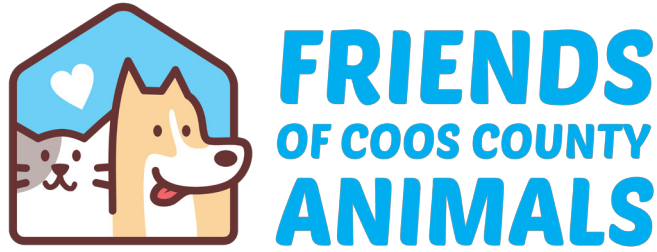


Foster Hero Handbook





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Introduction:

Welcome to the volunteer foster program for Friends of Coos County Animals (FOCCAS). This handbook is provided to foster volunteers as a guide to care for surrendered and rescued animals in our rescue.

Thank you for opening your home to a rescued animal. The foster program at FOCCAS has been in existence since 2005. With your help, FOCCAS finds forever homes for hundreds of animals every year. This program provides a safe environment for animals to heal and socialize until a permanent adoptive home can be found. **We couldn't do what we do without you!**

Animals that need foster care may fall into one or more of these categories:

- Nursing orphaned kittens and puppies too young to be adopted
- Abused or shy/feral cats and dogs that require socialization and patience
- Sick/injured cats and dogs
- Abandoned mother cats and kittens (or accidental litters)
- Mother dogs and puppies
- Unwanted dogs, cats, kittens, and pups
- Dogs transferred from overcrowded shelters
- Dogs or cats whose owners have passed away

FOCCAS provides all of the supplies for fostering, including food and medicine. FOCCAS also pays for any veterinary care the foster animals may need during the duration of fostering. Please note that if you decide to stop fostering, supplies must be returned, clean, to FOCCAS. We provide the necessary supplies (food, collars, leashes, beds, toys, etc.) and medical care, you provide the home, love, and sense of family for your foster animal.

Basic requirements for cat fosters:



- All personal dogs/cats must be spayed/neutered.
- All personal animals must be up-to-date and remain up-to-date on vaccines and flea prevention.
- All personal cats must be indoor only to mitigate risk of disease or flea infestation
- Must have basic knowledge of feline care and behavior, must be able to administer necessary medications
- All foster cats/kittens MUST remain indoors at all times, no exceptions
- Must be able to provide clean and safe housing
- The ability to provide time daily to socialize kittens
- Must have transportation
- Must be able to take and send photos of foster(s) to FOCCAS staff
- A separate room or space to appropriately quarantine the foster animals from your personal pets

Basic requirements for dog fosters



- All personal animals must be spayed/neutered (exotic animals excluded)
- All personal animals must be up to date and remain up to date on vaccine and flea prevention
- Home must be reasonably dog-proofed for safety
- Must be able to provide and maintain clean housing
- Must have basic knowledge of canine care and behavior, must be able to administer medications
- Must have transportation
- The ability to provide time daily to socialize/train the dog and provide basic social needs such as exercise and meeting new people/animals.
- Provide a fenced yard for the dog that the animal can not escape through
- Must be able to take and send photos of foster(s) to FOCCAS staff

Time commitment

Animals being rehomed through our program are often stressed or too young to be immediately adopted. It is essential that foster parents understand that the animals that come into our program may be scared, traumatized, and confused. Foster parents must be patient and commit to the animal to avoid the unnecessary stress of readjustment to multiple temporary homes. It is our goal to keep the animals in as few different foster homes as possible.

The length of time a foster animal stays in a foster home is dependent on their health, age, and adoptability. Foster parents should plan to provide a home for an average of 2-10 weeks, it could possibly be longer. This length varies with each foster animal you care for.

All fosters must be able to bring their foster animal(s) to the Saturday adoption events at the mall when they are ready to be adopted.

- Drop off: 11:45pm
- Pick up: 3pm

All fosters must be reasonably available to take their foster(s) to the vet or the FOCCAS mall space for necessary vaccines/medical care.

All fosters must be able to drop off their animal for their spay/neuter appointment. We will supply instructions for your fosters surgery.

What's expected of our fosters

Housing

- Foster parents are required to provide and maintain clean and safe housing.
- All cats are indoor ONLY.
- Dogs are not to be allowed outside in an unfenced yard without being on a leash.
- Foster parents are not allowed to move foster pets without prior approval (this includes temporary moves for vacations).
- Foster parents must have a separate place to house foster pets away from their own personal pets. The foster pets will need to be quarantined for 7 to 14 days before being introduced to the foster parent's own pets.

Transportation

Foster parents are responsible for transporting the dogs/cats in their care to/from the mall for adoption days and to/from the veterinary clinic for exams/surgeries. If a foster parent is not able to transport they must notify FOCCAS ASAP (at least 24 hours prior to event) so that other transportation can be arranged.

Photos

Foster parents are responsible for taking and sending photographs of each of their foster pets to FOCCAS so that the website can have up-to-date photos.

Deworming and flea preventative

FOCCAS will provide flea preventative and deworming treatments. Foster parents are required to keep flea preventative on their foster pets and give the dewormer on a regular basis. Foster parents are not allowed to give a different flea preventative or dewormer without prior authorization.

Medication administration

Foster parents will sometimes need to give medications, these include but are not limited to oral antibiotics, steroids, ear cleanings, etc.

Training

Foster parents are expected to maintain and train their foster pets. This includes basic behavior training for dogs such as sit and stay.

