



ANIMAL FOSTERING CONTRACT

Date: _____

Stafford SPCA representative: _____

Full Legal Name: _____

Date of birth: _____ Social security number: _____

Your address (where the animal will be fostered):

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Cell phone: _____ Which is the best number to reach you? _____

E-mail address: _____

Driver's license or government ID number: _____

Driver's license or government ID issuing agency: _____

Emergency contact: _____ Relationship to you: _____

Emergency contact telephone number: _____

Foster animal information

Name of animal being fostered: _____

Species: _____ Breed: _____ Sex: _____ Age: _____

Health information about the animal:

Reason for animal's need for a foster home:

Other pertinent information about foster animal:

Animal fostering is the providing of custodial care of an animal that belongs to another. All Stafford County SPCA foster animals are the property of the SPCA and have been surrendered to the SPCA either by owner surrender, custodial transfer, or through the legal transfer of custody of the animal from a jurisdiction's animal shelter to the SPCA.

In all cases, animals fostered by Volunteer Foster Custodians of the SPCA remain the property of the SPCA throughout the duration of the fostering process, until the fostered animal is either adopted to a third party, adopted permanently by the VFC, or transferred by the SPCA to the custody of another rescue organization.

A **foster home** is defined as temporary housing for any animal(s) within the SPCA's custody, while it is recovering, maturing, and/or being screened and approved for permanent adoption. As the **Volunteer Foster Caregiver**, you represent that you have reasonable knowledge regarding the proper care and handling of the type of animal(s) you will be assigned by the SPCA to care for while in foster care.

REGARDING QUALITY OF CARE:

1. Foster agrees to care for foster animal as if it is their own pet, providing lots of love, attention, and positive reinforcement. If at any point, the Stafford SPCA has concerns regarding the level of care that the foster animal is receiving, the Stafford SPCA reserves all rights to remove the animal from the foster home.
2. Only authorized foster volunteers may care for foster animals. Foster animals must not be left under anyone else's care without authorization from the Stafford SPCA.
3. Foster agrees not to alter in any way the appearance of the animal being fostered without permission of the shelter. This includes declawing and cropping of ears or tails.

4. Foster agrees to provide adequate food, water, shelter, and kind treatment for said animal(s) at all times. In addition, the foster volunteer must adhere to all state and local animal laws. The foster volunteer agrees to follow all additional written instructions from the owner and/or shelter.
5. Foster agrees to keep foster animals indoors, except when walking dogs. Our foster cats are indoor cats unless explicitly stated otherwise in this contract, and should NEVER be let outside. Foster dogs should never be let outside unsupervised. Supervision should be provided when the dog is in the backyard, and dogs traveling outside the home and backyard for any reason must be leashed.
6. Foster agrees to notify the Stafford SPCA *immediately* if the foster animal goes missing or becomes sick.
7. Foster agrees to administer flea, tick, and heartworm preventative on a monthly basis, as noted in the supplemental page of this contract.

Foster caregiver signature: _____

Stafford SPCA witness signature: _____

REGARDING OWNERSHIP RIGHTS AND ULTIMATE PLACEMENT:

8. The Stafford SPCA retains all rights and ownership of any animal in the Foster Program, and the Stafford SPCA has the right to recall any fostered animal to the shelter at any time.
9. If fostering a dog, the Stafford SPCA will provide the dog with a collar and a tag. The tag will contain contact information for the Stafford SPCA in the event the animal is lost. *Foster caretaker may not remove this tag from the collar*, and the dog must wear the collar and tag at all times. Although the foster caretaker may not remove the Stafford SPCA's identification tag from the dog's collar, the foster caretaker may affix an additional tag with your own personal information if desired.
10. All adoption inquiries about foster animals in your care must be directed to the Stafford SPCA. Do not make any promises to any interested parties about placing the foster animal in their home. The Stafford SPCA will handle the vetting and approval or denial of all adoption applications.
11. If the foster wishes to adopt said animal, the foster must go through the shelter adoption program screening process. The shelter reserves to determine final disposition of the animal.
12. The foster volunteer on this contract is agreeing to be the primary caregiver for the foster animal at the address on this contract. Foster caregiver will notify Stafford SPCA in the event any change occurs in the address or telephone number listed.
13. Foster caregiver understands and acknowledges that he/she does not have any right or authority to keep the foster animal, place foster animal in other homes or place with other individuals unless permission is given in writing by the shelter.
14. In the event that a foster caregiver is going out of town overnight and cannot care for the animal, the foster will contact the Stafford SPCA as soon as possible so that other temporary arrangements can be made. Foster animals cannot be placed in temporary boarding facilities or given to friends/family to temporarily care for without explicit written permission from the Stafford SPCA.

Foster caregiver signature: _____

Stafford SPCA witness signature: _____

REGARDING AVAILABILITY OF PET AND STAYING IN TOUCH WITH STAFFORD SPCA.

