

Thank you so much for your interest in fostering pets.. By opening up your home to foster pets, you're not only helping to save lives, you're providing the individual attention and love these cats desperately need.

Once you have completed your foster application online, our foster coordinator will get in touch with you to discuss next steps and cats we have waiting for a foster home. During that call, we can answer any questions you have about the program. Our cat foster program is designed to help adult cats and kittens from rural NC shelters, born to stray and feral cats/kittens and other cats in need get a second chance at finding a home — a chance they would not have received without a foster space. Many of the cats who need foster homes require extra care and attention, which shelters often don't have the staff or resources to provide. But in a loving foster home, every cat can get the individual attention he or she needs to find a forever family. Foster homes are asked to provide care for the cats, as well as transportation to and from veterinary appointments as needed.

Care for foster cats includes feeding according to size and needs, and lots of play time and positive socialization. Although fostering is a lot of work, it is a very rewarding experience. By participating in this program, you are saving lives and helping many different types of cats find the families they've been longing for.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where do the foster cats come from?

There are two different situations that may result in a cat needing to go into a foster home. A cat/kitten is found in the community and needs a foster home. A cat/kitten ends up at a NC county shelter and needs placement with rescue. The state of North Carolina has the 3rd worst pet overpopulation issue in the US. We are slightly behind California and Texas in the number of animals we euthanize per year in our county shelters. Many NC county shelters are consistency over capacity leading to lack of room for new pets being dropped at the shelter. The small shelters we work with may fit 20-30 animals but they often receive 40-50 animals per day, when there is no room left, the shelter has no choice but to euthanize. Fostering saves the lives of pets who unfortunately ended up in a dire situation.

What does the rescue provide?

Supplies available from our supply of donations, may include – litter box and pet carrier, if needed. Medical treatments including spay/neuter, wellness checks, vaccines, deworming

medication, flea treatments. Foster Coordinator and a Foster mentor to assist you with questions/concerns .Dry and wet food (when we have donated food available).

What do foster families need to provide?

A healthy, clean, and safe environment for their foster cats Transportation to and from all vet appointments as needed. **The designated vet is located** (in North Raleigh off Durant Road). Socialization and cuddle time to help teach the cats about positive family and pet relationships. Lots of exercise and positive stimulation to help them develop into great cats. Dry and wet food (unless we have donated food available).

How much time do I need to spend with a foster cat?

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

Can I foster cats even if I have a full-time job?

Yes. The foster application is designed as a survey to help the foster coordinator match you with the best animal for your needs and your current schedule. If you have a full-time job, the foster coordinator will match you with a cat who may be OK alone during the workday. You would then just need to provide ample attention to the cat before and/or after your workday.

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

Yes. We require that all foster cats be kept indoors for the duration of their stay in foster homes, so a fenced yard is irrelevant.

How long will the cat need to be in foster care?

It varies, depending on the condition and age of the foster cat. Foster homes stays can be as short as 3 weeks but as long as 2 months. It depends on the type of cat you would like to foster. A pregnant cat will stay much longer in foster care than an adult. Adults (5 months and older) can be quickly prepared for transport and generally stay 3 weeks. There are times when the commitment is longer, for example, if the cat gets sick or a medical issues is discovered or if you are willing to work with a shy cat or kittens. However, we will work with you to balance the needs of the cat with your time constraints.

How often does my foster cat need to go to the vet?

If your foster cat is not sick, he/she usually will go to the vet one or two times. Once for a spay/neuter appointment and once for a check-up. All vet care is set up through your Foster Coordinator. We let you know when appointments are coming up and ask you reach out to her with any medical concerns so that she can coordinate vet visits that are outside of set clinic times.

Will I need to give medicine to my foster cat?

Almost all of the cats that we have in our foster program are rescued from shelters and have been exposed to shelter illnesses. While we do our best to ensure that we are aware of all the conditions that a foster cat may have prior to going home, many illnesses have incubation periods, meaning symptoms can arise after you take a cat home. So while some cats do not require any medicine, others may. If your foster cat needs medications, we can show you how to administer them before you take the animal home.

Can I let my foster cat play with my personal pets?

There are a few guidelines that we ask foster families to adhere to regarding their personal pets. While foster cats 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. Cats 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 we cannot provide medical care for your personal pet. Important note: If your personal cat is allowed outdoors, he or she cannot interact with your foster cat. Foster cats are typically more at risk of illness and we want to limit that risk by not exposing them to anything from the outdoors.

Your foster mentor can help provide tips on how to introduce your foster cat to your resident pets.