

FRIENDS OF EDEN ANIMAL RESCUE

FOSTER GUIDE





Hello there!

First and foremost, THANK YOU. You are about to embark on a life-saving adventure that you will never forget and become a hero to your foster animal. Our foster program exists to give your animals a chance to grow and to give injured, sick or under-socialized animals an opportunity to heal.

In this guide, you will find helpful information and tips to ensure success for the duration of your foster animal's stay.

Types of Animals Needing Foster Homes

- Puppies and kittens too young to be adopted
- Abused dogs and cats that need socialization and love
- Injured dogs or cats recovering from surgery
- Sick dogs or cats
- Abandoned mother with a litter of puppies or kittens
- Any animal when the shelter becomes overcrowded

If the requirements included in the following sections **do not** work well with your current schedule or family members, please let us know. We can help you find a foster situation that will work best for you.

Friends of Eden Animal Rescue

Introduction to Fostering (Walk This Way)



If your heart leaps every time your neighbor gushes about her rescue dog, consider fostering an animal (or several, if you fall in love with the process). Fostering dogs and cats is a great way to test out your pet parent skills, do your local shelter a solid and save lives. It can also be **stressful, time-consuming, and frustrating**. Not sure if you're ready for this commitment or have no idea what to expect? Here's what it really means to foster an animal.

Why exactly do rescues & shelters need foster volunteers?

According to the Human Society of the United States, 2.7 million animals are euthanized every year because shelters fill up and families choose breeders or puppy mills over adoption. Fostering animals helps prevent euthanization because it frees up space in crowded shelters for new animals and prepares dogs and cats for adoption.

Shelters typically spay, neuter, and vaccinate animals, though sometimes, new arrivals are too young or small for surgery. Foster parents often house teeny, tiny baby kittens (yes, please) until they are a few months old and big enough to be spayed or neutered.

In some cases, rescue animals need surgery or treatment for illnesses and require recuperation time before they can hop back into shelter life. Shelters rely on foster homes for these recovering animals, so no additional harm comes to them in the chaotic environment of the shelter.

Finally, some dogs and cats have literally never lived with humans before and need to learn how to adjust to adopted life. Foster families help socialize these animals to make them more adoptable (and to ensure greater success once they are adopted later on).

So what's the first step in fostering?

If you are reading this Guide, you have already taken the first step. You have applied to Foster for Friends of Eden Animal Rescue. You are of the appropriate age, have permission from your landlord to have pets in your home, or you are a homeowner and do not need permission from a property owner. You have undergone a veterinary background check, and a home visit or other interview, as you would if you were actually adopting an animal.



And...what kind of time commitment are we talking?

Foster care can last anywhere from a few days to a few months, depending on the shelter's and the animal's needs. Some places ask you to sign a contract, though being flexible is highly recommended, especially if you're fostering an animal recovering from an illness. Vets can predict how long rehabilitation might take, but anyone who's ever had a dog in a cone knows sometimes the healing process takes longer than you (and the dog) would like.

On a daily basis, foster pets require tons of affection, attention and socialization. Remember, many animals stay in foster homes to learn how to interact with humans (and other animals, which we'll get to in greater detail below). Taking foster dogs on walks, teaching them to sit and coaxing them out from underneath the bed could all fall within your responsibilities as a foster parent.

Some organizations ask that you keep veterinary staff up to speed on the animal's behavior and progress. There are often adoption events you are required to attend to help expedite the process of finding a pet's forever home. Your relationship with your foster pet has a huge impact on the animal's future, so devoting plenty of time, energy and love is necessary.

Being upfront about how many weeks, months and hours you can dedicate to an animal is crucial! There's no shame in offering up just a few days. The shelter will match you up with an animal that works best for you.

OK, so what kind of supplies would I need?

Often, shelters and rescues provide you with the medical care, supplies and training you need to successfully foster an animal. This can include crates, leashes, toys, food, litter boxes, and more. Some rescue groups, however, don't have the resources or funding and rely on foster volunteers to provide their own supplies.

This means making sure your foster pet has food, water, toys, leashes, a comfy bed and a safe space to call its own. If you do end up purchasing new items for your foster pet, save your receipts. If the shelter is a nonprofit, your expenses may be tax deductible (cha-ching!).

Many organizations also require foster parents to have reliable transportation in case they need to take a cat to the vet late at night or attend puppy training classes.



What if I'm already a pet owner?

If you already have pets, you'll definitely need a space in your home you can dedicate solely to your foster dog or cat. Your current animals must be up to date on their vaccines and **MUST** be spayed or neutered. This might mean getting your pet the distemper vaccine, which isn't always mandatory, but can help prevent the spread of disease from one animal to another.