15. Foster animals must be returned to the Stafford SPCA as soon as possible upon request by the Stafford SPCA.
16. The foster agrees to respond to inquiries from the Stafford SPCA regarding the foster animal as soon as reasonably possible. Failure to respond to an inquiry within 24 hours can be grounds for repossession of the animal.
17. The Stafford SPCA may visit a foster home at any time providing that the foster volunteer is given reasonable prior notice (typically 24 hours). Prior notice is not required for the repossession of an animal when a foster volunteer fails to bring the animal back to the Stafford SPCA as requested or fails to respond to inquiries from the Stafford SPCA.
18. Foster agrees to notify shelter as to any behavioral or health problems of the animal. The shelter reserves the exclusive right to determine the proper course of action to take upon such notification.
19. Foster agrees to be reasonably accommodating in scheduling meet and greets between the foster pet and potential adopters. Meet and greets may be scheduled to occur at the foster home or at the Stafford SPCA shelter facility, depending on the animal and the situation.
20. The foster agrees to stay in touch with the Stafford SPCA on a weekly basis *at minimum*. The foster will send an email each week on your assigned day with any news about the foster animal. Failing to send an email on your assigned day is cause for concern and may result in removal of the foster animal from the foster home.

Assigned day to send update email: _____

Email address to which the update should go: _____

21. Foster will notify the Stafford SPCA *immediately* if the foster animal exhibits any aggressive behavior.

Foster caregiver signature: _____

Stafford SPCA witness signature: _____

REGARDING CURRENT PETS ALREADY IN THE HOUSEHOLD:

22. All dogs belonging to the foster volunteer must have up-to-date DHLPP and rabies vaccines and be spayed or neutered. We also recommend, but do not require, a bordetella (kennel cough) vaccine for your existing pets before the foster pet arrives at your house.
23. All cats belonging to the foster volunteer must have up-to-date FVRCP and rabies vaccines and be spayed or neutered.
24. The foster volunteer must isolate foster animals from existing pets in the household as long as indicated by the Stafford SPCA.
25. The Stafford SPCA facilitates initial introductions between your existing pets and your foster pet. In the event that the pets do not get along well or there are any concerns, the Stafford SPCA reserves the right to deny placement of that foster animal into your home.

26. The Stafford SPCA is not responsible for any veterinary bills for resident pets. The foster caregiver assumes responsibility for any veterinary bills that result from resident pet becoming ill or injured due to exposure to a foster animal.

Foster caregiver signature: _____

Stafford SPCA witness signature: _____

REGARDING VETERINARY CARE:

27. Foster volunteers must contact Stafford SPCA first for all foster animal care needs and questions.
28. Foster animals should not be taken to any veterinarian unless authorized by the Stafford SPCA in advance.
29. Emergency protocol provided in the foster manual is to be followed at all times. No veterinary expenses will be reimbursed unless authorized *in advance* by the Stafford SPCA.
30. In the case of a life-threatening medical emergency, get the animal to a veterinarian as soon as possible. Inform the Stafford SPCA *as soon as possible* that a medical emergency is in progress and that necessary steps are being taken.
31. Depending on the age and health status of the foster animal, veterinary appointments may be made by the Stafford SPCA for routine vaccinations, check-ups, spay and neuter appointments, etc. Foster agrees to transport the foster animal to these appointments as necessary. If necessary transport cannot be made because of scheduling conflicts, foster must contact the Stafford SPCA as soon as possible to make other transportation arrangements. It is extremely important that foster pets keep their scheduled veterinary appointments.

Foster caregiver signature: _____

Stafford SPCA witness signature: _____

REGARDING SUPPLIES:

32. Stafford SPCA will provide a feeding plan for your foster pet. Foster volunteer agrees to feed the type of food dictated in the amounts dictated, and will not change food for any reason. Food plan changes will be made by the Stafford SPCA only, in consultation with a veterinarian as needed. The food brand and type that *must* be fed and the food plan are noted in the supplemental page of this contract.
33. Stafford SPCA encourages foster homes to provide as many supplies for the foster animal as possible, including toys, bedding, a crate, etc., as needed for the animal.
34. Stafford SPCA heavily emphasizes crate training for foster dogs, and will provide a crate if the foster does not have one of adequate size or durability.
35. Any supplies borrowed from the Stafford SPCA must be returned when the animal is removed from the foster's custody. Supplies borrowed from the Stafford SPCA at the time of the signing of this contract are noted in a following page.

