GUIDELINES FOR FOSTERING CATS - Revised - 05 25 2020

*Most cats in a new environment are frightened and will hide. It is best to keep them in a confined area at first, such as an extra bedroom or other area that can be closed off. However, please <u>do not provide hiding places by leaving</u> <u>closet doors open for them</u>. They will tend to hide under a bed if they can, but should come out after a few days. The more you encourage hiding, the more likely they will surface only to eat and use the litter box for a longer period of time. Their food, water, litter, toys and other items of comfort should be in this room until they're ready to come out (1-2 days). The kitty will show you when it's ready to move into the whole house by how relaxed and friendly it is. <u>If there are other pets in the house this is mandatory</u>.

*It is important to go in for frequent visits, talking quietly so they get used to your voice. Leave an article of clothing so they get used to your scent. You might have a radio or tv on playing soft music. If you have other cats in the home leave things with your cat's scent and visa versa so they get used to one another that way.

*Cats often will not eat for a few days in a new environment. It is important that they have fresh water and that the litter is watched for signs that they are eating and drinking.

*Rescue remedy (4 drops) in the water bowl daily may be helpful. Sprinkling cat nip or spraying cat nip spray might also help the kitty relax.

Never leave a cat in a home unattended with only a screen door for protection from the outside. Also, do not leave windows wide open with only screens protecting them. Cats can easily escape through screens and coyotes have been known to gain access to homes by jumping through screens.

Foster cats must be indoor only. Cats should not be left unattended on balconies that are not fully enclosed/secure. Giving our kitties access to outdoors only puts them at risk and eminent death in our community. They can get spooked and run, and Coyotes are hungry and looking for prey 24 hrs. a day. It also gives them a desire to escape when your doors open as you're leaving.

*The Cat Club will reimburse for litter, food and supplies (submit receipts) and will furnish those when the cat first arrives. Any necessary vet care or nail trimming will be taken care of by the Cat Club.