Maintenance

Foster parents are also required to maintain their foster pets fur (bathing and brushing if needed) and nails. If unable to bath or trim nails, please notify Diane ASAP so that other arrangements can be made.

At your own risk

It is always the goal to take in and move healthy pets, however, sometimes pets need to be moved quickly due to unsafe conditions or illness, and sometimes illness can develop after foster intake. FOCCAS takes no responsibility for foster parent's personal pets. If a foster pet is ill or has ringworm, treatments and medication will be provided for foster pets ONLY. Anything that is passed to or picked up by the foster parent's own pets is solely the responsibility of the owner.

Supplies that FOCCAS will provide:

General supplies: food (kibble and canned if needed), flea preventative, dewormer, vaccines (at clinic or at the mall), etc.

Cats: Litter box, litter, scoop, food, carrier, toys, cardboard scratcher, etc.

Dogs: Leash, collar, harness, crate, bedding, toys, etc.

Newborns: milk replacement, thermometer, scale, etc.

If you need something else, please ask us, we probably have it at the mall.

FOCCAS will not reimburse the foster for items purchased without prior authorization. As a 501c3 organization, the items you purchase for your foster animals are tax-deductible. Items already owned before the start of fostering do not qualify for tax-exemption. Please keep your purchase receipts/record and FOCCAS can provide a non-profit receipt to use on your taxes.



Focus on FOCCAS

We ask that while fostering FOCCAS animals that your household refrains from fostering other animals from other organizations or strays. This helps prevent the spread of disease and other issues.

Preparing space for a foster animal

Cat litter and litter box with scoop (felines only) - Do not use clumping litter with kittens under 6 weeks old, due to risk of intestinal blockages if consumed. Non-clumping clay or pellet litter is appropriate. Clumping litter is used for ages 7 weeks and older.

Cat/dog carrier or crate - FOCCAS will loan a carrier for transporting the animal(s) to the vet and adoption events. FOCCAS will provide a crate if deemed necessary for the animal(s). All cats must be transported in a carrier for safety. This is sometimes required for dogs as well.

Crate training is encouraged for foster dogs. Dogs enjoy having a safe place to sleep that is their own, but training is necessary. **Crates should NEVER be used for punishment.**

Food and water - FOCCAS will pay for and provide all of the food for the foster animals. FOCCAS will provide appropriate feeding instructions for the animal based on age/specific needs. We ask that you do not provide another food or change the amount of food given without permission from the FOCCAS staff. Cats should have constant access to fresh water. Do not give your foster animal table scraps or human food of any kind.

It's very important to use the food provided by FOCCAS for consistency and we send some home with the adopter.

Toys - Most cat toys are acceptable for foster cats. Cat toys to avoid would be toys with strings, catnip toys, rubber bands, feathers, small toys that can be swallowed. Most dog toys are acceptable for foster dogs. Dog toys to avoid would be rubber balls (can be chewed apart and swallowed), Chuck-it's, marrow bones, and rawhide.

Kitty scratchers (felines only) - FOCCAS will provide a small kitty scratcher if you do not have any in your home. If you would like to choose your own, you may do so as a donation to your foster animals.

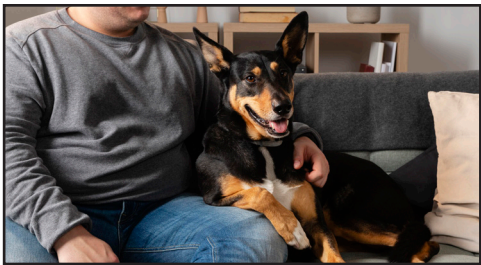
Heating pad and scale (Neonatal kittens only) - Orphaned kittens under 6 weeks need a heat source. Always cover the heating pad with a towel/blanket and be sure that they are able to move away from it if they get too warm. You can also fill a large bottle with hot water and wrap it in a towel/blanket for the kittens, just make sure it isn't too hot. The scale is to track the progress of the kittens to make sure they are gaining weight appropriately.

Introducing fosters to the home

Cats and kittens: Cats and kittens must be gradually introduced to the home. We recommend a small room to start with, such as a bathroom or extra bedroom. Open the carrier and let them come out on their own time. Make sure the area is quiet and calm. All of the foster's food, water, and litter boxes should be in the room with them. It is required to keep cat/kitten fosters quarantined for at least 10 days from your personal pets. Animals often come into our rescue with illnesses/pests that could be contagious to your animals. This is why it is important to have your animals up-to-date on vaccinations and flea prevention before you start fostering.

If you wish to introduce your foster cat/kitten(s) to your personal animals, it must be gradual and after the quarantine period. Start with introducing them with a barrier in between them, such as a door or in a carrier. Slowly increase exposure for a smooth meeting. Keep animals separate if they are showing no signs of progressing to being friends.

Dogs and puppies: It is a good idea to walk the dog around your property/yard and potty before going inside. If you have other dogs that also potty in the yard, this is a good way to introduce the smells to your new foster. It is a good idea to have the foster dog meet all of the family



members individually with breaks in between to avoid overwhelming the animal. Keep their food and water separate for your personal pets' items.

If you wish to introduce your foster dog/puppy to your personal dogs, it is best to not do it inside of your home. Your personal pets could become territorial of their house and meeting inside could lead to aggression or a fight. It's best to find a neutral area outside to introduce the dogs to one another. Leash both dogs and maintain control of them at all times during introduction. Let the dogs approach each other SLOWLY. If you have multiple dogs, allow small breaks in between each meeting.