Foster caregiver signature: _____

Stafford SPCA witness signature: _____

REGARDING FOSTER DOG SOCIALIZING AND TRAINING:

36. Foster recognizes that appropriately training and socializing a foster dog helps to make that dog much more adoptable and attractive to potential adoptive families. Foster caregiver will make every effort to train and discipline the dog, using positive reinforcement techniques and patience.
37. Foster caregivers will NOT socialize the foster dog with other dogs until foster dog has ALL required shots and vaccinations. Depending on the age of the dog, the foster animal may already come to the foster home up-to-date on required vaccinations, or may be too young to have received any. Foster parent will not socialize the foster animal with any other animals until all required shots and vaccinations are completed.
38. Foster caregiver recognizes that discipline is important when working with a foster dog. Foster caregivers will likely end up being more firm and rigid with their foster dogs than they are accustomed to being with existing or former dogs. It is important that foster dogs receive consistent training and discipline. The better trained the dog, the more adoptable he or she becomes, and the more attractive to potential adoptive families.
39. Positive reinforcement training techniques are necessary. See the foster manual for tips and techniques for working with your foster dog.
40. Crate training is extremely beneficial in making a dog attractive to potential adoptive families, and can be extremely helpful for dogs not already house-trained. Foster caregiver agrees to crate training the new foster animal unless explicitly noted otherwise.

Foster caregiver signature: _____

Stafford SPCA witness signature: _____

CONCLUDING STIPULATIONS:

41. Foster is undertaking these obligations with no said claim, now or in the future, to any type of compensation or reimbursement for caring for said animal, and the further consideration for undertaking this obligation and caring for said animal is that the foster is receiving satisfaction and enjoyment from undertaking this obligation of his or her own free will and because he or she wants to do so and derives satisfaction from doing so.
42. Foster agrees that accidental animal bites or other injuries to humans and other animals do occur, and agrees to hold harmless and indemnify, and protect the Stafford SPCA, from any claim or suit filed by anyone as a result of such an incident. In addition, the shelter will not be responsible if animal should damage or destroy property belonging to the foster, or shall transfer any disease or internal or external parasites to other animals belonging to the foster.
43. This agreement is the entire agreement of the parties, and there are no oral promises or representations made in addition to this contract and it may only be changed in writing signed by both the Stafford SPCA and foster.

Foster caregiver signature: _____

Stafford SPCA witness signature: _____

FOSTERING CONTRACT SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Feeding instructions

As stated in the contract, as the foster caregiver agrees to abide by our feeding plan and feed the high quality animal food that we authorize. Questions about where to obtain the food can be directed to the Stafford SPCA as needed.

Any changes to the feeding plan will be made *only* by the Stafford SPCA, in consultation with a veterinarian as needed. Of course, report any problems regarding feeding to the Stafford SPCA as soon as possible.

Medications and preventatives

As noted earlier in this contract, foster caregiver agrees to administer monthly preventatives against flea, tick, and heartworm on a monthly schedule, assuming the foster animal is old enough to receive them. Noted below is the schedule for preventatives, the brand you agree to administer, and any special instructions.

Supplies borrowed

As stated in the contract, as the foster caregiver agrees to provide as many supplies as possible on his/her own. However, the Stafford SPCA is willing to help with supplies as needed. We especially mandate crate training for foster dogs, and will thus provide (on a temporary basis) appropriate sized crates for foster dogs if you cannot provide one on your own.

We ask that all supplies borrowed from the shelter be returned once the foster animal has been placed in a permanent home. The following list details the supplies you have borrowed that we will ask to be returned:

Foster caregiver signature: _____

Stafford SPCA witness signature: _____

I understand that the Stafford SPCA reserves the right to examine and make inquiry about the foster animal at any time. If I fail to keep animal in accordance with the terms of this agreement, if I deny the Stafford SPCA's right to examine, if I fail to respond to any Stafford SPCA inquiry, or if I have made any misrepresentation of fact, the Stafford SPCA may retake custody of animal. Additionally, any costs associated with such retaking of custody shall be my sole responsibility. If any medical care is required as a result of any intentional or negligent act of mine, any costs associated with said medical care shall be my sole responsibility.

It is the expressed intention of the Stafford SPCA and the foster caregiver that the release provided for in this paragraph is designed and intended to protect the Stafford SPCA (and its members and volunteers) from the consequences of any accident, injury, illness, negligence, attack, aggressive or destructive behavior or other action by animal, and from the consequences of any act or omission, or negligence on the part of the Stafford SPCA (and its members and volunteers) in obtaining custody of animal, in providing care for animal, or in failing to provide timely or adequate warning to any person concerning animal. The Stafford SPCA will use all reasonable efforts to provide accurate information about the animal, but as with all living things, there are no guarantees.

Caregiver understands that the Stafford SPCA makes no warranties (express or implied) or representations as to the health, fitness, demeanor or well-being of animal. The foster caregiver accepts animal "as is." Because of this, the foster caregiver understands that the Stafford SPCA (and its members and volunteers) accept no responsibility if animal should die after being released to caregiver, or if the animal should bite, scratch, injure, or cause the death of any person or animal, or cause damage to property after being released to the foster caregiver's custody.

I fully understand my rights and obligations as described above and that failure to comply with these obligations will be considered a breach of contract. Said breach of contract gives the Stafford SPCA the rights contained in this contract and any and all rights afforded by law to terminate any ownership of animal, and thereby the legal right to reclaim the animal without refund, and recover any and all expenses associated with the enforcement of this contract.

Printed name of foster caregiver:

Signature of foster caregiver:

Date: _____

Stafford SPCA witness signature:
