

INTRODUCTION TO FOSTERING

Presented by:

Prince George's County Animal Services
Division and Adoption Center



STATISTICS

- The facility was built in 2009, and it sits on 7 acres.
- We have the capability of holding 300 - 400 animals, to include cats, dogs, critters and reptiles.
- We are government run, which means we are an open admissions shelter.
- The Spay Spot, which is our partnered clinic runs out of our facility and is responsible for altering all of our shelter animals.
- The foster program has been active for 6 years, it goes hand in hand with adoptions and rescue.

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REASONS TO FOSTER

You are helping to save an animal's life.

You are creating space in the shelter to accommodate other homeless animals.

You are removing a pet from a stressful environment to help them become the best version of themselves.

Foster animals provide companionship, a sense of purpose and fulfillment, and fun!



A black dog with a red collar is looking up and barking or howling behind a chain-link fence. The dog's mouth is open, showing its teeth. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a fence.

ANIMALS NEEDING FOSTER HOMES

- Puppies and kittens too young and/or immature (bottle babies require specialized training)
- Kittens and young cats requiring socialization
- Senior dogs and cats
- Injured dogs and cats and/or those recovering from surgery
- Neglected or abused dogs and cats
- Dogs and cats suffering from “shelter stress”
- Dogs and cats with colds or special medical needs
- Abandoned mothers with litters of puppies or kittens
- Any animal when the shelter becomes overcrowded
- Reptiles, rabbits or pocket pets (gerbils, hamsters and guinea pigs) when the shelter is overcrowded.

FAQS

- Who is my point of contact?

Foster Coordinator (FosterPGCPets@co.pg.md.us)

- What supplies are foster parents responsible for?

Shelter covers everything medically necessary for foster pet. Foster parent covers everything else such as: supplies, food, toys, bedding, litter.

- How long do foster cases last?

Case by case depending on your foster animal. If there is a maximum amount of time you can keep a foster animal, let the foster coordinator know ahead of time.

- Can I foster bottle baby kittens or puppies?

Yes, but you would need experience or specialized training.

- Can I adopt my foster animal?

Yes.

- How do I know what animals are available for fostering?

Facebook group, email fosterpgcpets@co.pg.md.us, Trello board

- What if I have other pets at home?

We do recommend (but don't require) a dog-to-dog meet and greet performed here at the shelter to assure dogs get along. We do not do cat tests.

FAQS

(CONT.)

- **What if I have children at home?**

We would have to make sure animal is a match, ie: no age restrictions due to behavior etc.
- **Can I let my foster animal roam outdoors?**

Dogs must be on leash while off property and when not in a fenced-in area, cats must be strictly indoors.
- **Can I return my foster animal to the shelter if I am unable to foster any longer?**

Yes.
- **What if I'm going on vacation or have a business trip?**

We ask that you notify us for any blackout dates.
- **What if I don't have a car or access to phone & internet?**

This is a requirement, as there are several trips needed for appointments, meeting potential adopters, etc.
- **Are foster animals ever euthanized?**

Only if quality of life or safety comes into question.
- **What is included in the adoption fee?**

All age-appropriate vaccines, microchip, SNAP combo test, altering and license if adopter lives in county.

PICKING UP YOUR FOSTER ANIMAL

- Please make an appointment with the foster care coordinator to pick up your foster animal.
- Make sure that you have any necessary medications or medical instructions with you before you leave with your foster animal.
- Make sure that you have a schedule, if necessary, of any follow-up vaccinations or veterinary visits, and ensure that you can meet that schedule.



WHILE IN FOSTER CARE



- Keep in constant contact with the foster coordinator. (at least weekly)
- Keep vaccinations/de-worming up to date (shelter provides)
- Always keep your foster cat indoors and foster dogs on a leash when off your property/not in a fenced area.
- Monitor sick animals, keep medications on schedule.
- Please do not take foster dogs to dog parks or any boarding facilities.

SICK ANIMAL CARE

- Mild Symptoms
 - Occasional sniffing
 - Clear discharge from eyes/nose
 - Eyes red or swollen
 - Eat/play normally
- Watch closely
- Keep Foster Coordinator up to date
- Severe Symptoms
 - Lethargy
 - Diarrhea
 - Brown/green discharge from eyes/nose
 - Not eating/playing normally
- Contact the foster coordinator ASAP. If after hours, contact kennel manager ASAP.