Feeding your foster animal

FOCCAS requires fosters to stick to strict feeding guidelines to better prepare the animals for their forever home. The feeding regulations will be provided by FOCCAS either verbally or written. They will be tailored to your specific pet based on age, weight, and health. Please contact FOCCAS staff if you are unsure of the feeding requirements or have questions/concerns about the current feeding guidelines. **DO NOT CHANGE THE FOOD** unless permission is given by FOCCAS staff, we can change the food brand we are supplying. This does not apply to foster-to-adopt animals unless there is a special diet required.

FOCCAS asks that you do not free-feed the foster animals. This can lead to obesity and dampen the human-pet bond that comes with scheduled feedings. Most animals should have an AM feeding and a PM feeding unless otherwise stated. Please let FOCCAS staff know if you notice any change in feeding behavior that may be indicative of an illness/injury.

FOCCAS feeding tips:

- Always use scoops or cups with measured markings on them for accuracy.
- Slightly warm wet food is more palatable for animals with difficulty eating/ low appetite.
- Follow all veterinary instructions for post-surgery or illness feedings.
- Metal or ceramic dishes are best, they harbor less bacteria and help prevent feline acne breakouts.
- Never give table scraps or people food to foster animals.
- Diarrhea is normal with food/environment changes. Closely monitor this and report it to FOCCAS staff if it persists longer than 4 days.

Feeding and Caring for Neonatal Kittens

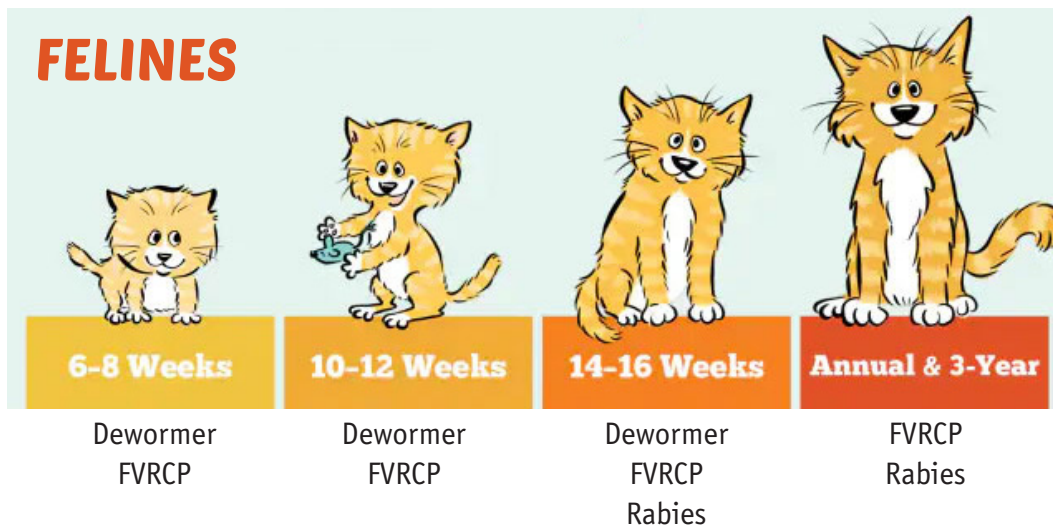
FOCCAS will supply formula, bottles, and/or syringes for feeding neonatal kittens. Please only take neonates as fosters if you are confident you can feed them with the needed schedule. It is required to wake up at night to stay on the feeding schedule. Kittens 4 weeks and older can go through the night without formula if given a larger milk meal at their last feeding before bed. You may either use a bottle or a syringe to feed the formula.

It is important to keep neonates warm using a heating pad or reheatable disk. Make sure they are able to move away from it if they get too hot! This can be fatal.

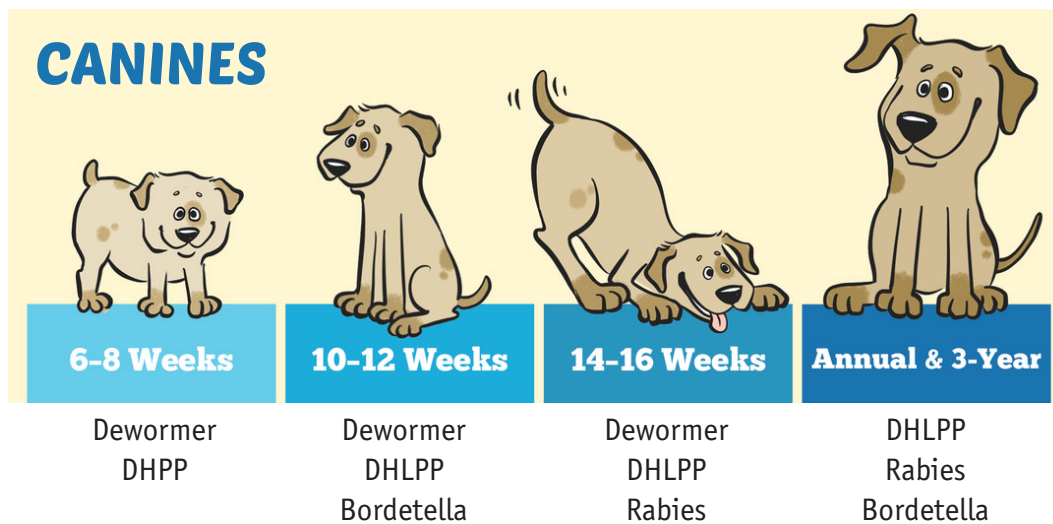
Kittens will need to be stimulated to use the bathroom with a wet cotton ball or cloth up until 3 weeks of age. Rub a wet cotton ball on their genital area to stimulate them to urinate and defecate. This mimics a momma cat licking them.

