



Foster Care Volunteer

Objective: Caring for *Homes with Hearts* companion foster animals for a variable length of stay (can be 2 weeks – several months) in your home. The animals in this program are considered adoptable but need fostering due to a minor injury or illness, malnutrition, young age or behavioral irregularities are not currently ready for adoption.

Duties

- ✿ Provide all elements of care for foster animals, including feeding, grooming, medicating and socializing.
- ✿ Ensure safety of foster animal and respond to the foster animal's needs.
- ✿ Maintain excellent communication with Volunteer Coordinator/ Adoption Officer/Medical Staff.
- ✿ Return the animal to the shelter upon completion of its foster time so that it may be available for adoption or have animal adopted out by HSP from the home.

Limitations – At least one primary caregiver must be 18 years old or above. All paperwork in the foster care program requires the signature of an adult. This adult must attend any animal health and behavior appointments. We recommend any child that accompanies be at least 10 yo.

Training

- ✿ Attend an Intro to Adult Volunteering session.
- ✿ Complete Volunteer Application and Interview.
- ✿ Attend/Satisfactorily complete a Foster Care class.
- ✿ For canine fostering read and develop comfort with the *Four Level Training Program for People and Dogs* by Kelly Gorman and Colleen Boyle

Commitment: We ask that Foster Care volunteers commit as needed. Most foster experiences are at least two weeks long, some can be upwards of 3-4 months; most foster experiences occur during the spring, summer and fall months.

Volunteer Profile: Dedicated individuals and families with a satisfactory living arrangement. Must be willing to care for animals that require extra time or attention to help them thrive and become adoptable. Volunteers must be accepting of emotional challenges when faced with adoption, illness, death or euthanasia of a foster animal. Volunteers must be able to follow instructions given by the Adoption officer and/or veterinary staff. Ideal for people who need a flexible volunteer schedule, although you must be willing to bring foster animals to the shelter for scheduled appointments.

Job Classification: This job may involve any of the following physical parameters:

Physical Requirements:	Medium to Heavy	Working Conditions:	Indoor/Outdoor
Bending:	Frequently	Sitting:	Occasionally
Squatting:	Frequently	Standing:	Frequently
Kneeling:	Occasionally	Walking:	Frequently
Climbing:	Occasionally	Lifting Weight:	0 to > 24 lbs
Reaching:	Occasionally	Repetitive Motion:	Fine Manipulations, Pushing/Pulling, Grasping

Volunteer Benefits

- 🐾 Great way to get animal care experience.
- 🐾 Allows for flexibility in scheduling.
- 🐾 Rewarding experience of offering an animal a second chance.

Supervision: Direct supervision by Volunteer Coordinator, in conjunction with Adoptions Officer and medical staff.