



happy tails. happy hearts.™

## **Foster Program FAQ's**

### ***What does a foster volunteer do?***

Our foster volunteers help more than 2,000 animals a year get healthy and reach adoption. Fosters can foster kittens and puppies who are too young for adoption, help medical animals recover and get healthy, or help animals who experience fear, anxiety, and stress in the shelter. Essentially, they keep these animals in their homes and care for them with provided supplies until they can be adopted. The impact foster volunteers have on HSPPR's animals is vital to helping animals find loving homes!

### ***How do I become a foster volunteer?***

You will need to fill out an online foster volunteer application. Our Foster Care Team will then email you the following steps to set you up for a first-time pick-up orientation and information for setting up a state-mandated home inspection.

### ***What is required of me as a foster volunteer?***

Providing a safe, "animal 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 as well as ensuring the animal is healthy, and well socialized.

### ***What are the requirements for a foster room?***

The foster room needs to be a designated 'animal proof' place for your foster animals. A spare bedroom, den, unoccupied office, or large bathroom with plenty of space for a litter box, food and water dishes as well as sleep and play areas is recommended. Guidance can be offered when a home inspection is conducted.

### ***What supplies do I need to provide myself?***

You will be provided litter box and litter, food and food dishes, toys and scratching implement, bedding and other small incidentals as well as vaccines and medications necessary. 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 completing the required steps, you will receive a weekly email called the "Foster Forecast" with animals currently in need of a foster home. Placement is done on a first-come, first pick-up basis.

### ***How much do I need to supervise my foster group?***

At least twice a day, you'll want to check on your foster group to ensure they are healthy, eating, and urinating/defecating. Plan to spend about 1-2 hours per day interacting with and socializing with your foster group.

### ***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. 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?***

We do not intentionally intake young animals that need to be bottle fed. However, it does happen often in our busy season. In this case, we are happy train you to bottle feed if you do not have prior experience and are interested in learning.

***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 posts kittens and puppies on our website to be “pre-adopted” by placing a choice hold on them. You will receive an email when this time comes on what information you need to provide.

***Do I have to have people come to my home?***

Having prospective adopters that you do not know come to your home is not permitted and foster animals are not to be met prior to adoption unless they are Adoption Ambassadors.

***Who do I call for help?***

Contact the Foster Care Team during business hours or follow Foster Emergency Protocols.

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

All veterinary care will be provided through our agency for foster animals; seeking outside veterinary care is not permitted and will be the financial responsibility of the foster volunteer.

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

You will make appointments through the Foster Care Staff to assure animals get their vaccines on time. If you are interested in learning to administer vaccinations at home, we can train you.

***What do I do if my own pets get sick?***

Foster animals should be kept separately from your resident animals. If your own pets get sick, it is your responsibility to seek veterinary treatment. There is always an inherent risk of disease when you bring new animals into your home, which 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. We offer low-cost vaccination services for the public. Appointments can be made through our website.

***Do my own pets have to be altered before I foster?***

No, although this would affect what animals you would be allowed to foster. For example, we would not place an adult, unaltered female cat/dog in a home with an adult, unaltered male cat/dog. We do, however, strongly recommend altering your pets. We offer low-cost spay or neuter services for the public. Appointments can be made through our website.

***Can my own pets come to HSPPR for care? Is there a discount?***

We do offer low-cost vaccines to the public, including our volunteers. Appointments can be made through our website.

***What if I have to leave out of town unexpectedly?***

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