



About our Fostering Program

Foster care provides a crucial stepping-stone on the way to a forever home for many animals. Our foster programs allow us to help many, many more animals than we would be able to if we were without caring homes to place our animals temporarily. These animals present the greatest need, as they require extra time and energy to get them on the road to finding their forever homes.

Our foster families open their homes to these animals, providing shelter, care, love and attention. Fostering is often a team effort, with each family member playing a special role in ensuring that their foster animal is receiving enough of everything. Fostering is truly a rewarding experience and our families know that they are integral in offering each animal they care for a second chance at a new beginning.

About our program...

Why do we have a foster program?

We began our foster program to increase the number of animals that we are able to help. As a no-kill rescue organization, we make a lifelong commitment to each and every animal that we take on. For those animals that do not adopt, we become their “forever home”. These animals reside at our sanctuary, along side animals awaiting adoption, and impact the number of new animals we are able to shelter and care for. Our network of foster homes literally increases the amount of space we have available and enables us to continually help new animals, while maintaining a high quality environment for our permanent residents.

What types of animals are in need of foster homes?

Many animals come to us in need of a little extra TLC before they are ready for adoption. Some animals may need a bit of time to become reacquainted with living in a home if they have been stray or abandoned. Some are recovering from surgery or illness and need a warm, comfy place to recuperate. Others are animals that have not been adopted as quickly as we’ve hoped and need break a break from the hustle and bustle of our Adoption Centers. We feature four Foster Programs, each serving the needs of the different animals we have in our care: *Medical Foster*, *Socialization Foster*, *PetsMart Foster*, and *Kitten Foster*.

What are a foster home’s responsibilities?

We expect that any animal entering a foster home will be welcomed as a member of the family. Foster homes must be able to provide a clean, safe, and loving environment in which to care for the animal. Every Creature Counts works strictly on donations and while we try to provide food and supplies to foster homes, we most often are not able to do so. It is the responsibility of the foster home to assume the financial responsibility of daily care of the animal.

If an animal requires scheduled medical attention (such as vaccinations and spay/neuters for kittens), it is the responsibility of the foster family to transport the animal to our clinic in Brighton to meet these appointments. Occasionally, animals become ill while in foster care. Medical assistance is available during regular clinic hours. In all cases, an appointment must be scheduled prior to bringing the animal to the clinic for treatment. If after hours, emergency care is required, it is the foster provider's responsibility to coordinate and pay for those services. Hopefully, if proper guidelines are followed, the need for such care will not be necessary.

Special considerations for fostering dogs:

We require that foster care providers of dogs have a fenced yard with some sort of shelter. We expect that our foster dogs will be spending most of their time with their foster family, as they are social animals who crave interaction with people and will benefit enormously from the attention they receive.

Special considerations for fostering cats:

All foster cats must be kept indoors at all times to prevent injury or illness. When introducing a foster cat to a home with existing pets, it is helpful to keep the foster cat separate for a few days so that it may adjust to the new surroundings.

What are ECC's responsibilities?

ECC staff offer support and guidance to all foster homes. We also provide informational materials relevant to the type of animal/situation that is fostered. We check in with foster home every week to two weeks and are available to respond to questions or concerns. We may also conduct periodic home visits to ensure that foster animals are comfortable in their surroundings.

ECC veterinary staff will try to be available for scheduling appointments during regular clinic hours. All routine worming, vaccines, dentals, and FeLV testing is done at the clinic. Appointments must be made ahead of time due to spay/neuter demands, which are the first priority of the veterinary staff.

At the end of the foster period, ECC will ask that you summarize your experiences with your foster so that we may provide as much information as possible about the animal to potential adoptive families.

What happens to the animal once it leaves foster care?

When the foster animal is healthy, socialized, or old enough for adoption, they are placed in an Adoption Center where they will find their new forever home!

Do all foster animals get adopted?

We do our very best to find loving, *permanent* homes for all our animals. Unfortunately, not all foster animals find forever homes. We will communicate with you and be open with you about options as we together give these animals a second chance.

If you are thinking about becoming a foster parent/family, there are a few important questions to consider.

Will I have time to spend with the foster animal?

Animals are placed in foster care to receive the individualized attention that they have been lacking. It is important that you consider how much quality time you will be able to devote to the care of a foster animal before you make a commitment.

Do I have room to foster an animal?

Some of our foster animals, such as kittens or animals recovering from surgery or illness, will require a special space in your home. Kittens need to be separated from other animals and kept warm and secure due to their susceptibility to illness. Animals recovering from surgery may have physical limitations that need to be accommodated or those recovering from certain treatments may need to be kept calm and away from excessive stimuli. Consider your home and if you have the capability of working with these foster groups.

Are you able to separate the foster animals from your own animals?

Animals are just like us, they have different ways of transitioning into new situations. When you first meet someone, it may take you a bit of time before you feel entirely comfortable with them. Animals often have the same experience, and need to be introduced to their new roommates at a slower pace. Making sure you have a safe space to have your foster animal, should they require more transition time into your home, is an important consideration.

Are you able to transport a foster animal to our veterinary clinic?

Some of our foster animals will need to visit our clinic while in your care. Kittens will need to receive their second round of vaccinations and have a general health check. And, as with any animal, something could come up that requires a check up by one of our staff members. It is very important that you are able to transport your foster animal to our clinic to ensure that they receive the care they need.

Will you be able to return the foster animal to us at the end of the foster period?

Families frequently become very attached to the animals they foster and decide that they want to either keep the animal as their own, or give the animal to a family member or friend. We hope that you will become dedicated to the care of your foster animal but ask that you keep in mind that the more animals you are able to foster, the more animals we are able to help. If someone you know is interested in adopting your foster animal, they will need to complete the adoption application process once the animal is ready for adoption.

Fostering an animal is a serious, but immensely rewarding commitment. Please consider opening your home to a foster animal today and extended our network of help. If you feel you cannot commit to being a foster parent at this time, but would like to support our efforts, please explore our other volunteer opportunities or consider making a donation.

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We who reach to help another creature, hold the heart of humanity in our hands.