



Foster Guidelines

Now that you have your foster pet, these are tools and reminders to help ensure a smooth transition for a dog or cat that has experienced the chaos of shelter life to in-home foster care. Please provide the animal with good and loving care as though it were your own pet, including but not limited to food, water, shelter and medication when required. Please read over the section **Fostering your second chance pal** on our website.

Behavior modification and socialization

Remember, that a shelter animal coming into your home for the first time may be overly excited or, on the other hand, withdrawn. While it gets used to the new environment, there may be accidents that occur. In the first few days, be sure to take a dog outside especially after meals and before bedtime. Praise (maybe even giving a treat) when they void where appropriate.

For cats be sure to provide a clean and accessible cat litter box and show the cat where this box is located. If you have three or more cats in the house, you should have multiple litter boxes.

Please do include the animal in the daily family activities. Getting them used to being in a family environment will pay big dividends in finding their forever home.

Crate Training

This may be an option in a foster's home especially for a large dog or one that is having issues of soiling indoors. It also provides the dog a safe respite from an active family. Please see article [How to Crate Train Your Dog](http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/tips/crate_training.html) online at http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/tips/crate_training.html.

Exercise/special needs

Some breeds need more exercise than others, but active play time twice a day is advised for the health of the dog. Please take along pickup bags if you are out for a walk with your foster pet.

Cats need playtime and stimulating toys or access to a window where they can have peaceful moments.

Feeding

If you currently have family pets, please feed your foster pet on the same schedule as your own pets: once or twice a day. Since your foster came from a shelter experience, in the beginning we suggest that you feed him/her in a protected area (suggestion: laundry room or bathroom) without interruption from other animals .

In the beginning, it is advisable that you feed the animal the same food as they were fed in the shelter and transition to your own food over time by gradually combining a little of new food at each meal. If you notice digestive issues, back off giving less of the new food.

Foster reports

It takes time for a foster animal to adjust to their new situation and to show their true personality. This can vary for each animal; after a week, send Sindy Wakefield a foster report.

A foster report should give all the basic information a potential adopter would want to know, for example; is the animal dog friendly, cat friendly, child friendly, housebroken, does he or she walk well on a leash, are they playful, affectionate. Tell me what kind of personality this animal has. The more information the better.

Photos

Send Sindy Wakefield a few happy home photos. When the animal becomes relaxed in their surroundings start taking pictures, a good photograph can make all the difference in adoption.

Medical

Each SCP animal will have a health check. Most senior animals will need their teeth cleaned, but sometimes the vet will discover other health issues. SCP established a basic rule: if the procedure cost is less than \$500, there is no need to get special permission for treatment, but once we reach that \$500 mark, Sindy Wakefield or Liz Sneed needs to be notified for approval.

SCP encourages heartworm prevention, get a 6 month supply or a 6 month proheart shot. Flea and tick control, get a 6 month supply; this medication will go with the foster animal when they are adopted or go to rescue.

Please be sure to keep all vet appointments.

If there is a major medical issue, we always get a second opinion. SCP has 2 vets in the county, make an appointment with the other vet to get a second opinion and estimate of cost, again keep in communication with Sindy or Liz.

Grooming

Certain breeds require regular grooming; SCP will cover the reasonable cost of grooming. Lark Meadow boarding and grooming will bill SCP without the need for out of pocket expense to the foster parent. Call Jessica Speaker at 865-244-6814 for an appointment, be sure to let her know the animal is an SCP foster.

If the foster parent has a preferred groomer they can pay out of pocket and turn in receipts for reimbursement. Please keep Sindy or Liz informed when receipts are being turned in so we can contact the treasurer for payment approval.

Doggie gear

If the foster parent needs dog food, pee pads, a crate, all this is supplied by the shelter. I do ask that all equipment be returned in a timely manner once the animal has been adopted or gone to rescue.

Foster brothers and sisters

SCP wants to prevent pet overpopulation; we ask that all pets in the home be spayed or neutered before bringing a foster home from the shelter.

Foster home inspection

SCP wants our fosters to be safe and secure, SCP wants each foster home to have a visit by a SCP representative. If the foster parent rents their home, we want assurance the landlord accepts pets in the home.

Communication is critical

We all have busy lives but we must make time for communication within our group, I ask that emails, text, phone calls be responded to in a timely manner. If the foster parent or SCP volunteer has a preferred method of communication, please inform Sindy or Liz.

**SAVE YOUR RECEIPTS AND GET AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT LETTER
FROM MCFA IN ORDER TO TAKE TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR
FOSTERING EXPENSES.**

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