet, it comes back to HSW
- **Puppies and Kittens** – while animals are awaiting to come of age to be spayed/neutered



# What do foster families need to provide?

- A **healthy and safe environment** for their foster animals
- **Transportation** to and from the shelter and all vet appointments as needed
- **Socialization** and cuddle time to help teach animals positive family and pet relationships
- Lots of **exercise and positive stimulation** to help them develop into great pets

# How much time do I need to spend?

- **As much time as you can.** With that said, the amount of time will vary depending on the energy level and needs of the pet you are fostering. It is ideal to spend around two hours a day exercising and playing with your foster pet to ensure that he or she receives adequate socialization and stimulation.



# Can I foster if I have a full time job?

- **YES you can!** The foster application is designed as a survey to help us match you with the best foster pet for your needs and your current schedule. If you have a full-time job, the foster coordinator will match you with a pet who may be OK alone during the workday. You would then just need to provide ample exercise before or after you go to work.

# Can I foster a dog if I don't have a fenced yard?

- **Yes!** Even if you do have a fenced yard, we request that you supervise all outdoor activities with the foster pet. And we ask that you always keep him or her on a leash when you're on walks.





# How long will the pet need to be in foster care?

- Ideally, foster pets stay in their assigned foster homes until they get adopted or until the foster parent and HSW agree the animal is ready to return to the shelter!





# Will I need to give medicine to my foster dog?

- **It depends on the animal.** Some foster pets do not require any medicine, others may. If your foster pet needs medications, we can show you how to administer them before you take the pet home. If you are not comfortable with administering the medication, you do not have to foster the pet.



# Can I let my foster pet play with my personal pets?

- **There are a few guidelines** that we ask foster families to adhere to regarding their personal pets. While foster pets playing with other pets is often fine, we advise that you consult with your veterinarian before fostering to ensure that all of your personal pets are healthy and up-to-date on all vaccines. Pets in shelters are very susceptible to illness and can carry or catch different diseases. If, for any reason, your personal pet becomes ill while you are fostering a HSW pet, we do not provide medical care for your personal pet.

# What if I want to adopt my foster pet?

- **AWESOME!** If you want to adopt a foster pet, you will need to complete an adoption application and follow the full adoption process. If you do decide to adopt your foster pet, please contact the HSW staff member right away because once the dog is up for adoption, we cannot hold him/her for anyone, including the foster parent.



# What if I need to go out of town?

- **No problem!** Contact HSW ASAP so accommodations can be made at the shelter for your foster pet.
- You cannot leave your foster pet with an unauthorized person or pet sitter. We have specific training for foster parents, and pet sitters have not undergone that training or signed the release waivers for the foster program.

# What if my foster animal bites me?

- If your foster pet bites you and breaks skin, causing you to bleed, you need to report the bite to HSW within 24 hours of when the bite occurred. The teeth of the animal, not the nails, must have broken the skin. If you are unsure, then please report the bite anyway.



# What if my foster pet is not working out?

- You are not required to continue to foster a dog if you feel it's not working out. We will take the foster pet back at the shelter. Please call HSW during business hours as soon as possible if this situation arises!





# Preparing for your foster pet...

- When you take your foster pet home, they may be frightened or unsure about what's happening, so it's important not to overwhelm them.
- Prepare a special area for the foster pet to help ease their adjustment into a new home environment.
- Sometimes it is better to confine the foster pet to a small room or area at first, to let them adjust before giving them free rein in your home.
  - This area should be large enough to allow the pet access to their food and water, dishes and toys.



# Preparing to foster cont'd...

- We request that all foster pets be housed indoors only. A garage, backyard or outdoor run is not a suitable accommodation for a foster pet.
- During the first couple of weeks, minimize the people and pet introductions to your foster pet, so that they only meet immediate family and your personal pets.
- If you have other pets at home, it is especially important to give your foster pet a space of her own where they can stay while getting used to all the new sounds and smells.
- Don't leave your foster pet unattended in your home with your personal pets until you are comfortable that all of the animals can interact safely.