Basic medical/preventative care

The animals that come into our foster program usually require some form of medical care, including vaccinations, deworming, flea treatment, or more emergent care requiring surgery or medication.



Flea medication will be given when the feline is about 1.8 to 2 pounds.



Flea medication will be given when the canine is about 2 months old.

FOCCAS is not responsible for any illness or injury to your personal animals that happens as a result of fostering. Many animals come into the foster program with illnesses/pests. Risk of illness is minimal if your personal pets are up-to-date on vaccinations.

Parasites for dogs and cats

Worm infestation (roundworms, tapeworms, hookworms, whip worms): Worms can be caused from flea infestations, contaminated water, contaminated stool of other cats, eating insects around the house, etc. Common symptoms of worms include:

- Diarrhea (with or without blood)
- Vomiting
- Enlarged abdomen
- Dehydration

Treatment for a worm infestation includes dewormer treatment (Drontal or Pyrantel) every 10 days until symptoms conclude. Animals under 2 lbs must receive Pyrantel, over 2 lbs can have Drontal. Pyrantel Pamoate is used to treat intestinal roundworm, hookworm, and stomach worm parasites, does not include tapeworms. Drontal is a broad-spectrum dewormer for cats and kittens to treat tapeworms, hookworms, and roundworms.

Flea infestation: Fleas are common pests in our area and infestations are easily spread from cat-to-cat. Fosters should be regularly checked for fleas. Fleas leave behind small black specs called “flea dirt” all over the animal’s coat. Flea combs are used to confirm minor flea infestations. More severe flea infestations are fairly obvious, as you’ll be able to see them crawling on your cat’s skin. Signs of fleas in cats include:

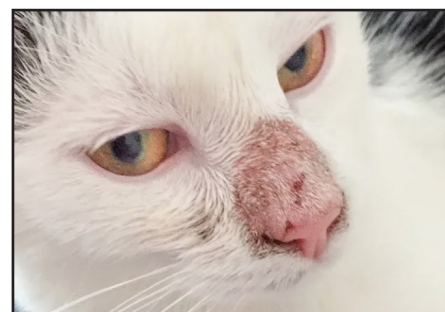
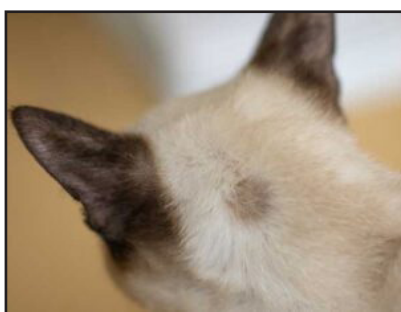
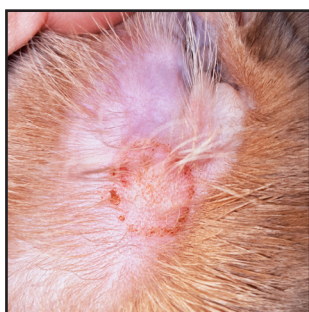
- Excessive itching and over-grooming
- Biting themselves
- “Flea dirt” on coat or common areas
- Agitation or restlessness

Treatment is usually a monthly topical flea medicine (FOCCAS provides) applied directly to the skin in between the shoulder blades. Sometimes a flea bath (with Dawn dish soap) will be necessary before flea medicine. In that case, wait at least 24 hours after the bath before applying the flea meds. Kittens under 2 lbs can not get flea treatment, unless severe. Dawn baths are recommended until the kitten is big enough for treatment. Never use “flea shampoo”.

Ear mites: Ear mites are usually found in the ear canal, but can also live on the skin surface. Ear mites are highly contagious, and animals become infested by direct contact with another infested animal. The mite is barely visible to the naked eye and may be seen as a white speck moving against a dark background. Dirty ears and ear itching are the main symptoms of an ear mite infestation. Treatment is usually an insecticide such as Milbemite[®], Revolution[®], Advantage Multi[®], Simparica[®] or Bravecto[®]. FOCCAS typically uses Revolution.

Ringworm: Ringworm is not a worm, but rather, a fungus that is very common. It can spread through physical contact between animals and can also be spread to humans. Ringworm can also survive on objects such as blankets or hard surfaces. Ringworm causes small patches of hair loss, flaky skin, and/or a red and itchy ring on the skin. It is identified by using a black light or a Wood's lamp, as it glows under those types of light. If ringworm is diagnosed, treatment will typically involve the application of topical anti-fungal medications to all infected areas and, in most cases, an oral medication as well. The vet will be able to make the best determination.

Always be on the lookout for ringworm as it is highly contagious.



Ringworm presents in many different ways. Please let FOCCAS know if your foster has any suspicious spots. Treatment generally takes about six weeks.

External parasites: Mange is a mite that can cause skin sores, especially in immuno-compromised animals. Ticks are also the main cause of Lyme disease, which can cause chronic pain and lameness. Ticks cause Lyme disease in rare circumstances.

Coccidia: This parasite can only be seen with a microscopic examination of a fresh stool. It causes diarrhea, lack of appetite, and an overall weakness. Sometimes a bit of red blood will be noticeable in the stool, and a small animal may not be able to control their bowels. Watery, bloody mucus and feces may drip from their anus.