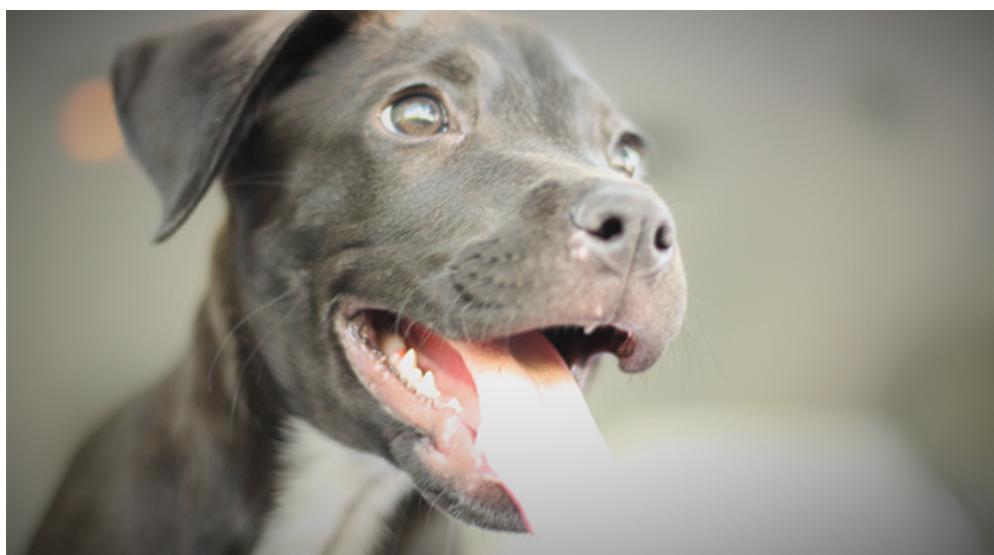
Letting your foster dog play with your own pup can be a great way to help socialize your visitor before adoption. However, make sure an introduction is made (preferably outdoors or in neutral territory) before tossing the new dog into your home. Even if the two get along while you're around, separating them when you are out is a good idea, in case tensions escalate.

Anything else I should know?

Though a foster pet might be calm in the first week at your home, behavior issues can arise as he gets more comfortable—or vice versa. Being available to spot these changes and knowing how to adapt and deal with them is important.

Rescue dogs and cats probably have higher anxiety levels because they've been through and are continuing to experience lots of transition. Having patience and genuinely caring about the outcome of these animals' lives is crucial to a successful foster period.

Finally, beware of getting emotionally attached to your foster pet! If things go well, you can definitely fill out an adoption application, but if someone else is already in line, you've got to be ready to give up the animal you've spent so much time caring for. Lucky for you, you've helped save its life, which is pretty cool.



Foster Agreement



Friends of Eden Animal Rescue requires all Fosters to enter into an Agreement with the following terms and conditions, intending to be legally bound. The Foster agrees and/or understands the following:

- To care for and love ANY foster pet entrusted to me by Friends of Eden Animal Rescue as if it were their own.
- To provide the pet with exercise, basic obedience training, and housetraining.
- To bring the pet to Friends scheduled adoption events.
- To notify Friends immediately if I am unable to continue to care for the pet.
- To notify Friends if it is necessary to provide temporary care (e.g., vacation, emergency absences)

SPAY/NEUTER & VACCINATIONS

- All pets placed in foster care need to be spayed/neutered and vaccinated. If Foster receives an unaltered pet, Friends will request spay/neuter with a designated Friends veterinarian and assist in transporting the dog to and from the appointment.
- At no time may an unaltered/unfixed female dog or cat be permitted at/around/near an unaltered male dog or cat while in heat.
- No pet CAN be adopted before being spayed or neutered.

EXPENSES COVERED BY FRIENDS OF EDEN ANIMAL RESCUE

- All basic medical expenses for each foster pet that comes into their care will be covered by Friends, provided that an authorized Friends representative has approved the medical expenses, and the care is from a Friends designated veterinarian.
- If Foster chooses to go to a vet of their choosing, the Foster may be responsible for the vet bill.
- Friends of Eden Animal Rescue will provide a collar, tag, and leash for each foster pet that comes into their care. Friends appreciates willingness to donate toward the pet's general expenses, like food, treats, etc., and Friends will offer donated items, as available, for use by foster homes (such general expenses, if paid for by a foster home and not by Friends, may be tax-deductible.) Crates can be lent to foster homes and returned to Friends when a foster pet is adopted.



Foster Agreement

PET DESCRIPTION AND PHOTOS

- To assist in getting photos of each foster pet that comes into their care to Friends.
- To either take a photo and write a short description and submit it to my Friends representative for review and assistance or ask for assistance in taking the photo and writing the description of each foster pet in their care.

ADOPTION/TRANSFER

- Any potential adopter MUST be screened, interviewed, and approved by an authorized Friends representative.
- Their input is appreciated and a part of the process, and the final decision to place or not to place any particular foster pet with any particular potential adopter will be made by an authorized Friends representative ONLY.
- To inform their designated Friends Foster Coordinator if prospective adopters may contact me directly by phone or email, and to send copies of any email inquiries to the Friends Coordinator.
- If it is possible for a prospective adopter to visit the Foster's home to meet the animal, Foster will arrange for the Foster Coordinator to be there during the visit.

PROTOCOL WITH CHILDREN

- The following protocol should be followed regarding children in the house
 - Under NO circumstances will leave a child unattended with any dog or cat
 - Will NOT leave bones around the house when children are present and be cautious and observant when children are eating, and the dog is in the room
 - The dog must be in a crate or separate room while the dog is eating or sleeping to prevent accidents if there is a child in the household under the age of 5
 - Children under the age of 16 will NOT walk the dog unless supervised by an adult
 - Whenever a child is in the house with a dog, the child is at risk of being accidentally knocked over, scratched or bitten etc.
 - If there are ANY concerns or feel uncomfortable with a situation between the dog and a child Foster contact the Foster Coordinator. Friends will either take the dog out of the home immediately or have a trainer come and meet with Foster, depending on the severity of the situation



Foster Agreement

CATS AND DOGS CO-EXISTING

Even if this animal has been housed with cats in its foster home Friends cannot guarantee the behavior with a new cat(s) will be the same. Use caution when introducing a new dog to existing cats in the household and do the introduction slowly over a period of a few weeks, keeping the dog on a leash. If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact a Friends representative.

