

What is a pet foster parent and what is needed?

1. Pet foster parents are people who love animals and want to help provide temporary homes in their homes for dogs or cats prior to adoption.
2. Providing foster care for a few days, weeks, or months can be a life-saving gift for an animal. If the shelter is too full, fosters can provide care until there is an opening, or until an animal is ready for shelter life.
3. Your role as a foster parent is to prepare the animal for adoption into a loving home, giving that animal the love and kindness it needs to be able to learn to trust humans. Some animals needing fostering could be sick or too young to live in the shelter (usually puppies under 16 weeks of age and kittens under 2 pounds) or just need extra attention to be trained.
4. Pet foster parents give the animal a chance to get used to life in a house, and an opportunity to learn that people can be kind, food is available, and there is a warm, secure place to sleep.

Would I be a good pet foster parent?

All you need is love! If you love animals and want to do something to help, fostering can be a flexible, fun and rewarding volunteer job!

1. You choose how much time you want to devote to fostering.
2. You can volunteer in your home and not have to travel to the shelter.
3. It's a great way to enjoy a pet if you are not in a position to make that lifetime commitment right now, and it's a great way to find out if that pet might fit in with your family as an adoption!

What else is needed to be a pet foster parent?

1. You will need to commit for a specific time-frame with the animal if at all possible; provide an environment safe for the animal such as a fenced yard; decide on separation of integration with your own family pets; provide some obedience training, leash training, vet visits, and possibly administering medications. HSO will provide all the information beforehand.
2. You will be asked to sign an agreement that explains what will be provided and any risks.

What about when it's time to say good-bye to the fostered pet?

1. Giving up an animal you've fostered, even to a wonderful new home, can be difficult emotionally. Some people like to be there when the pet goes home with the new family. Seeing your foster animal off will help you remember that he has found a lovely new home.
2. Knowing you were part of saving a life and helping the animal find a loving home is tremendously rewarding. Your foster pet will adjust to its new loving home, just like it adjusted to yours.
3. Sometimes a foster home turns into a permanent home. That's why rescue, shelter, and humane organizations are always on the lookout for new foster homes!

Taking animals into your home, loving them, and then letting them go requires a special kind of person. The reward is knowing you invested in that animal's life to make it better!

Please fill out our Volunteer Form to let us know you are interested in learning more about being a Pet Foster Parent!

Derived from:

<https://bestfriends.org/resources/pet-fostering-qa>