Giardia: This parasite is caused by ingestion of protozoa from contaminated water. The most common symptom is intermittent or chronic mucous diarrhea. Serial stool samples may be required because it isn't consistently shed in all bowel movements. Sometimes a sample must be collected by a veterinarian. Treatment is difficult because the organisms can be resistant to the medication.

Feline illnesses

Feline Upper Respiratory Infection (URI or “kitty cold”): An upper respiratory infection (URI) is an infection in the nose, sinuses, mouth, and/or throat. URIs are common in rescue cats/kittens, as the stress of rehoming can lower the immune system. Most URIs are contagious from cat to cat. The excessive secretions and sneezing help to spread the bacteria or viruses from one cat to another. Most upper respiratory infections are not considered a medical emergency. Symptoms of a URI include:

- Sneezing
- Drainage from the eyes
- Conjunctivitis (eye inflammation)
- Squinting
- Nasal drainage or crust
- Nasal congestion
- Decreased or absent appetite
- Lethargy
- Fever

Treatment includes supportive care for mild infections. URIs in cats at times can involve bacteria, and these patients are usually prescribed an antibiotic. If your cat is prescribed an antibiotic, be sure to follow the label instructions exactly.

Feline Panleukopenia Virus (Feline Distemper): This virus is a highly contagious, life-threatening infectious disease in cats, commonly called “parvo” as it is a parvovirus. It mostly affects kittens and unvaccinated cats, and it can be fatal if not appropriately diagnosed and treated. This disease cannot be spread to dogs from cats. Panleukopenia is considered one of the deadliest cat diseases in the unvaccinated cat population. Kittens, cats with depressed immune systems and pregnant cats are at the highest risk to develop severe clinical signs of this disease. Symptoms include:

- Lethargy
- Depression
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Painful abdomen (when touched or may appear tense and distended without touching)
- Dehydration
- Weight loss
- Rough or unkempt hair coat
- Fever
- Decreased to absent appetite
- Collapse (in severe cases)

There is no specific treatment for feline panleukopenia other than supportive care. Dehydration is treated with aggressive intravenous fluid therapy while clinical signs of vomiting and diarrhea are treated with

prescription medications. This disease has a high fatality rate, extremely ill cats have a poor prognosis and, on average, will pass away within 12-24 hours. If a cat recovers from feline panleukopenia, there is usually no permanent damage to their organs, and they develop lifelong immunity to the virus.

Fosters that have a positive case of Panleukopenia, will have to take a mandatory break from fostering cats/kittens for at least 6 months. The virus can live in the environment for a long time.

Feline Calicivirus (FCV) is a viral pathogen that causes upper respiratory tract infection in cats. Infection most commonly resembles a cold, but severe infections involving the lungs, joints, and/or other organs can occur. The virus is most commonly found in facilities that house multiple cats, such as rescues, shelters, or breeding facilities. Yet it can spread readily in households with only a few cats. Kittens and young adult cats are usually at the highest risk for infection, but a cat of any age can be affected.

The most common signs are:

- Sneezing
- Nasal discharge
- Ulceration of the surface of the nose (skin broken open)
- Conjunctivitis (eye inflammation)
- Eye discharge

An affected cat may also develop the following:

- Ulcers on the lip, tongue, or elsewhere in the mouth
- Fever
- Lethargy
- Dehydration
- Poor appetite due to severe nasal congestion and/or oral ulcerations



With treatment, most cats will recover from FCV in 7-10 days. But they can become carriers and shed virus from oral and nasal secretions long term. Cats that become chronic carriers may develop oral inflammation (gingivitis/stomatitis) and be at increased risk for growths in the nose, mouth, or ear (nasopharyngeal or aural polyps). Vaccination can help prevent the spread of FCV. A vaccinated cat can still become infected with FCV but not develop any clinical signs or may have mild signs compared to unvaccinated cats. FCV is highly contagious, so it is important to isolate the affected cat, either in a bathroom or bedroom, to avoid exposure. Remember that you can spread the virus to unaffected cats after contact with your infected cat if you do not wash your hands or change your clothes after interaction.

All materials that have come in contact with the infected cat need to be thoroughly washed. The virus can live in the environment on surfaces for 1-4 weeks and is not killed by regular cleaners. Bleach solution at 1 part bleach to 32 parts water can be used to wipe down surfaces and clean materials like bedding, litter boxes, and food and water bowls.

Dog illnesses/diseases

Kennel cough: Kennel cough in dogs is a highly contagious respiratory illness in dogs. Dogs commonly contract kennel cough at places where large numbers of animals congregate, like boarding kennels, daycare facilities, dog parks, dog training groups, and dog shows. It is important to make sure your personal dog(s) are up-to-date on their Bordetella vaccine to prevent infection from foster dogs. Dogs can spread kennel cough to one another through airborne droplets, direct contact (like touching noses), or contaminated surfaces (including water or food bowls).

Symptoms include:

- Strong cough, often with a “honking” sound (the most obvious symptom)
- Runny nose • Sneezing • Lethargy • Loss of appetite • Low fever

Typically, mild cases of kennel cough are treated with a week or so of rest. But your dog’s veterinarian may prescribe antibiotics to prevent a secondary infection, as well as cough suppressant medication to ease the symptoms and help your dog (and you) sleep.