MULTIPLE DOG HOUSEHOLDS

The following protocol should be followed when bringing additional dogs into the house

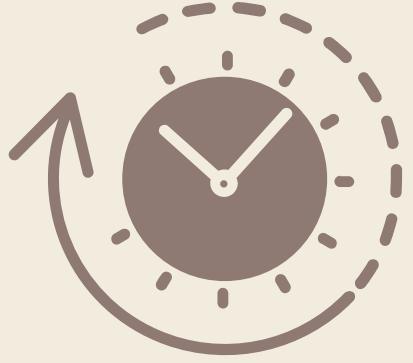
- Do not leave multiple dogs at home in the same room unattended
- Do not feed the dogs in the same room and don't leave toys and treats laying around the house
- Friends can put you in touch with either a volunteer or a behaviorist to assist you with a dog-to-dog introduction if necessary

GENERAL AGREEMENTS

- Friends ID tag must be worn on the dog's collar at all times.
- If the dog loses its tag, Foster agrees to immediately contact Friends for a new one.
- Keep each foster dog that comes into my care on a leash when outside my home or my own securely fenced yard.
- No foster dog that comes into their care will be allowed to run or play off-leash in a dog park or other open public area.
- Foster is responsible for the safety of each foster dog that comes into their care, for the safety of other dogs and people the dog comes into contact with.
- Will immediately notify Friends in the event of a missing or injured foster dog.
- If the Foster decides to adopt a foster dog in their care, they must go through the adoption process.
- If the Foster needs to return a dog to Friends' care, for any reason, enough forewarning is necessary for Friends to locate a new foster home placement for the dog.
- Socialize and play with the pet(s) on a daily basis.
- Keep cats indoors at all times.



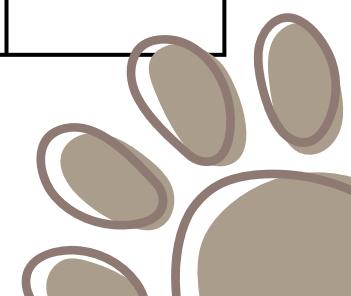
Are You a Foster Candidate?



Fostering animals creates more space in shelters for other animals in need. Whether a shelter is crowded or not, each animal in their care requires time and resources that could be stretched further if those animals were in foster homes. Foster caregivers help animal shelters and rescues so much!

Questions Foster Candidates must ask themselves include:

Are you able to care for and love ANY foster animal entrusted to you as if it were your own?	YES	NO
Are you able to provide the dog with exercise, basic obedience training, and housetraining?	YES	NO
Are you able to bring the dog to scheduled adoption events?	YES	NO
Are you able to notify Friends immediately if you are unable to continue to care for the animal?	YES	NO
Are you able to notify Friends if it is necessary to provide temporary care (e.g., vacation, emergency absences)	YES	NO
Are you able to take the foster animal to the designated veterinarian for vaccinations, wellness exams, and/or spay-neuter appointments?	YES	NO



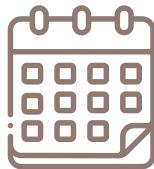


Are you able to separate your foster animal from your household pets (if applicable) for two weeks to protect them from illnesses and allow for proper adjustment period?	YES	NO
Are you able to handle cleaning procedures such as your washing hands after every encounter and cleaning / disinfecting kittens and puppies quarters routinely?	YES	NO
Are you able to handle any potential home damage (carpet, clothing, and/or furniture) associated with animals?	YES	NO



Are you prepared to handle sickness or possible death of your foster animal?	YES	NO
Are you able to emotionally handle letting go of the foster animal after becoming attached once their foster period is over?	YES	NO
Are you able to handle the potential of foster animals carrying illness that could affect your household animals/family?	YES	NO

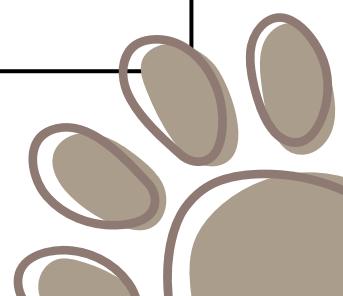




Time Commitments

Foster care can last anywhere from a few days to a few months, depending on the animal's needs. Being flexible is highly recommended, especially if you're fostering an animal recovering from an illness. Vets can predict how long rehabilitation might take, but anyone who's ever had a dog in a cone knows sometimes the healing process takes longer than you (and the dog) would like.

