

What's the next best thing to adopting a pet? Fostering!

There's no question that foster programs are important to the success of shelters and rescue groups. Everyone benefits: The foster volunteer gets to spend time with a special pet and the shelter or rescue gains space for another animal.

What does it mean to foster a pet?

A foster is someone who provides a temporary home until the animal is adopted. Fosters provide valuable information about the animal's personality, likes/dislikes, and overall disposition that help find the best possible match for a successful adoption.

What is required of a foster home?

The foster plays an important role as a conduit between the animal's past and future. Aside from regular day-to-day basic care (feeding, walks, etc.) the responsibilities of a foster home may include basic training (housetraining, walking on a leash); behavior modification (to correct problems such as jumping, mouthing, barking); temperament evaluation; if necessary, medical care (taking the animal to the veterinarian, giving medication) and of course, playtime!

How long will I have my foster?

It varies from a few weeks or longer, depending on the circumstances.

Are there financial costs involved? What will be provided?

The foster is NOT responsible for veterinarian visits or medications. Basic necessities like dog dishes, dog bed, crates, and leashes are often provided by the foster if they have them, however, they can be provided, if needed.



Is the foster required to find an adopter for the animal?

No, the organization is responsible for finding the adopter. However, the foster is encouraged to let their friends, co-workers, & neighbors know that the animal is available for adoption.

What if I become attached to my foster?

A good tip is to think of fostering like babysitting a friend's pet while they're on vacation. You would take really good care of the animal but emotionally you would know that you're going to have the pet for a limited time. Most people describe the day that their foster goes to their "forever home" as bittersweet. You may miss your foster but you'll be happy for them and their adopter!

Can I adopt my foster?

Yes, you have the option of adopting your foster! An Adoption Contract will need to be completed & signed, as well as any other processes necessary to complete the adoption. Bear in mind, experts point out that it's not always recommended. Adopting the pet often means one less foster home the shelter or rescue can count on. Some fosters find it helpful to remind themselves that there is another pet whose life depends on an available foster home. Having said that, we're always happy when an animal finds a loving home – whether it's with the foster or an adopter.

Where do I start?

Fill out a Foster Application.

I can't foster at this time. How else can I help?

You can help by following us on social media, volunteering, or making a donation.

