

Foster Parent FAQs Sheet

How long will I have a foster in my home?

The length of stay for every foster is different and can vary greatly depending on the animal's age, any medical needs or issues the animal may have, etc. The average length for each animal is about 3-4 weeks however, it could be 1 day up to several months and on rare occasions a year or more. There is no way to tell how long it will take for your foster to be adopted, but please remember that if at any time you are no longer able to care for your foster you are able to call our Foster Coordinator and they can find an alternative placement for your foster animal.

How often will I have a foster?

You can have a foster as often as you would like. We can always find an animal in a high-kill shelter that needs a loving, caring foster home to keep them warm and safe until they are adopted. Just talk with the Foster Coordinator and let them know that you would like another foster at anytime and they can work with the Dog or Cat Coordinator to find one for you!

How many fosters will I have?

A. You can have as many fosters as you feel comfortable having in your home and that you know you will be able to safely care for. Occasionally we will have litters of puppies or kittens that need a home and it would be great to keep them together if that is convenient for you, however if you only wish to have one foster at a time that is GREAT as well!

Does NWAC provide me with all the supplies needed to care for my foster animal or am I required to purchase the supplies on my own?

A. NWAC can provide you with the supplies needed to care for your foster, however you will be responsible for all items and they will all need to be returned when your foster is adopted. We can provide you with food, toys, bedding, crate, water/food dishes, etc. but if you do choose to buy these items on your own it is tax deductible and you will be able to claim it on your taxes.

Can I feed my foster animals the same food I feed my current pets?

You can feed your foster whatever you would like, unless your foster is on a specific diet or has an allergy, in that case you will need to provide the food provided. Please just remember that when changing an animal's food it can cause some digestive problems and cause diarrhea if not changed gradually.

How will I know if you need me to foster?

When we pull animals from high-kill shelters our Dog/Cat Coordinator will email the Foster Coordinator who will then send a mass email out to all of our Foster Families telling them about the animals that will be arriving and needing foster care. At that time you can email the Foster Coordinator back and let him/her know if you would like to foster this go around and which animal you would like to foster. She/he will try to provide as much information about each of the incoming animals so that you can pick which one(s) you would like to foster. If you are an "Emergency Foster" you will get an email with a follow up phone call asking if you are available to foster.

Do I get to pick the animal that I want to foster?

Yes, in most cases you will get to pick the foster that you would like to take home. When you receive an email from our Foster Coordinator just view through the incoming animals and let him/her know which one(s) you would like to foster at your home. We will make every effort to get you the foster that you choose.

How do I pick up my foster?

After you have chosen an animal to foster from an incoming group you will receive an email from our Foster Coordinator with instructions on where and when to pick up your foster. If for some reason you are unable to pick them up at the specified time please email the Foster Coordinator and let them know and they may be able to make other arrangements for you to get your foster.

How will I know if my foster's vaccines are all up to date?

This information will be provided to you at intake. If your foster is in need of vaccines and/or spay/neutering, our Treatment Coordinator will contact you, via email, about setting up a convenient time for you to take your foster to get this done.

Who do I contact with questions?

In your foster pamphlet it has all of the contact information for each situation or question that may arise.

Foster Parent FAQs Sheet

What if my foster isn't working out in my home?

If your foster isn't working out, for whatever reason, please contact the Foster Coordinator via phone or email and they will assist you in removing the foster from your home and getting them into another foster home.

What if my foster gets sick?

If you feel that your foster is not feeling well please call the Treatment Coordinator as soon as possible and they will advise you on what should be done and if your foster needs to go to an E-Vet or if the situation can wait until the regular Vet is available.

What if my foster gets sick at 2 in the morning? Do I need to contact someone or should I just go straight to the E-Vet?

If your foster gets sick at 2 in the morning you can contact our Treatment Coordinator; if they are not available you should try the Director. If you are unable to get in touch with anyone then it will be up to you on if you feel the situation warrants a trip to the E-Vet. If you do choose to go the E-Vet please go to the one that is approved for care through NWAC. See your Foster Booklet for information on which E-Vet to go to.

What if my foster gets one of my animals sick? Who is responsible?

NWAC is a non-profit, all volunteer organization and we are not able to pay for the care of personal pets that are not currently in the care of our organization. With that being said we will make every effort to assist you in getting the correct diagnosis for your pet. Also, when you signed the Foster Agreement it states "By signing below, you indicate your understanding and the understanding of all residents of your household of the risks inherent in fostering a rescue dog. Most dogs handled through rescue come to us anonymously. Therefore we may not be aware of or have knowledge of, nor do we make any representation in regard to any pre-existing health, temperament or behavior conditions." We would never purposefully place an ill animal in your home, but that is a risk that you take as a foster parent and we do try to take every precaution to assure the safety of your animals and your family.

What if I know someone that wants to adopt my foster?

If you know someone that would like to adopt your foster and you feel comfortable with them adopting your foster, GREAT! We will help you and them complete the paperwork and assure everything is done correctly! Just contact our Adoptions Coordinator and let them know and they will work with you on completing this adoption.

How does someone adopt through NWAC?

Most of our adoptions happen at our adoption events every other weekend, however if at anytime someone would like to adopt one of our animals they can contact our Adoptions Coordinator and they will complete the necessary paperwork with the adopter and walk them through the process.

Can I help at the adoption events?

Foster parents are strongly encouraged to volunteer at the adoption events. Since you are the one that will know your foster animal the best and will be able to talk with potential adopters about all of your pet's great qualities and would be the best person to pick the perfect match for your foster and his forever home! So, YES, we encourage you to stay and help at the adoption events.

Can I just foster until I find the perfect match for my family and then just adopt that animal? Or What if I want to adopt my foster?

The short answer is yes, but we always prefer our fosters volunteer to foster animals for other reasons other than to "test" the animals in their home to find the right match. When a foster family adopts, they usually stop fostering and this causes us to lose a foster home and then we are no longer able to help as many animals as we would have, had the foster not adopted. However, we do realize that sometime it is hard to let that "special" animal leave and you will want to keep them forever. It would be great if you were still willing to foster even after you adopt that "perfect" match.

What if someone contacts me and wants to adopt my foster but I don't feel comfortable, or don't feel that it is a good match?

You, as the foster parent and the one that knows your foster the best, always have the right to say "no". You should never feel pressured or like you have to say yes to anyone wanting to adopt your foster. If you do not feel comfortable saying no then you can refer to our Adoption Coordinator and explain to them your concerns and they can take care of saying no for you. This way you do not feel like you are in a difficult situation.

What if I know someone that would like to help NWAC?

If you know someone that would like to volunteer to help NWAC that is WONDERFUL, we are always looking for additional volunteers for a number of different things. Just give the Volunteer Coordinator the individuals information, or give the Volunteer Coordinators information to the individual and they can make arrangements to being helping!