TYPE OF FOSTER	DURATION OF FOSTER	DAILY COMMITMENT
Sick / Injured Cats	1 Week – 2 Months	2 – 3 Hours
Weaned Puppies	1 – 3 Weeks	3 – 6 Hours
Sick / Injured Dogs	1 Week – 2 Months	2 – 3 Hours
Neonate Puppies	6 – 8 Weeks	8 Hours
Mom with Puppies	2 – 8 Weeks	3 Hours



Preparing the Room

Tips & Tails

Use glass or metal bowls. Plastic bowls are porous and not easily cleaned

Clean linens and toys daily

Supervise play time

Before bringing home your foster(s), make sure that you have a suitable place for them to stay. A bathroom often works well. The room should adhere to the following guidelines:

- A space where temperature can be controlled
- The space has been disinfected by using a mild bleach solution (1 part bleach to 32 parts water)
- Separate from other household pets
- Can withstand messes:
 - spilled water or food
 - vomit
 - urine or feces, etc.
- No breakable items
- Electrical outlets and wires are blocked
- No small items
- Secured windows (closed or with a secure screen)
- Secured appliances (toilet lids closed)



How It Works

IT'S ALL ON US!

Everything you will need to care for your foster(s) will be provided by Friends.

Check below for further tips on how to properly set up your new fosters environment.

CATS

- No Matter What the Cat Says - do **NOT** let your foster cat/kittens outside. Foster requirements for cats and kittens: **INDOOR ONLY**
- A large crate or separate room (bathroom or large closet) is best.

DOGS

- Should be kept indoors in a crate when unattended or a separate room/office.
- Should be on a leash at all times when outdoors unless in a private, secure fenced-in area. Recommended fence height is six feet.
- Foster dog/puppies are not permitted to go to dog parks
 - Dog parks can be extremely dangerous environments; there are not lifeguards or professionals at a dog park when conflicts arise
 - Not every dog is safe in a dog park
 - While dogs are social animals, they are individuals and do not like every dog they meet
 - Dogs have a variety of play styles and these play styles can be conflicting and instigate fights. They are dogs. It's what they do!

Tips & Tails

Household Poisonous Plants include:

Lilies
Sago Palms
Corn Plant
Aloe Plant
Asparagus Fern

Supervise your foster animal when around children and other animals

PUPPIES!

- Indoors – kitchen or bathroom. A baby gate or corral is provided upon request.
- Should be around humans for socialization purposes and should not be isolated.
- Kept in a crate at all times when not under supervision. Crates are provided upon request.
- Outdoors – **only** if supervised by an adult.
- Puppies younger than 5 months should **NEVER** go to off-leash areas:
 - They are not fully vaccinated
 - Should not be exposed to other dogs or places frequented by other dogs due to risk of diseases such as parvovirus.



PUPPY DEVELOPMENT

In the first two weeks of life, puppies are helpless and vulnerable. They are still developing basic reflexes, hearing and vision is not fully developed, and they are unable to properly control their body temperatures. Therefore, puppies should be confined to a nursery area. Puppies should not be allowed to mingle with your own pets.

During the first three weeks of life, puppies do not urinate or defecate on their own and require stimulation for elimination. A mother dog will lick her young after feeding to stimulate the urinary and intestinal tracts to release urine and feces. Licking also grooms, promotes bonding and hastens maturation of the nervous system. Puppies deprived of maternal licking fail to thrive or survive. If you are fostering puppies without their mom, gently rub a warm cloth or cotton pad on the puppy's genital area and anus. This should be done before or after feeding.

Keeping the puppies clean from food and feces is vital for their health. If you notice your puppy has food, urine or feces on him, gently wipe the puppy down with a warm, damp cloth. Be sure to dry the puppy well afterwards to prevent him from getting chilled.

Bathe your foster with Dawn®
Dish Detergent Original
Formula.



Be sure to dry your puppy after
their bath using a towel or blow
dryer.



Puppies are chewers!
Be sure to remove all electrical
cords and small objects.



Fostering Moms



In some cases, mom are fostered together with her litter. There are a few things to keep in mind for this type of foster situation. Moms require a calm setting that has privacy and minimal activity. Stress can cause moms to stop taking care of their puppies.

BRINGING HER HOME

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- ✓ You will need a separate space for mom and her litter.
- ✓ When you first bring her home, leave them alone in their new space. This area is referred to as a whelping box or nesting area.
- ✓ Mom will need some time to adjust (up to a few days) to her new space.
- ✓ Be sure to offer mom fresh food, water and a clean nesting area.



SOCIALIZATION

Even adult dogs need socialization, however, proceed slowly and with any adult dog that you do not know.

Create situations for socialization but let her come to you. Stop the session if you notice any negative signs, such as swishing tail, ears laid back, head jerk toward you, tensing up, moving away, or growling. It is always best to move slowly and use caution when reaching into the nesting area.



MOM & HER PUPPIES

For the first few weeks, moms will do everything necessary to take care of her puppies. Puppies start nursing very soon after birth. Mom will also groom her puppies. It is best to leave mom alone for the first two weeks except to feed and to go outside for potty breaks.

MOMMY ISSUES

MATERNAL NEGLECT

In some cases, puppies die from poor maternal care. There are a few causes of this. Some dogs lack maternal instincts and, in other cases, it is nature's way of handling sick or weak puppies.

®

Environment stress is an important factors, which is why it is important to create a calm environment for mom and the litter. Foster parents should watch for signs of maternal neglect. Call the Foster Coordinator if you notice the mom avoids feeding and grooming her puppies and ignores their cries.

