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## Foster Parent FAQ Sheet

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### What animals are chosen for foster care?

Cats are usually in need of foster care due to illness or stress. The foster home will need to be comfortable administering medications provided by the shelter.

Nursing mothers with puppies or kittens who need foster care until the age of 8 weeks when they are ready to be weaned.

Dogs that are stressed due to the shelter environment, need a recovery period after injury/illness, or are in need of some behavioral training.

### Who chooses which animals go into foster care?

The ECCHA staff and management are in charge of identifying animals that are eligible for foster care.

### What qualifications are needed to become a foster parent?

We ask all potential foster homes to attend a Foster Orientation meeting. They are held once a month; the date for the next meeting is posted the beginning of each month, or call the shelter for the next date - (715) 839-4747 ext.27. Once this is complete, we ask that you fill out a Foster Application. The Volunteer Coordinator will contact you once the application is processed. All pets in your home must be up-to-date on vaccinations.

### I have other animals. Will they adjust to the new foster animals?

Your foster animals should be kept separate from your own animals for at least 7 days, longer if the animal you are fostering has an illness or injury.

### How long is an animal's average stay?

This depends on the reason the animal is being fostered. Mothers with their litters are generally in foster care for around 2 months.

Cats with illness, generally Upper Respiratory Infections, can be brought back once the medication and symptoms are gone, generally 2 weeks to 1 month. We do ask that you contact us once your foster cat is better so that we can work on finding an open cage at the shelter for them. Please note that this may take a week or more depending on how full the shelter is.

We prefer dogs stay in foster care as long as possible, ideally until they are adopted. This helps ensure the dog isn't further stressed.