PROMOTING YOUR FOSTER ANIMAL FOR ADOPTION

- Petfinder/ Petharbor/ 24petconnect
- Take photos
 - Write stories about your foster animal's progress
- Social Networks
- Other
 - Animal Services Division Facebook page
 - Animal Services Division website/ neighborhood apps like Nextdoor
 - Your social media account
 - For foster dogs, walk them in your community and let people know they are available for adoption.



ADOPTION PROCESS FOR ANIMALS IN FOSTER CARE:

- Potential adopters must submit an adoption application to the foster coordinator for approval. When the adoption application is approved, the foster coordinator will contact you to schedule a meet and greet with the potential adopter.
- Meet the potential adopters, either at the Animal Services Facility or at your home, if comfortable.
- Potential adopters must come to the Facility to complete their interview, paperwork, and payment.
- ***Never give your foster animal to an adopter without confirming with the foster coordinator.***



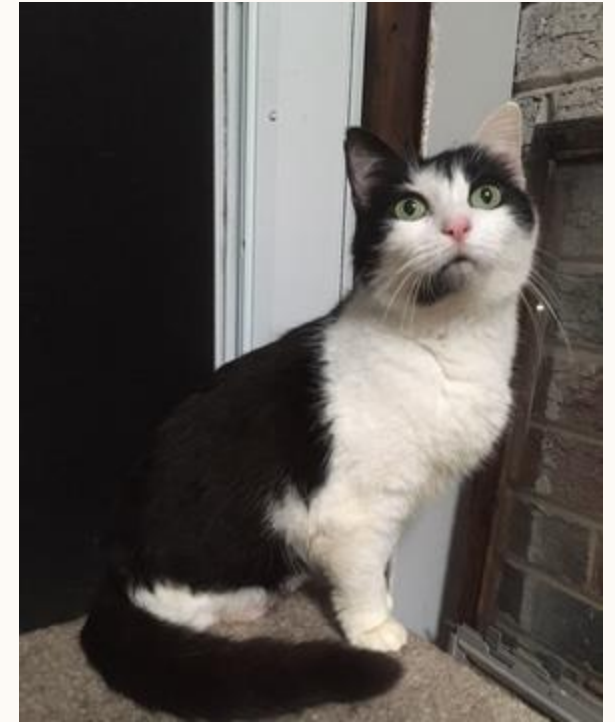
AFTER THE ADOPTION

- Keep an eye out for any animals you'd be interested in fostering and notify the foster coordinator when you are available to accept a new foster animal into your home.



TOP 10 TIPS FOR FOSTER PARENTS

- Check in regularly with the foster coordinator (at least weekly).
- Ask for advice if your foster animal has stopped eating or shows any concerning behaviors.
- Puppies and kittens crash fast; ask early if their behavior changes.
- Check your sick foster animal for hydration – they should be drinking water, using the litter box (cats), have loose elastic skin tone, and a moist mouth.
- Never use clumping cat litter for cats or kittens who have just had surgery. Use shredded paper or pellet-style litter.
- Always get pre-authorization before going to a veterinarian. We will refer you to a veterinarian who is under contract with Prince George's County.
- Wash your hands and change your clothes after handling sick animals to prevent spread of illness, especially to your own pets.
- Never let your foster cat outside; guard against escapes.
- Never give a foster animal to an adopter without confirmation from the foster coordinator that the adoption process has been completed.





I WANT TO BE A FOSTER PARENT!

- What's next?
 - Complete, sign and return the Foster Care Application.
 - Click the link and answer the questions on the following slide
 - If you do not receive an email or phone call from the foster coordinator within one week, please contact us!
 - Once you are approved, gather the necessary supplies so you are ready to foster animals in need.

THANK YOU!

- Fostering literally saves lives!
- Thank you for your interest in becoming a foster parent for the Prince George's County Animal Services Division and Adoptions Center.

Please follow link for brief quiz:

<https://forms.microsoft.com/g/7cCY2LSKjv>