MATERNAL AGGRESSION

As mom protects her puppies, it is common for her to be aggressive toward humans or other animals. Do not try to introduce your household pets to your foster mom as this adds too much stress to the environment. If aggression becomes severe, call the Foster Coordinator.



Feeding Fido

- ✓ Puppies are born with instincts to bite. One of the most important things they learn, as a puppy, is how to control the strength of their bite.
- ✓ Puppies naturally train each other how to bite. When one puppy bites another too hard, the other puppy yelps loudly and stops playing.
- ✓ As a foster parent, you can play this role. Any time a puppy mouth with too much force, yelp loudly. If the puppy stops biting, then praise him or her lavishly. If the puppy continues biting, turn your back on the puppy and walk away. After ten seconds (or so), resume play happily.



- ✓ Never scold, tap on the nose, or yell 'NO' at the puppy who is biting. Bite inhibition is a crucial development for puppies. A puppy who is punished for biting can turn into an adult with unsafe jaws (because they do not know their jaw strength). Simply yell 'ouch' when a puppy bites too hard.



REMEMBER

Mouthing is important! A puppy who is never allowed to mouth will grow up to have a hard bite!



Basic Training

- ✓ Puppies are born with instincts to bite. One of the most important things they learn, as a puppy, is how to control the strength of their bite.
- ✓ Puppies naturally train each other how to bite. When one puppy bites another too hard, the other puppy yelps loudly and stops playing.
- ✓ As a foster parent, you can play this role. Any time a puppy mouth with too much force, yelp loudly. If the puppy stops biting, then praise him or her lavishly. If the puppy continues biting, turn your back on the puppy and walk away. After ten seconds (or so), resume play happily.



- ✓ Never scold, tap on the nose, or yell 'NO' at the puppy who is biting. Bite inhibition is a crucial development for puppies. A puppy who is punished for biting can turn into an adult with unsafe jaws (because they do not know their jaw strength). Simply yell 'ouch' when a puppy bites too hard.



REMEMBER

Mouthing is important! A puppy who is never allowed to mouth will grow up to have a hard bite!



House Training

We always want to set our puppies up for success, and doing so in the house training process is essential. Puppies should have frequent breaks and be taken outside to the same spot to relieve themselves every 30 – 60 minutes when active:

- waking up from a nap
- after drinking or eating
- and after a play session

A puppy can hold his or her bladder one hour for each month of age (i.e., 2 months = 2 hours; 3 months = 3 hours).

5 STEPS TO HOUSE TRAINING SUCCESS

1. Prevent accidents
2. Reward going to the bathroom
3. Anticipate bathroom needs
4. Interrupt accidents and avoid punishing
5. Clean up accidents with enzyme cleaner

PEE PADS

- For puppies under five weeks old, place puppies on pee pads immediately after waking up, after eating, and once an hour.
- Praise the puppy enthusiastically every time he or she urinates or defecates on the pad.
- Change the pads frequently, as puppies tend to chew on pee pads.

Tips & Tails

After your dog eliminates, plan an extra few minutes to play with your puppy.

Dogs quickly learn to hold their bladder if they immediately go inside after they relieve themselves.

Important points to consider when housebreaking an older dog...

A housebroken dog is a dog that can remain in the house for up to 8 hours without having an accident.

If your dog goes to the bathroom in your home more than once every few months, then you need to re-focus on housebreaking that dog.

If you have an older dog that is still having accidents, there are steps you can take to stop these bad habits and housebreak your dog.

#1 – How long will it take to housebreak an older dog?

Some claim that you can housebreak a dog in 7 days. But for an older dog that was not housebroken at an early age, it will take decidedly longer. It can take as long as several weeks to housebreak an adult dog.

For the first few weeks after you bring him home, you should assume your new dog isn't house-trained and start from scratch. If he was house-trained in his previous home, the re-training process should progress quickly.

#2 – What steps should you take to housebreak an older dog?

To housetrain an older dog, you need to:

- Establish a "potty break" routine and stick to it. This begins with the time you get up each morning and the ends with the last trip outside for the night. Especially at first, this may not perfectly coincide with your own personal schedule.
- Constantly supervise your dog for "signs" when he has to go outside. To succeed at housebreaking, everything that looks like a "sign" should be taken seriously (especially at first) — even if that means you're taking your dog outside 20 times a day!
- Confine your dog (like in a crate or a bathroom) when you cannot supervise him. Dogs are less likely to eliminate in the places where they sleep.
- Clean any soiled areas inside the house very well to remove the smell and prevent repeat accidents. Dogs continue to go where they've gone before.



#3 – Can I housebreak my dog if I have a busy schedule?

If you have a very busy schedule — to the point when you are not able to housebreak a dog — you probably shouldn't have a dog.

Everyone goes through busy times in their lives where they need to work extra hours or travel, and that is understandable. However, if your schedule is always hectic, then you will have a very hard time getting your dog housebroken without help from a dog walker, friend, or family member.

#4 – How do I teach my dog to go quickly and in the same spot?

A dog can be taught to go to the bathroom on cue.

Taking him to the same spot each time will make "going on cue" easier.

Be sure to use the same word (like "potty" or "go outside") each and every time, in order to help it sink in faster. Plus, you can then use this word on-the-spot to encourage your dog that you mean business and he needs to go right now.