Canine Parvovirus: Canine parvovirus (CPV or commonly referred to as “parvo”) is one of the most serious viruses that dogs can get. Thankfully, it is very preventable with proper vaccination. Although parvovirus is most common in puppies and adolescent dogs, it can also affect adult or senior dogs, especially if they are unvaccinated. This disease cannot be spread to other species, such as cats. Parvo is spread by contact with contaminated feces, but you don’t have to see feces for the virus to be present. It can live on the ground, in kennels, on peoples’ hands, on objects, or on the clothing of those who have been contaminated. A dog infected with canine parvovirus will usually start to show parvo symptoms within three to seven days of infection.

Symptoms include:

- Lethargy • Loss of appetite • Vomiting • Fever or low body temp • Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain/bloating

Persistent vomiting and diarrhea can cause rapid dehydration, and damage to the intestines and immune system can cause septic shock. This disease must be tested for a diagnosed by a veterinarian. There is no specific cure for parvovirus, so treatment revolves around supporting the puppy so their body can fight it off. This can include administering fluids under the skin, nausea medications, electrolytes, antiemetics, force feeding liquid food. This disease has a high fatality rate in puppies.

Leptospirosis: Leptospirosis is a disease caused by infection with *Leptospira* bacteria. These bacteria can be found worldwide in soil and water. Leptospirosis is a zoonotic disease, which means it can be spread from animals to people. Infection in people can cause flu-like symptoms and can cause liver or kidney disease. In our area specifically, beaches are a large risk, as seals are prone to this disease. The signs of leptospirosis in dogs vary. Some infected dogs do not show any signs of illness, some have a mild and transient illness and recover spontaneously, while others develop severe illness and death.

Symptoms include:

- Fever • Shivering • Muscle tenderness • Reluctance to move • Increased thirst
- Changes in the frequency or amount of urination • Dehydration • Vomiting • Diarrhea
- Loss of appetite • Lethargy

Leptospirosis is generally treated with antibiotics and supportive care. When treated early and aggressively, the chances for recovery are good but there is still a risk of permanent residual kidney or liver damage. Currently available vaccines effectively prevent leptospirosis and protect dogs for at least 12 months. Annual vaccination is recommended for at-risk dogs.

Canine Distemper: Canine distemper is a contagious and serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal and nervous systems of puppies and dogs. The virus can also be found in wildlife such as foxes, wolves, coyotes, raccoons, skunks, mink and ferrets and has also been reported in seals. Puppies and dogs most often become infected through airborne exposure (through sneezing or coughing) to the virus from an infected dog or wild animal, though vaccinations diminish the risk of infection. There is no cure for canine distemper infection. Treatment typically consists of supportive care and efforts to prevent secondary infections; control vomiting, diarrhea and neurologic symptoms; and combat dehydration through administration of fluids. Dogs infected with canine distemper must be separated from other dogs to minimize the risk of further infection.

Lyme Disease: Lyme disease, also known as Lyme borreliosis, is a bacterial illness that can be transmitted to humans, dogs, and other animals by certain species of ticks. Once in the bloodstream, the bacteria can travel to different parts of the body and cause problems in specific organs or locations, such as joints, as well as overall illness. Treatment includes antibiotics, usually for at least 30 days. This often resolves symptoms quickly, but in some cases, the infection will persist and prolonged medication may be needed.

Parainfluenza: Parainfluenza is a virus that has similar symptoms to influenza, but it is a distinct disease. It's related to canine distemper and is spread through contact with other dogs. Parainfluenza is a part of a respiratory complex that is highly transmissible. Dogs with a recent parainfluenza infection can also have additional problems like kennel cough.

Coughing is the most common symptom of parainfluenza. The cough can be a dry or a wet, productive one. Your dog may also cough up blood. In addition to coughing, your dog will likely have a fever and look and act like he or she is not well. He or she may not eat or show interest in their usual activities. You will also see more nasal discharge than usual.

Generally, dogs do not need hospitalization for this disease except in extreme cases. After a veterinarian's diagnosis, your dog may need to take medications to ease the symptoms. A prescription cough suppressant can help dogs with severe coughs and breathing problems. If your dog has developed a secondary infection, like pneumonia, he or she may also need antibiotics.

What to do if your foster animal is sick

Please contact FOCCAS immediately if your foster is having any issues.

Please use the previous illnesses/diseases pages to determine what your foster(s) might be suffering from, it doesn't have to be exact. Contact FOCCAS staff with the symptoms your animal is having. They will determine if your foster(s) will need to be seen at the vet. DO NOT go to the vet without contacting FOCCAS staff under any circumstances. Do not take the foster animals to any other vet besides Hanson Meekins without prior permission. FOCCAS will not reimburse for veterinary costs incurred by the foster parent at any vet clinic besides Hanson Meekins.

FOCCAS staff must submit a treatment sheet to the vet before your animal can be seen. You will not need to fill out any paperwork at Hansons. When you arrive at Hansons, please tell them I have my FOCCAS foster, "Fluffy", here for an intake exam, recheck, etc. They will give you a pager to wait in your car (unless it's a morning drop off). Never ever sit in the lobby with your foster. That's how disease is spread. Puppies are to be carried in and out and not touch the grass at the vet clinic. Cats must be transported in carriers.

Giving Medications

Oftentimes, the vet will send your foster home with liquid medication, as it is easier to administer. Give liquid medication via syringe through the side of the mouth, not the front. This is for both cats and dogs.

