

# Furry Friends Expectation & Guidelines For Foster Parents

## Preparing Your Space

- Provide a safe environment free from choking hazards, poisonous plants, etc.
- Keep fosters separate from personal pets in a separate space such as a guest bedroom, office; never allow them outdoors.

## Daily Feeding

- Cats to be fed as determined by the Vet Tech
- Kittens are:
  - To be fed wet food as determined by the Vet Tech
  - To have dry food available at all times
- Both are to have fresh water available at all times, change water daily
- Both are to have a clean litterbox. As kittens age, this will need to be more frequent.

## Supplies

### **The following supplies are provided:**

- Food, food containers, litter, litter box, litter scooper, medication, toys, cat towers, cat carrier and other supplies as determined.

### **Ordering Supplies:**

- Please contact the Adoption Coordinate at least **one week in advance** of anticipated supply needs. These supplies are mail delivered and need time to get to the halfway house.
- Make arrangements with the Adoption Coordinator to pick up supplies at the Halfway House.

## Health Care

### **Medical Appointment at the Halfway House:**

- Appointments for medical check ups and vaccines are usually Saturdays, occasionally Sundays between 10:00am – 3:00pm
- Kittens are to be brought in for medical appointments at the Halfway House at 2 weeks of age, 2 months and 3 months of age.
  - Please be punctual for appointments; they run a full schedule on these days.

## **Spay/Neutering:**

- Kittens will need to be taken to get spayed/neutered when they weigh at least 3 pounds, around 3 months of age; the Vet Tech will determine when they are ready.
- The mother cat will need to be spayed as well and the timing will be determined by the vet tech; usually it is at the same time as the kittens.
- The Adoption Coordinator will work with you to schedule the appointment. They will provide you with the appointment location/day/time. Usually drop off is as early as 8:00am and pick up is up to 6pm; the vet clinic will communicate with you directly when they are ready to be picked up.

## **Emergency**

- 1) Should there be an emergency with a foster animal, **immediately** contact our Vet Tech
- 2) They may need you to take the animal to the emergency vet and either the Vet Tech or President will meet the foster there for evaluation and to cover payment.

## **Other Medical Concerns**

### **Change in Behavior**

- 1) If there is a change in behavior such as not eating, diarrhea, vomiting, lethargy/fatigue, **immediately** contact the Vet Tech via phone. If for some reason they cannot be reached, call the President. Make sure to get a hold of someone for advice. It could be an emergency.

## **Socialization**

- For at least 20 minutes twice per day, provide socialization including petting, holding, talking lovingly to them, playing with wand toys, etc.
- Care for the animals as if they were your own.
  
- Once cats/kittens have been fully vaccinated **and** approved by the Vet Tech, you have the option to introduce them to your own pets under close supervision. This could provide additional socialization for them.

## **Communication**

- Communicate weekly with the Adoption Coordinator
  - Share updates, supply needs, pictures, check on vaccines/medical appointment needs

## **Adoption**

### **Adoption Events:**

- Bring foster cat/kittens to as many adoption events as needed; coordinate with the Adoption Event coordinator.
  - These events are held the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month from 11:00-2:00 and the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at Petsmart in Hazel Dell between 12:00-3:00pm.
  - They may be dropped off/picked up. There is not an expectation for you to stay unless specified. We just ask you to return promptly at 3pm.

### **Promotion:**

- Take many pictures and submit the best to \_\_\_\_\_ or upload them to \_\_\_\_\_
  - These are used for promotion on Facebook, website and Twitter.
  - Submit pictures that not only sell the personality of the cat/kitten but also are quirky, silly or playful that might be great for Twitter promotion.
- Complete bio forms of foster(s) for adoption and submit to \_\_\_\_\_ (email)

### **Adoption Process:**

- The Adoption Coordinator will forward applications to you for you to review. As a rule of thumb, the first application in has priority if they meet the qualifications:
  - Indoor only
  - No claw removal
  - Positive history with present/past pets
  - No red flags
  - 1) Conduct a phone interview with potential adopters (see phone interview for a guide). Trust your gut.
  - 2) If satisfied with phone interview, set-up a "Meet and Greet" with potential adopters at your home or at Furry Friends Halfway House. If meeting at the Halfway House, coordinate with the Adoption Coordinator. If you decide to move forward with the adoption let them know you will contact the Adoption Coordinator to set up a time to meet to do the adoption; usually happens within a few days. Once you get the date/time, contact the adopting family and let them know the Adoption Coordinator will forward them an email with the confidential address. Remind them to bring a pet carrier and payment \$100 for one or \$140 for two and \$180 for three (check or cash only).
  - 3) The Adoption Coordinator will handle the adoption meeting. Your role is to support them and observe to learn how the process works and of course to say your goodbyes to your sweet foster(s).