#5 – What can I do to prevent a relapse in housebreaking?

One thing's for sure: if you are not consistent with your dog, he will go back to his old habits right away.

You must continue the housebreaking schedule way past the point of success and continue with the schedule — for the benefit of the dog and of your home.

And remember, just because your dog is housebroken does not mean that he can hold it for an unreasonable amount of time.

In addition to regular bathroom breaks throughout the day, dogs also need a long walk every day to burn off excess energy. Why? Because pent up energy can also cause a dog to eliminate in the house out of nervousness and boredom.

Tips & Tails

- Establish a "potty break" routine and stick to it
- Constantly supervise your foster dog for "signs" when he has to go outside.
- Confine Fido (like in a crate or a bathroom) when you cannot supervise him
- Clean soiled areas inside the house to remove the smell and prevent repeat accidents

Crate Training

House training and crate training go hand in hand. A crate can be a great tool to use for your puppy, but it can also be misused. A crate is not a magical solution to common canine behavior. If used incorrectly, a dog can feel trapped and frustrated. And for some dogs, crates will not be an option. The crate should be big enough for your puppy to stand up, turn around, and stretch out. We will make sure you go home with the correct size, but your puppy will grow. Please contact the Foster Coordinator when you need a larger crate.

Your foster puppy or dog should have a short-term confinement area, such as the crate, and a long-term confinement area, such as an x-pen or baby-gated section of the house or room.

If you are beginning to crate train, feed your puppy in the crate, provide stuffed chew toys only in the crate, and/or play crate games to build a positive association with the crate. Keep sessions short and fun, and have your puppy in the crate for short periods of time when you are home.

Never use a crate as a form of punishment for your foster puppy or dog.

KEY CRATE TRAINING POINTS

- Dogs are naturally denning animals and enjoy being in small and enclosed places
- The crate provides a sense of security and calms anxiety in dogs
- A crate can also be used as a safe way of transporting your dog
- Never use the crate as a punishment
- A crate can limit your dog's access to the whole house
- Don't leave your dog in the crate for too long
- Be patient



More Tips from the Tail!

1 Toys

Having toys available for your puppy is vital for their mental health and development. A selection of toys is best such as plush squeak toys, rope toys, stuffed Kongs® and teething toys.

2 Socialization

From 3 weeks to 3 months, puppies are biologically primed to learn that new sights, sounds, smells, objects, environments, and people are fun and safe. This is the most crucial and sensitive period in a puppy's life.

Socialization is not simply exposing a puppy to a variety of people, places, and things, but using positive proactive socialization training. Each new person the puppy should be a wonderful experience with treats and toys. Take things slow if your foster puppy seems fearful of the new person, place, or thing.





3

Training: Positive Environment

As a foster parent, there will be many situations for you to train your puppy.

Friends of Eden Animal Rescue only promotes training using positive reinforcement. Each new person the puppy meets should be a wonderful experience with treats and toys. Take things slow if your puppy seems fearful of the new person, place or thing.



4

Positive Reinforcement

Appeal to your audience, choose the right fonts and images, and you'll have a magazine people will remember for years to come. Add photos and graphics to match.

5

Addressing Bad Behavior

- When unwanted behavior is offered or performed, re-direct the dog with a kissy noise or toy. Praise and reward the puppy for stopping the undesired behavior or and giving you their attention.
- Punishment can instill fear, which can lead to aggressive behavior,
- Praise and reward behavior.
- When a behavior is immediately followed by a positive outcome, that behavior is strengthened.



Runaway Foster



If your foster escapes or runs away contact the Foster Coordinator immediately!

If your foster dog gets loose while on a walk, do NOT chase. Lay on the ground and calmly call their name.

If your foster cat escapes the home, place a blanket that smells like the cat/home and litter box outside of the home.

NOTE: Your foster should be wearing their collar and ID tag at ALL times.





Fostering Our Feline Friends

No matter how mature that kitten seems, please do the best thing for the kitten—leave her with the mother until she has reached 8 weeks of age. At that age, the kitten will weigh approximately 2 pounds. A kitten smaller than that should be left with the mother cat.

How to Take Care of a Kitten

If the mother cat has been killed or severely injured and the kittens are orphaned, the story changes, and we are off and running to do our best feline imitations as we foster the kittens.

Newborn Kittens to 4 Weeks

Newborn kittens up to the age of 4 weeks are the most challenging to rear. At this age, they are almost completely helpless and dependent on the care of their mother. The most important factors at this age are proper feeding, keeping the kitten warm and helping it to eliminate. The details of hand-rearing newborn are important. This fostering guide will assist you in understanding how to properly care for a kitten(s). Whenever in doubt, call the Foster Coordinator.



Kitten Kare 4 - 6 Weeks

At this age, kittens are beginning to explore their world and look for trouble. Much of mom's time is still spent feeding them, but now she is also teaching them some skills, such as washing, using a litter pan, and eating some solid foods. She also spends a lot of time trying to keep them out of trouble!



Heat Source

Kittens will still need some source of heat, but at this age, it is possible to provide it as a supplement, as opposed to a kitten essential. Friends recommends keeping an area of the kitten cage near 80 degrees Fahrenheit so that the kittens can access it if they are feeling chilly.

