



*Helping homeless and abused cats*

# Furry Friends Expectation & Guidelines for Foster Parents

## **Preparing Your Space**

- Provide a safe environment free from choking hazards, poisonous plants (list can be found at [www.asPCA.org/petcare/animalpoisoncontrol](http://www.asPCA.org/petcare/animalpoisoncontrol)), etc.
- Keep fosters separate from personal pets in a space such as a guest bedroom, office, etc. Never use the bathroom as this space and never let them outside.

## **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 by Furry Friends:

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

## **Ordering Supplies**

- Please contact the Foster Lead/Coordinator at least one week in advance of anticipated supply needs.
- Plan with the Foster Lead/Coordinator to pick up supplies at the Halfway House.

## **Health Care**

- Appointments for medical check ups and vaccines are usually Saturdays, occasionally Sundays between 10:00am and 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.



*Helping homeless and abused cats*

- 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 Foster Lead/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 to 6:00pm; the vet will communicate with you directly when they are ready to be picked up.

### **Emergency**

- Should there be an emergency with a foster cat/kitten, immediately contact our Vet Tech
- They may need you to take the cat/kitten to the emergency vet and a Furry Friends representative will meet you there.

### **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.

### **Communication**

- Communicate weekly with your Foster Lead/Coordinator, share updates, supply needs, pictures, check on vaccines/medical appointment needs, etc.

### **Adoption**

- Bring foster cat(s)/kitten(s) to as many adoption events as needed; coordinate with the Foster Lead/Coordinator. These may include the Recycled Arts Festival in June, Peace and Justice Fair in September, etc.



*Helping homeless and abused cats*

### **Promotion**

- Take many pictures and submit the best ones to Diane Stevens, these are to be used for promotion on Facebook, our website and Twitter.
- Submit pictures that not only sell the personality of the cat/kitten, but also are quirky, silly or playful.
- Complete bio forms of foster(s) for adoption and submit to Diane Stevens

### **Adoption Process**

- The Foster Lead/Coordinator will forward applications to you for review. As a rule of thumb, the first application has priority if they meet the following qualifications:
  - Indoor only
  - No claw removal
  - Positive History with present/past pets
  - No Red Flags
- Conduct a phone interview with potential adopters (See phone interview guidelines). Trust your gut.
- Check references of potential adopter (See reference check guidelines).
- If satisfied with the phone interview and references, set up a meet and greet with the potential adopter at your home or at Furry Friends Halfway House. If meeting at HH please coordinate with the Foster Lead/Coordinator ahead of time.
- If you decide to move forward with the adoption let them know you will have the Foster Lead/Coordinator set up a time to meet with them and finalize the adoption. Let them know that they will be receiving an email with the confidential address. Remind them to bring a pet carrier and payment \$100 for one, \$140 for two, and \$180 for three (check or cash only).
- The Foster Lead/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).