Giving pills to cat/kittens: Please see opposite page

Giving pills to dogs/puppies: This is usually much easier for dogs than for cats. As dogs tend to be more food motivated, you will likely have success by hiding the pill in some food or pill pockets. If that does not work, follow above steps for giving pills to cats/kittens, though it will be unlikely that you would have to do this.

Diarrhea is fairly common with fostered animals. Sometimes we ask the foster to drop off a stool sample to Hansons to determine exactly what might be the issue. But frequently it's just upset tummy, we try canned pumpkin and probiotics.

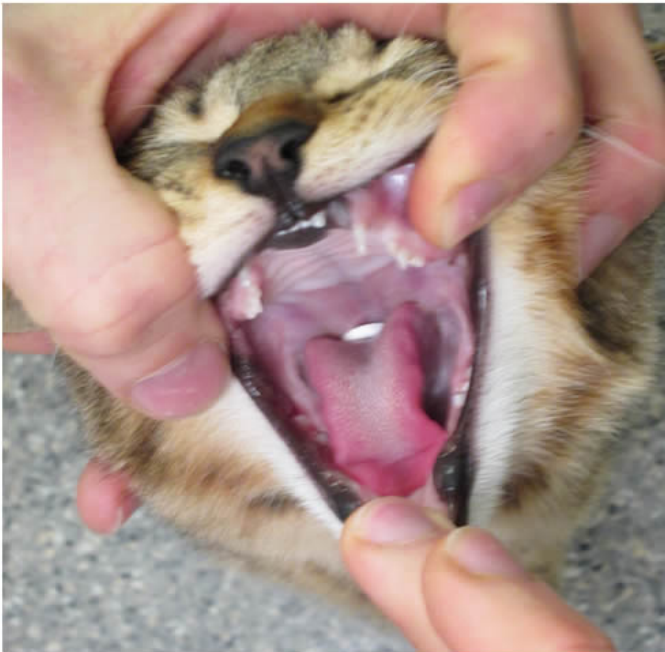
Steps to giving your cat a tablet



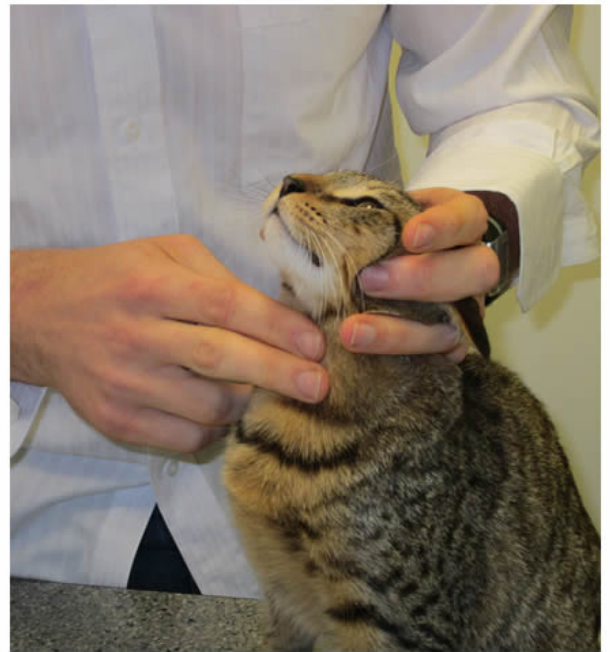
Step 1: Place the tablet between the thumb and index finger of one hand. With the other hand hold the top of the cat's head and gently using your thumb and index finger grasp the cheekbones, near where the mouth ends.



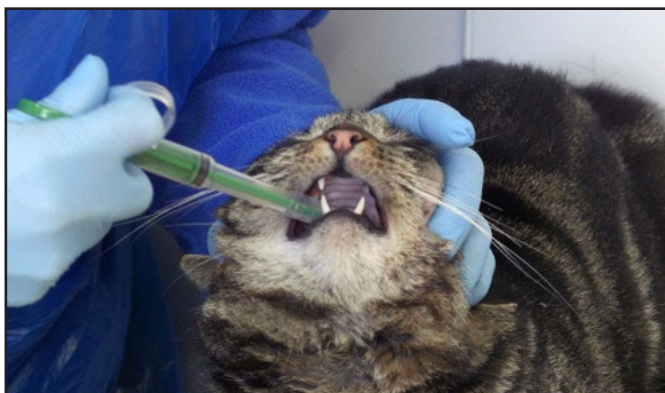
Step 2: With a secure grasp, gently tilt the cats head back and the jaw will naturally open a little. Using your ring finger gently lower the bottom jaw and drop the tablet toward the back of the cats tongue.



Step 3: The further back you can get the tablet in the mouth the better chance you have that your cat will swallow the tablet with ease.



Step 4: Whilst still holding the head gently, stroke the cats throat, this encourages the cat to swallow and presto, the tablet is gone.



Or you can use a pill popper.

Cat enrichment ideas

Cats are supremely intelligent, curious, adventurous and active creatures that require mental and physical stimulation to thrive! When fostering a feline, it's your responsibility to provide them with a stimulating environment – one that engages their minds and bodies to relieve mental and physical energy, as well as satisfy their need for independent-time.

Think of places to play, climb, scratch and hide – these are a housecat's main occupations.

Think multi-sensory – cats experience their world through smell, sound and touch much more than we do, so you have to give the stimulation of these senses much more attention.

Think vertically – cats are natural climbers and appreciate vertical space as much as horizontal – and climbing opportunities make a small space feel much more spacious! Cat trees are a great idea.

