



## Fostering FAQs

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**Everything you always wanted to know about fostering but were afraid to ask!**

### **Why should I foster a cat or dog?**

As a foster parent, you provide a safe and calm environment for our shelter animals. The shelter can be an extremely scary and overwhelming place for most animals, which makes learning about them difficult for our staff. You'll be able to learn a lot more about the animal and provide us with insight that will eventually help find the pet a forever home. Fostering saves lives!

### **What will it cost to foster an animal?**

Nothing! Animal Care of Davis County provides food, bowls, leashes, bedding, kennels, toys, litter, and anything else a foster animal might need. We're extremely grateful to the amazing people who donate these supplies to our shelter which makes this entire program possible.

### **What will I need to do as a foster parent?**

As a foster parent, you'll provide the shelter staff with information regarding the animal's temperament, behavior, likes/dislikes, and any information we can pass along to potential adopters to help successfully place the foster animal in a loving and caring forever home. Foster families are also responsible for setting up meet-and-greets and answering questions from potential adopters. Overall, the most important thing you can do is care for and love your foster pet while they're in your home.

### **Will I get to choose the dog or cat that I foster?**

Yes! We send bulletins to our foster family network showing which animals currently need foster placement, while some foster families choose to visit us in person to select the animal. Whichever way you prefer, we're just happy one of our furry friends is getting a little vacation from the stressful environment of the shelter!

### **Will my foster pet be healthy?**

Unfortunately, we can't guarantee the health of any given foster animal. As you know, a number of animals we receive come with unknown backgrounds and although it's very rare, we can't ensure the pet you're taking home will be completely healthy. We can, however, provide you with the tools to know what to look for and how to care for certain illnesses that may occur, and we always provide our foster families with medication and supplies that may be needed to care for the animal.

### **How often will I need to bring in my foster pet for medical check-ups?**

Foster kittens need to be brought in for vaccine boosters and for weight checks about once a month. Our Foster and Rescue Coordinator will reach out to you regarding these appointments. Adult dogs and cats don't usually need to come in for check-ups unless a health related issue occurs. We'll provide you with the tools to know when your foster pet might need medical attention.

### **What if I already have a pet?**

Even better! This is actually a great tool for us to learn more about the "personality" of your foster pet. Socializing helps us understand how your foster pet interacts with other animals which will greatly help our Adoption Team in finding them a forever home.

### **Do I need to keep my pet separate from my foster pet?**

Foster pets are typically encouraged to interact with the pets already in your home. Of course this depends on the health of your foster pet, and if an appropriate introduction between your pet and your foster pet can be accomplished. Learning how your foster pet interacts with other animals is very important information for us to know when it comes to placing them with their forever family. There are some cases, however, where we would ask that you keep your foster pet separate from your current pets. For instance, some cats get what we call a "kitty cold" in the shelter, and while they recover much faster in foster care, they could also still be contagious, so keeping the pets separated creates a healthier environment for them all.

### **How long would I keep my foster pet?**

We typically prefer our animals to stay in foster care until they're adopted so they never have to live in the hectic shelter environment, however we understand that life happens and this won't be possible for everyone. Ultimately, the length of time that you care for your foster pet in your home is completely up to you!

### **Do I need a fenced yard in order to foster a dog?**

No. Plenty of our foster families live in wonderful homes without fenced yards. As long as you're monitoring your foster pet while they're outdoors and keeping them securely leashed, no fenced yard is necessary.

### **Do I need to be home with the animal all day?**

No. Many of our current foster parents have regular jobs outside of their homes and have no issues at all!

### **Will I become attached to my foster pet?**

It's very possible that you'll become attached to your foster pet. If you'd like to adopt your foster pet, you're given top priority, permitting that you're within the county's pet limit of three per household, of course.

### **Yep, I decided I want to adopt my foster pet. What now?**

This is one of our favorite kinds of adoption, lovingly referred to as a “foster fail.” As we mentioned, our foster families are given top priority in the event you decide to adopt your foster pet. All you need to do is reach out to our Foster and Rescue Coordinator at 801-444-2215 and let them know you want to make it official!

### **What if a friend or family member wants to adopt my foster pet?**

Great! This is another one of the many positive outcomes of fostering a shelter animal. If a family member or friend is interested in adopting your foster pet, please have them contact our Foster and Rescue Coordinator at 801-444-2215 to begin the adoption process.

### **Where do I meet potential adopters to show them my foster pet?**

We leave this up to you. At your discretion, you can meet anywhere you feel safe and most comfortable. You can meet at our shelter, a park, a point of interest in your neighborhood, a church or grocery store parking lot, your home, or any other place you feel is safe and appropriate.

### **What if I'm unavailable to foster an animal when you call with updates?**

No problem! We understand that life doesn't always allow for fostering. We just ask that you keep us in mind when you become available again, or help us in other ways like spreading the word and sharing the animal on your social media posts!

### **This sounds like fun, I'm totally ready to foster! What now?**

Wonderful! To get started, all you have to do is fill out a foster application for [dogs](#) or [cats](#). If you're completely undecided and want to try fostering a dog and a cat, go ahead and fill out both applications! Alternatively, you can always call 801-444-2215 to speak with our Foster and Rescue Coordinator, and they'll be happy to help. Thank you so much for your interest and your generous support for the health and happiness of our animals!