# Supplies you'll need:



- 2 bowls (food/water)
- Dry cat/dog food unless they require a special diet.
- A collar with an ID tag and a leash: HSW will provide.
- A soft place to sleep: Old towels or blankets work
- A baby gate (optional)

# Supplies cont'd...

- A crate: The crate should be large enough for the pet to stand up and turn around in, but not much bigger than that.
- Treats
- Grooming supplies



# Pet-proofing your home...

- Never underestimate your foster pet's abilities. Here are some additional tips for pet-proofing your home!
  - Make sure that all trash cans are covered or latched and keep them inside a closet. (Don't forget the bathroom trash bins.)
  - Keep the toilet lids closed.
  - Keep both people and pet food out of reach and off all counter tops.
  - Move house plants and breakables or secure them. Some pets like to play with them and may knock them over.

# Proofing cont'd...

- Make sure aquariums or cages containing small animals, like hamsters or fish, are securely out of reach of your foster pet.
- Remove medications, lotions or cosmetics from any accessible surfaces.
- Move and secure all electrical and phone wires out of reach. Pets may chew on or get tangled in them.
- Pick up any clothing items that have buttons or strings, which can be harmful to your foster pet if consumed.
- Relocate knickknacks or valuables that your foster pet could knock down.

# Choosing a foster pet

- We will always do our best to match you with a foster pet who fits with your lifestyle and schedule.





# Adoption

- If someone is interested in meeting your foster pet for adoption, we will coordinate a meeting with you and the potential adopter at HSW
- All foster pets are posted on the board in the HSW lobby.





# Personal Pet Introductions

- If you have personal dogs at home, we would require a meet and greet here at HSW before you take your foster pet home.



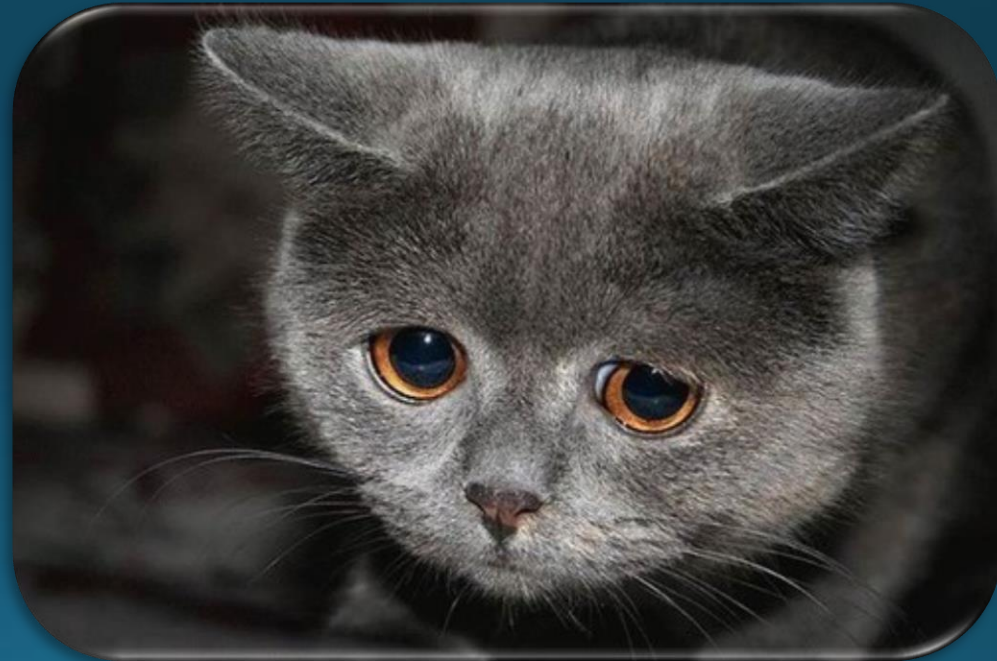
# Individual Care

- We will cover all of your foster pet's needs before you take them home.
- We will review the Fostering Guide before you take your foster pet home.



# Will it be hard to say goodbye?

- **Yes.** Saying goodbye or as we think of it “**see you later!**” can be the most difficult part of fostering, but keep in mind that many more pets at HSW need wonderful foster homes like yours. Remember, you are playing a crucial role in helping to Save Them All – one by one!



# Medical Emergency/Veterinary Care



- All Veterinary care will be handled through HSW
- We will direct you to the Veterinarian in which to transport the pet should an emergency arise and HSW will cover the cost.
- Some care is handled at the shelter, some care is at the veterinary clinic. HSW will cover all costs.



# Questions?



Humane Society

*of Wickenburg*



- We are here to help if you have any questions or problems! Please contact the shelter immediately at **928-684-8801**