How to Feed Neonatal Kittens

Use kitten bottles, and try to get the elongated nipples if they're available because they are easier to use. You may have to make your own holes in the nipple with a sterilized pin or razor; be sure you do this correctly so that the KMR drips out slowly when the bottle is turned upside down.

If you notice the kitten is having a hard time getting the milk to come out of the bottle, the pinhole on the nipple may need to be larger; alternately, if the kitten is having a hard time keeping up with the amount of milk coming out, consider changing the nipple to one with a smaller hole. And cleanliness is key, so sterilize the bottles and wash your hands before and after each feeding.

Hold or place kittens on their stomachs and tilt the bottle so less air gets in. Do not feed kittens on their backs. Always warm the KRM and test it on your wrist to be sure it is warm but not hot, like you would do with an infant.



What to Feed a Neonatal Kitten

Stick to kitten formula, such as kitten milk replacer (KMR), which can be purchased at most pet supply stores. If you find yourself with a kitten and pet stores are closed, this emergency kitten formula can be made at home. Only use it in emergencies.

- 8 oz. can evaporated milk
- 1 beaten egg yolk
- 2 TB Karo syrup
- Mix all ingredients well and strain. Warm before serving. Keep refrigerated.

Feeding Frequency

- 10 days or younger every two hours around the clock
- 11 days to 2½ weeks every three to four hours
- 2½ to 4 weeks every five to six hours
- 4 weeks and older two to three times a day. Weaning occurs around this age.

Mix formula with wet food so kittens can begin to lap it up, or put the mixture in a bottle. Then mix with dry food and begin providing water. If you are having trouble getting a kitten to "latch" onto the bottle, try pulling on the nipple when they start to suck, this will encourage her to suck harder and latch on.

You can also try moving the nipple back and forth in the kitten's mouth. If your kitten is too ill to suck on a bottle, you may have to resort to other methods like tube feeding. In this case, consult a veterinarian.



REMEMBER

Never feed kittens cow's or goat's milk. This causes diarrhea.

Do not feed chilled kittens. Follow the guidelines on the formula label for how much to use, but they will usually stop eating when they're full.



Skills

Kittens will need to learn to wash. After each meal, taking a dampened face cloth and mimicking a “grooming” motion on the face and feet will help to give the kitten the idea that after each meal, it is time to sit down and clean up.

Most will catch on to this pretty quickly and are quite happy to wash themselves rather than have you chase them down to groom them! (“I’ll do it myself, mom!”) Kittens of this age are also starting to use the litter pan to eliminate on their own.

Putting them into the pan after a meal will sometimes help give them the idea—as will putting a small amount of stool from the kitten into the proper location in the box. Within a few days, most figure out “where to put it” on their own.

Small cat litter boxes make it easier for the kitten to get into and out of. Using a litter that will not hurt the kitten if ingested is important, since kittens do put everything in their mouths!

Kittens that are 4 to 6 weeks of age are starting to be much more alert and interested in their environment. Teaching them the ways of being a cat and helping to keep them out of trouble tend to be the focus at this stage. They will weigh about 1.5 pounds at 6 weeks of age.



After Feeding

How to Burp a Kitten

As long as kittens are eating formula, you have to burp them. Put them on your shoulder or on their stomachs and pat them gently until you feel them burp. Kitten formula is sticky, so be sure to clean kittens after feeding with a warm, damp washcloth, and dry them as needed.

Elimination

Kittens under 4 weeks must be stimulated in order to go to the bathroom after each feeding. Use a warm, moist cotton ball, tissue, or washcloth to gently rub the kittens' anal area to stimulate urination and defecation.

Completely solid feces usually will not form while kittens are drinking formula. If you notice the kittens are having trouble urinating or defecating, consult a veterinarian. Start litter training at 4 weeks. Kittens may start looking for a place to go as young as 2½ weeks of age. Use a small, shallow litter pan with non-clumping litter. Do not use paper or fabric while this is soft, it can teach bad habits! Show kittens the litter box and put in a used cotton ball, and this should do the trick.

Health Concerns

Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)

Though this is common in kittens, it shouldn't be ignored. If a heavy yellow discharge develops or the kitten has trouble breathing or eating, see a veterinarian immediately. A mild URI can be cleared up by wiping away discharge with a warm, wet cloth and keeping kittens in a warm, damp environment.

Fleas

Fleas on a very small kitten can cause anemia. Pick fleas off with a flea comb. For a bad infestation, you can bathe the kitten in warm water. You can also use a very small amount of gentle, liquid dish soap like Dawn to bathe kittens. Avoid the eye area use a washcloth around the face and rinse them thoroughly.

Be sure to dry them after a bath so they do not chill. Do not use flea shampoo or topical flea treatments on kittens 6 weeks or younger.



After Feeding

How to Burp a Kitten

As long as kittens are eating formula, you have to burp them. Put them on your shoulder or on their stomachs and pat them gently until you feel them burp. Kitten formula is sticky, so be sure to clean kittens after feeding with a warm, damp washcloth, and dry them as needed.

Elimination

Kittens under 4 weeks must be stimulated in order to go to the bathroom after each feeding. Use a warm, moist cotton ball, tissue, or washcloth to gently rub the kittens' anal area to stimulate urination and defecation.

