Frequently Asked Questions About Fostering

How do I become a foster parent?
In order to become a foster parent, you’ll need to fill out a foster application and attend a volunteer orientation. The questions on the application help us determine what animals would be best fitted into your home. Also, if you have any pets in your home, they must be up to date on all vaccines.

There are many factors to take in to consideration when applying to become a foster parent. With that being said, most of the animals that go to foster are either ill or not suited for living here at the shelter. You’d need an area for the animal to stay and/or quarantine. Animals that are ill may need medication while in foster care.

Do I have to pay, or do I get paid, to be a foster parent?
You do not have to pay to be a foster parent, nor do you get paid.

Do I provide veterinary care for my foster animal(s)?
No, the ECCHA will provide routine veterinary care for foster animals. Foster parents are required to bring their foster animals into the shelter to receive vaccinations on the dates scheduled by the foster parent and foster coordinator. This will ensure that vaccinations are being given on the correct day, recorded promptly, and the health status of each foster is being monitored by ECCHA staff. When foster animals are picked up, we will set up your first appointment for necessary vaccines. Please expect to return to the ECCHA every two weeks, at minimum, for vaccine appointments.

What animals are placed in 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 humane association. Cats with illnesses (upper respiratory infections are common in the shelter environment) can come back to the ECCHA once any symptoms and/or medications are gone. This can take anywhere from two weeks to one month. We ask that you let us know when your foster cat is feeling better so we can reserve an open cage. Please note that reserving an open cage can take a week or more depending on how full the shelter is.

Dogs that are stressed due to the shelter environment, need a recovery period after injury/illness, or are in need of some behavioral training are foster candidates. Please note that the ECCHA staff and management are in charge of identifying animals that are eligible for foster care.

I have other animals. Will they adjust to the new foster animals?
Your foster animals should be kept separate from your own animals; this will help keep both your pets and the foster pets comfortable in a new situation. We recommend they use of a “quarantine room” to keep them separate. Bathrooms work great for this as they are a good size and easy to disinfect after each foster animal you care for.

How long will the animal stay with me?
An animal’s stay in foster care can vary for a number of reasons.