In the wild, cats rely on speed, stealth, cleverness and cunning for our very survival. In your home, cats have to be able to express these instincts to stay happy, healthy and well-behaved!

Cats love stalking and chasing toys such as springs, balls, crinkly balls, battery powered balls with tails, etc.

When it comes to stalking and chasing, the wand is probably the most archetypal cat toy – a stick with a string and bait at the end. These are absolutely indispensable for active play, and will be the centerpiece of active bonding time with your kitty.

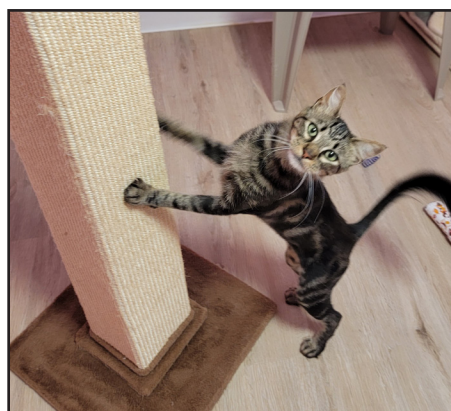
Puzzle feeders aren't just fantastic enrichment – they also slow down eating, making them highly recommended by veterinarians for weight management and digestive health.

Tunnels, playmats, paper bags, floppy fish are also fun to add to their enrichment.

When it comes to scratchers – bigger is better. A scratcher should not move – that means either the cat can put their full bodyweight on it, or it's heavy enough on its own not to move around. It should also be big enough to enable the maximum stretch – so always go for the biggest scratcher possible.

Make some DIY toys such as boxes with various holes or cardboard mazes.

Rescue cats are especially in need of enrichment. It not only alleviates boredom but helps them socialize and regulate their behavior as they await adoption into their forever homes.



Puppy vaccine schedule

	intake exam	dewormer	1st puppy shot	• 2nd puppy shot with lepto • Bordetella	3rd puppy shot with lepto	Rabies	Flea meds
	X	X					
		X	X				X
		X		X			X
					X	X	X

Dog enrichment ideas

The key to a happy and healthy foster dog is regular enrichment and allowing them to engage in their innate behaviors, such as playing, chasing, smelling, chewing and scavenging. By allowing your foster dog to engage in these behaviors, you allow them to be physically, emotionally and mentally satisfied. Dogs who don't receive stimulation tend to find ways to enrich themselves, resulting in unwanted behaviors.

Whether it's lack of vaccination or bad weather, you'll need some ideas to keep Fido busy indoors.



Food-based enrichment: Every meal is an opportunity for enrichment, and food puzzles are a great way to slow down your foster dog's eating and provide mental stimulation. You could spread food on the textured surface of a 'lick mat' for your dog to enjoy calmly. Alternatively, you could get them a puzzle feeder. How about a rubber one that you pre-fill and chill to make it last longer? A dig box is a simple but effective way to create enrichment from newspaper and a cardboard box. Simply scrunch the paper up, pop it inside the box and hide kibble within it. You could also put kibble inside toilet roll.

Scent-based enrichment: Smell is very important to our dogs. Sniffing is a natural behavior and is a key way our dogs gain information about their environment. Hide treats around the house for them to find. The shell game with treats under cups is another fun idea.

Games with toys: Playing games with toys is beneficial to your pup physically as well as mentally. Be sure to rotate toys weekly. Your foster dog may rip soft toys up – this is natural behavior. Just make sure you are always supervising when they are playing with these toys. You don't

want them to swallow any small parts.

Doggy psychology experts also claim that a game of fetch stimulates the reward regions of a dog's brain so playing simply feels good, which might help explain why it's a game they never seem to tire of.

Obedience training: Learning basic commands makes all foster dogs more adoptable. Please train your dog to at least learn to sit, down, and come.

Tips for feline adoption photos



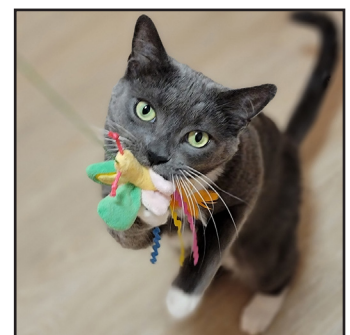
Our shelter management system allows for **SQUARE** format only.

Solid or plain backgrounds are best.

Get their attention with a **kitty teaser** or ball.

We need one good full body shot, then some personality pics.

If you have a bonded pair, get a good shot of them together as well as separate.





History of FOCCAS

Friends of Coos County Animals (FOCCAS) started from humble beginnings in 2005 by Laura Jorgensen. Laura started volunteering at the Coos County Animal Shelter shortly after moving to the area. She soon realized that starting a separate non-profit organization would be the most effective way to help not only the shelter, but the pets and families of Coos County. In its first years, FOCCAS only facilitated adoptions from the shelter, but by August of 2006 FOCCAS was actively taking in dogs and cats to rehome independently. FOCCAS was registered as a 501(c) 3 (non-profit) in March of 2007.

Sadly, after years of incredible dedication and rehoming countless animals, Laura passed away in 2020. Without her tireless work, we would not be here today. There are no words that can truly express how much Laura meant to the animals and families of Coos County. She will be greatly missed, but her work will be carried on...by you.

YOU are the most important part of FOCCAS!

Without all of our amazing fosters, FOCCAS would cease to exist. Thank you for opening your home and your hearts to pets in need.