Completely solid feces usually will not form while kittens are drinking formula. If you notice the kittens are having trouble urinating or defecating, consult a veterinarian. Start litter training at 4 weeks. Kittens may start looking for a place to go as young as 2½ weeks of age. Use a small, shallow litter pan with non-clumping litter. Do not use paper or fabric while this is soft, it can teach bad habits! Show kittens the litter box and put in a used cotton ball, and this should do the trick.

Health Concerns

Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)

Though this is common in kittens, it shouldn't be ignored. If a heavy yellow discharge develops or the kitten has trouble breathing or eating, see a veterinarian immediately. A mild URI can be cleared up by wiping away discharge with a warm, wet cloth and keeping kittens in a warm, damp environment.

Fleas

Fleas on a very small kitten can cause anemia. Pick fleas off with a flea comb. For a bad infestation, you can bathe the kitten in warm water. You can also use a very small amount of gentle, liquid dish soap like Dawn to bathe kittens. Avoid the eye area use a washcloth around the face and rinse them thoroughly.

Be sure to dry them after a bath so they do not chill. Do not use flea shampoo or topical flea treatments on kittens 6 weeks or younger.



Cat Tails!

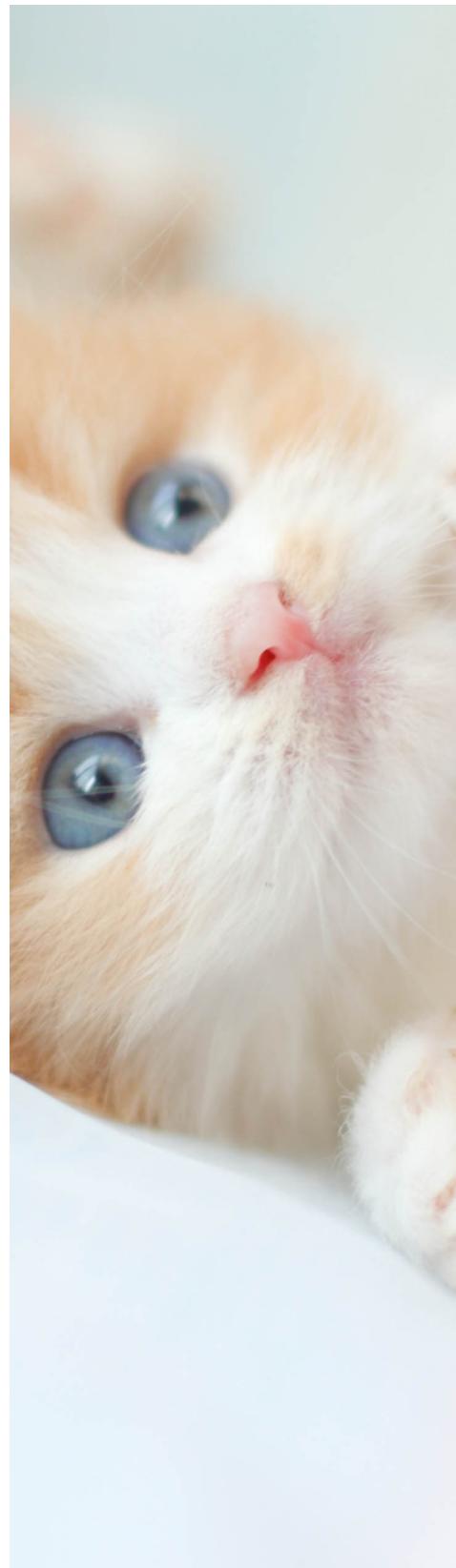
1 Parasites / Diarrhea

Any drastic change in stool consistency can mean trouble. Parasites can often cause diarrhea, strange looking stools, and dehydration. Kittens can begin a deworming treatment schedule as young as 10 days old; see a veterinarian for this.

2 Socialization[®]

We know that cats can live healthy, happy lives outdoors, and this is certainly true for kittens, too. Healthy kittens that are more than 8 weeks old or who weigh 2 pounds are completely fine to be released back into their colony after being trapped and neutered.

But if you have the time and resources, it may be possible to socialize or "tame" kittens up to 4 months old to be cuddly, friendly cats. It is a commitment, but all you need is a little skill, hard work, and lots of love!





More Cat Tails!

Socialization

If kittens have never met people, they will be frightened and show signs of fear and anxiety, like spitting, hissing, and running away. To become your best friend, they need to be taught that they can be comfortable around people. It's so exciting to hear your formerly frightened kitten purr for the first time!

Kittens 8 weeks or younger can be socialized by almost anyone. Kittens between 2 and 4 months might require more time and skill to make them feel comfortable near people

3 Veterinary Care

- Have a kitten wellness visit at the veterinarian. Get kittens FVRCP vaccinated and dewormed for parasites, if necessary. Rabies vaccinations cannot be given until a kitten is 4 months old.
- Get immediate veterinary attention if kittens become lethargic, lose their appetite, or have persistent diarrhea.
- If your foster kitten becomes ill, notify your Foster Coordinator immediately.

4 Confinement

- You'll need a room that can be closed off to give you easy access, to keep the kittens away from other pets, and also to keep kittens from hiding in hard-to-reach spots (avoid rooms with furniture or vents that they can crawl into). The room also should have windows and not be too noisy.
- Make kittens feel safe and at home with a little safe zone such as a small box with blankets inside the cage.

