

Foster Program Q & A



What do fosters do?

Foster parents give love and attention to animals in need until they are ready to be put up for adoption. Situations that would require a foster parent – kittens who are too young to be spayed or neutered (under 12 weeks), older cats that need socialization or medical care, and temporary fostering while permanent fosters are on vacation.

Sometimes the animals are weak and undernourished from their lives pre-rescue. A foster parent would give medicine (such as dewormers, flea prevention, antibiotics) and special care while the animal recovers. Travel to and from the veterinarian may also be needed, as required by the foster kitty. Medicating and necessary services are done under supervision of the more experienced board members of the rescue group.

A foster parent also helps socialize animals, making them ready for a loving fur-ever home. It may surprise you, but the biggest responsibility of a foster is to give love. Animals need love and attention from humans so they will learn not to fear them. There is nothing that compares to the first time you hear a skittish kitten purr in your lap! This is the most important thing we do for our rescue animals.

When your kitty is fully vetted and ready to find their fur-ever home, you'll be responsible for transporting them to and from weekend adoption events a few times a month until adopted.

What is the cost?

When you work with a rescue like ours, all food, supplies, medical expenses and procedures are covered by the organization. Any personal expenses for additional costs to care for the foster animals can be calculated and submitted as tax-deductible items (keep all receipts). So there is very little out-of-pocket cost.

What are the advantages?

Love kittens? Some foster parents have told us they love having a batch of kittens running around and making them laugh. For older cats, knowing you are giving them a safe environment when they may have seen a few hard days is priceless.

In the military?

This is a great way to have a pet without the worry of having to find a new home if deployed or have to move. Consider opening your home to some sweet kitties, knowing they will find happy, loving homes after you leave.

What about my other pets?

We carefully vet our animals, testing them for communicable diseases before they are combined with other animals. Some animals enjoy new playmates. If your animals are not happy about the new arrivals, keep the new kitties in a separate area of the house. If you don't have a separate area of the house, you may have room for temporary care. Occasionally, when young kittens or mamas with nursing babies arrive, they can be housed in a large crate, perhaps just for the first week or so before moving on to another foster home with more space.

I've got dogs so can I foster cats?

This may also be on a case by case basis. Cat-friendly dogs are often a help to acclimating a kitten into a multi-animal household. This gives the kitten more options for adoption when that time comes.

Afraid of getting attached?

We all get attached – we would not do this work if we didn't care deeply about the animal's well-being. But, keep in mind that you are saving lives and every cat or kitten that you nurture to become a well-balanced, adorable pet must move on to its permanent home because YOU have the skill to nurture the next one. Our adoption program focuses on matching the personalities of the cats with the family. We want to know that our rescued animal is going to have a happy future – that means a happy family too, so we follow up and ensure that an adoption is successful for all concerned (including any resident pets that were there first).

Worried you'll get stuck with the foster animals?

We have developed a system that makes sure that there is a solution for each rescued animal depending on its needs. Foster families can rest assured that Animal Rescue Connections puts your family's needs as a high priority. We make a commitment to you as you make a commitment to us, and we respect your need to know that the animals that have been lucky enough to share your home, have a plan for their future in their permanent home.

Become a foster parent today! Foster families are the heartbeat of the rescue team. Consider opening your heart and home to a needy animal and help us save lives!