

FREQUENTLY ASKED FOSTER QUESTIONS

What supplies are needed to foster?

The shelter can provide some supplies when available, all needed medications, and medical care throughout your foster experience. Foster families provide space, food, basic training and love for the animal. Any food or supplies you purchase for your foster animal is tax deductible.

*please note that while we recommend “crating” your foster dog in your absence, the SPCA cannot always provide dog crates.

How much space do I need (for cat/kitten fosters)?

Even if you don't have a spare bedroom to house a cat, a bathroom, or even a large dog crate makes a suitable temporary home. They need enough room to get up, walk around, stretch their legs and of course lay down.

Do my hours count toward volunteering?

Yes! Please count one hour per animal per day of fostering toward your yearly volunteer hours. Contact **Lee Ann Luxenberger** at the end of fostering to add these hours. You will need to already be a volunteer with the SPCA to receive volunteer hours. If you are not please contact lluxenberger@spcacincinnati.org or fill out an application on our volunteer page.

How long are pets usually in foster care?

Each animal going into the foster program has a different length of time needed before being adoption ready. If you have any time restraints please let the foster coordinators know so they can appropriately match you with the right animal.

Are foster animals contagious? Will my pets or my health be jeopardized? It is always a health risk to expose your animal to other animals, whether at off-leash areas, the vet waiting room or any common animal areas. Your foster pet has been exposed to contagious diseases and can in turn expose your pet. Please consider the age and health of the pets in your home when you foster. We suggest you keep your foster pets separate from your owned pets, and make certain your pets are current on their vaccinations.

If someone in your household is immune compromised, consult your doctor before fostering. If you (or someone in your home) are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, talk to your doctor before fostering cats. You may need to consider postponing fostering until a later date.

What if my foster pet becomes sick?

If you have questions regarding the health of your foster pet please contact the foster coordinators at foster@spcacincinnati.org. If the problem isn't an emergency, we will make an appointment. In an emergency we will schedule you immediately. All veterinary care is given at the shelter. Should you choose to take the SPCA foster animal to your own veterinarian, please be advised that we CANNOT reimburse you for any medical costs, incurred during these visits, no exceptions.

Are foster animals ever euthanized?

Animals are considered for euthanasia for chronic or terminal health or severe behavioral reasons by our medical staff. The same criteria apply to foster animals. Euthanasia is never an easy decision, and we understand the level of attachment you may develop for your foster animal. If you have any questions about the decision, you may contact foster coordinators at foster@spcacincinnati.org.

Can foster parents adopt their foster pets?

Yes! As long as foster parents meet the shelter requirements that are necessary for adopting, foster parents **usually** have the first choice to adopt their foster pet. The only exception would be a pet for which we already have an adoption or media plan, which will be noted at the time of pick up.

How do foster pets get adopted?

Foster pets are often adopted by friends and/or family of foster parents. Photos and stories of available pets in foster care can be posted on our web site and Petfinder.org where the public can view available pets. Please provide us with cute photos, and stories of your foster pet. It will help get them adopted more quickly! Potential adopters are advised to contact the shelter and arrange a meeting for an animal in foster care. If someone is interested in meeting a foster animal, they must meet them on SPCA grounds and the foster coordinators must be aware before bringing the animal in for the meet and greet.

All adoptions must be processed by an SPCA employee, including adoptions by family or friends of foster parents. Foster pets remain the property and responsibility of SPCA and it is crucial that all paperwork be completed before a foster pet is given to a potential adopter. Foster pets **must not** be transferred to a potential adopter until paperwork is completed, even for an overnight trial.