

How can I help my foster pet become more adoptable?

One of your biggest advantages as a foster caregiver is that you can help your foster pet become more socialized, better trained, and more adoptable!

First, stay in touch with the Stafford SPCA with details and personality quirks, so that we can keep the pet's profile updated and engaging.

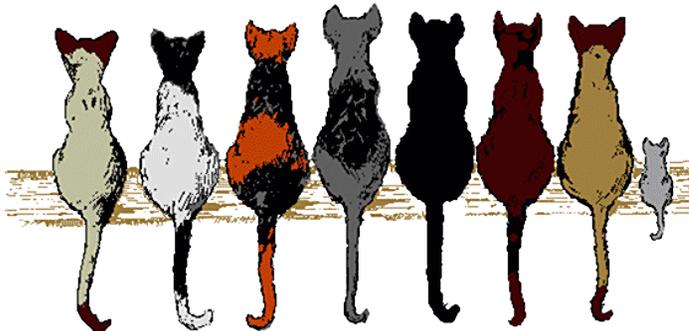
Second, training and socializing your foster pet is extremely important. Shy dogs, for example, become much more adoptable as they become friendlier and more comfortable with people. Rambunctious kittens become more adoptable as they learn basic boundaries with their claws and teeth.

As you get to know your foster pet, you'll learn his or her special needs and areas that need improvement.

The Stafford SPCA will help you every step of the way as your relationship with your foster pet develops. We can provide basic training advice, socializing tips, crate training expertise, and other help you may need.

How else can I help?

If you're not prepared to be a foster caregiver, there are lots of other ways to help. The Stafford SPCA is always accepting and training new volunteers for our shelter facility to help with dog walks, cat care, and a multitude of other things. Please go to our website to get more information on our volunteer program, or to make a donation to us for animal care, pet supplies, and vet visits.



Important guidelines to remember

The Stafford SPCA retains legal rights over foster animals, even in when they are in a foster home. Final decisions regarding the animal are made by the Stafford SPCA.

Veterinary visits for the foster animal must be pre-approved. Contact the Stafford SPCA immediately if you believe your foster animal is in need of veterinary care. Of course, in the case of a medical emergency, prioritize the animal's needs first and get the animal to a vet for life-saving measures when needed.

Stay in touch with the Stafford SPCA regarding your foster pet. Check in weekly with updates and pictures. The more we know about your foster pet's personality, the more compelling its online adoption profile will be!

If you notice any aggressive behavior from your foster pet, report it to the Stafford SPCA immediately.

If you decide you wish to adopt the pet you foster, you must go through the adoption process like any other applicant.

Contact us

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VOLUNTEER FOSTER PROGRAM



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Stafford SPCA

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Why foster?

Thank you for your interest in providing a loving foster home for an animal in need!

The Stafford SPCA utilizes foster homes for animals in our care who need special attention or who do not thrive in a shelter environment. Your willingness to take the animals in and provide care for them is indispensable in making some shelter animals adoptable and preparing them for a forever home with a devoted family.



I already own my own pets. Can I still foster pets?

Yes! The Stafford SPCA will make the final decision based on the animal(s) in need of foster homes and the suitability of your existing animals. The Stafford SPCA makes fostering decisions based on the best interest of the animals in need of a foster home. Our foster volunteers often have established pets who get along well with foster pets as they come and go.

What supplies do I need to foster an animal?

Generally, the more things of your own that you can provide for a foster pet, the better, including toys, bowls, and bedding. Stafford SPCA requires the use of crates for foster dogs. If you do not have a crate, we will provide one for you for the duration of the time the foster dog is in your home. Feeding instructions will be provided to you, and you will agree to feed the brand, type, and amounts of food that we recommend. The supplies that you will need depend on the type and age of animal you foster, but the Stafford SPCA will be in consultation with you to ensure you have what you need.



How do I get started?

The first step in becoming a foster caregiver is to fill out our Foster Volunteer Application.

Please be thorough in your responses to the questions on the application. Thorough answers allow us to find the best fit for you, your home, your family, and a potential foster pet.

Please note that filling out an application does not guarantee approval and does not guarantee the placement of a particular pet.

Frequently asked questions

What kinds of animals are in need of foster homes?

Generally, animals most often in need of foster homes are very young animals, animals recovering from injury, animals particularly in need of socialization, and animals experiencing "shelter stress," or the tension that can arise from living in even the best shelter environment. These animals need extra attention and TLC in order to become fully adoptable. That's where foster caregivers are so valuable!

What about veterinary visits?

The Stafford SPCA must approve all veterinary visits in advance. Depending on the age of your foster pet, vet appointments may be scheduled for your pet for routine check-ups and vaccinations. It will be your responsibility to deliver your foster pet to these appointments, or to contact the Stafford SPCA to make other transportation arrangements. You, as foster caregiver, will not be in charge of scheduling appointments for your foster animal. Only the Stafford SPCA will do that. Likewise, the Stafford SPCA will be responsible for payment for veterinary treatment.

Am I responsible for finding my foster pet its new home?

No. The Stafford SPCA is in charge of the adoptions process from start to finish, including finding the right forever home for your foster pet.

But we *do* need your help finding a great match! Refer any potential adopters to us, and we will facilitate the process to make sure your foster pet goes to an amazing home.

Do I need prior fostering experience?

No! Of course, you need to be comfortable providing care for the foster animal we match you with, but we do not require previous fostering experience. We will not place an animal with you who has special needs that you are not comfortable caring for. We want this to be a great experience for everyone!

