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Foster Program FAQ's

How do I become a foster volunteer?

You will need to fill out an online foster volunteer application for the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region (HSPPR) or Pueblo Animal Services (PAS). Our Foster Care Coordinator will set you up for the Foster Volunteer Orientation as well as a specific training for the foster program.

What is required of me as a foster volunteer?

Providing a safe, 'kitten/puppy-proofed' room in your home that contains the animals' necessities: food, water, bedding, litter box, potty pads/newspapers, toys, etc. You are responsible for ensuring that your foster animal receives any scheduled medical treatments on time, is healthy, and well socialized.

What are the requirements for a foster room?

The foster room needs to be a designated place for your foster animals to spend the bulk of their time. HSPPR/PAS recommends a spare bedroom, den, office, or a large bathroom (for cats & kittens only). This room will need to be 'kitten/puppy-proofed' and have plenty of space for a litter box, food and water dishes, as well as sleep and play areas.

What supplies do I need to provide myself?

HSPPR/PAS will provide you with a baby bag full of basic medical supplies as well as provide all vaccines and medication necessary for your foster animals. HSPPR/PAS will also supply litter box and litter, food and food dishes, toys and scratching implement, bedding and other small incidentals. However, if you need help with any other supplies, we will do our best to help you.

How do I get a foster animal/group of foster animals?

After you have completed foster training, you will receive a weekly email called the "Foster Forecast" with animals currently in need of a foster home. Whoever responds first, and is the best match for the foster animals, will get the animal/group. The Foster Care Coordinator will then send further information with specifics on arrival and pick up information.

How much do I need to supervise my foster group?

You need to do welfare checks on your foster group at least three times a day. This is to make sure everyone is healthy, eating, and urinating/defecating. You need to spend about 1-2 hours per day interacting with your foster group so that they become well socialized.

Can my foster animals interact with my resident pets?

Foster groups in which the animals have been vaccinated need to be kept separate from resident animals for two weeks. Foster animals that have not been vaccinated may not meet any resident pets until they have had their first vaccines on board for ten days. If your foster animals or resident animals are sick, they may not interact. All interactions must be directly supervised.

Can my children interact with the foster animals?

We encourage your children to have supervised interaction with foster animals. Children should not be permitted to handle newborn puppies or kittens. Caution and direct supervision is a must!

Do we bottle feed kittens/puppies?

HSPPR/PAS does not intentionally take in young kittens/puppies that will need to be bottle fed. However, occasionally a situation arises where kittens/puppies need to be bottle fed. If this is the case we will train our foster volunteers to bottle feed, or place the kittens/puppies with a foster volunteer who is experienced at bottle feeding kittens.

I found a litter of kittens/puppies. Can I foster them through your program?

Yes, with approval and appointment. We will try to work with you on setting an appointment if you are the foster volunteer to get the kittens/puppies processed and into the system as quickly as possible. If you cannot foster this litter, it may take us some time to find a foster home. We will do our best to work with you.

How will people know that I have kittens/puppies?

HSPPR/PAS posts kittens and puppies on our website to be “pre-adopted” by placing a choice hold on them. When kittens and puppies turn 6 weeks old, foster volunteer contact information may appear on the website under the foster animal’s file for contact (if you so choose) and the public will be able to contact foster families. At this age, foster kittens’/puppies’ information will be posted to our website and boosted on our social media pages as needed. This is another way the public will be able to find kittens and puppies available for adoption.

Do I have to have people come to my home?

Having prospective adopters to your home is encouraged as it helps to see the kittens/puppies in a relaxed home environment. However, it is not required. If you do not want to have adopters come to your home, you do have the option to take your kittens to an offsite adoption partner location once a week after they reach 6 weeks of age.

If people come to my home and want to adopt a kitten/puppy, what do they do next?

You will need to send your adopters to the respective shelter in either Colorado Springs or Pueblo to complete the adoption with a trained Adoption Matchmaker. If you live close to one of our offsite adoption centers, you can also send your adopters to one of those locations on the weekend if an adoption event is taking place.

Who do I call for help?

Each foster family is assigned a mentor. Your mentor will be your first point of contact for any questions or concerns you may have about your group.

If my foster animals get sick, do I take them to my own vet?

All veterinary care will be provided through HSPPR/PAS. Foster volunteers are **not** permitted to seek veterinary care from outside clinics. Any visits to outside veterinarians that are not pre-approved will be the financial responsibility of the foster volunteer.

Do I need to give my own vaccines? Can I learn?

Your assigned mentor is trained to give vaccines. You will make appointments with your mentor to assure puppies/kittens get their vaccines on time. We encourage foster volunteers to learn to give vaccines and offer training at the shelter for those who are interested.

What do I do if my own pets get sick?

Your foster animals should be kept separately from your resident cats. However, we do recognize that cross contamination can happen. If your own pets get sick, it is your responsibility to seek veterinary treatment. Remember, there is always an inherent risk of disease when you bring new animals into your home. This is why we require that all animals in the home are current on vaccinations.

Do my owned pets have to be up-to-date on their vaccines?

For everyone's protection and safety, your resident pets are required to be up-to-date on vaccines.

Do my owned pets have to be altered before I foster?

Yes. HSPPR/PAS offers low-cost spay or neuter services for low-income families.

Can my owned pets come to HSPPR/PAS for care? Is there a discount?

We do offer low-cost vaccines to the public, including our volunteers. Please go online to view these services and to make an appointment.

What if I have to leave out of town unexpectedly?

Contact the Foster Care Coordinator as soon as possible so that we can find alternate placement for your foster animals.

What do I do if I don't like or get along with my mentor?

We encourage you to form a good relationship with your mentor and keep communication open. If you have an issue you feel you cannot resolve on your own, please contact the Foster Care Coordinator for help.