



Foster Cat Program Policy

Purpose:

Fostering is a method of caring for adoptable animals that have special needs or need some time away from the shelter. It is also a method of providing hospice care for cats who have been deemed unadoptable. The purpose of this document is to establish a standard in providing temporary care for these adoptable animals.

Policy:

SAFE Haven for Cats Foster Cat Program provides temporary care for adoptable cats with special needs and cats that need some time away from the shelter. The program will also assist in finding homes for cats with serious health conditions that have been deemed unadoptable, i.e., hospice care environment. Cats are fostered with screened and trained volunteers who can offer the animals a temporary home. The goal of the foster program is to ultimately find a permanent home for the animal. The Foster Coordinator shall be responsible for carrying out the Foster Cat Program.

Foster Caregiver Responsibilities:

- Foster caregiver will provide a clean, safe home environment in which to care for the foster cat.
- If the foster caregiver plans to be away from home for an extended period of time, the foster caregiver should notify SAFE Haven as soon as possible. SAFE Haven will attempt to work with the foster caregiver to come up with a cat care solution for the duration of the absence.
- Foster caregiver agrees to spend quality time with the cat.
- Foster caregivers should have the ability to:
 - Keep foster cats separate from their own animals (mandatory for the first 10-14 days minimum)
 - Administer medications, when necessary
 - Make a commitment
 - Accept the possibility of damage to their homes, such as stains on carpet
 - Understand that some foster animals will not survive
 - Allow SAFE Haven's adoption counselors to make placement decisions for the animals. Should the foster caregiver locate a suitable adoptive family, the prospective adoptive family must submit a completed Adoption Application to SAFE Haven.
 - Let go when it is time for the cat to go to his or her permanent home
- All cats fostered must be kept indoors at all times to prevent injury and the spread of disease. If a foster caregiver rents, proof must be provided that cats are permitted in their residence.

- Foster caregivers are expected to utilize the veterinarian at SAFE Haven when possible or to take the cat to the appropriate veterinarian when requested by SAFE Haven.
- Should the foster caregiver's personal pets contract any illness from the foster cat, those medical expenses will be the responsibility of the foster caregiver.
- Foster caregivers shall provide SAFE Haven with additional information regarding the foster cat to assist in finding a suitable home for the cat, as well as digital photos for use on the foster board at the shelter and on the web site. If foster caregiver does not have access to a digital camera, the Foster Care Counselor should be granted access to the cat to take pictures when needed. Foster caregiver shall also provide their e-mail address so that people who see the cat on the website can send basic questions directly to the foster caregiver.
- Foster caregivers shall permit potential adopters to visit with the foster cat in their home if provided with ample notice by SAFE Haven.
- Foster caregivers agree not to deliver fostered cats to any other person, unless so directed by SAFE Haven. If foster caregivers are no longer able to care for a cat, they must return the cat to SAFE Haven.

SAFE Haven Responsibilities:

SAFE Haven is responsible for determining which animals are available for the Foster Cat Program. SAFE Haven will provide the following:

- All healthcare required by the foster cat, including any medications
- Food, litter, litter boxes, food dishes, bedding, and any other supplies required to sufficiently care for the cat
- SAFE Haven will offer guidance when the foster caregiver picks up the foster cat. Staff will continue to guide the foster caregiver through the process and will provide educational resources for foster caregivers to use in caring for the foster cat
- SAFE Haven will continue to search for potential adopters for the foster cats in their care through a variety of resources including a foster board at the shelter and foster listings on the web site.

Foster Agreement and Requirements:

Potential foster caregivers will complete a foster caregiver application form and complete an interview with a Foster Care Counselor in which this policy will be fully discussed.

At the time of fostering, foster caregivers will sign a written Foster Home Agreement for each cat or litter. The Foster Home Agreement will be signed by the foster caregiver and the Foster Care Counselor.

Adoption of Foster Animals:

Foster caregivers may personally adopt the animal they are fostering. Foster caregivers will go through SAFE Haven's adoption procedures and payment of adoption fees.

Potential adopters must fill out SAFE Haven adoption forms and fulfill adoption criteria. All adoption fees will be paid to SAFE Haven.

Foster Period:

The foster period shall be determined at the time of fostering. If the cat requires additional time in the foster home, as determined by the Shelter Manager and/or SAFE Haven's veterinarian, the Foster Coordinator will ask the foster caregiver if they are willing to continue the foster arrangement.

I have received a copy of this document and read it. I agree to the policies and procedures outlined above and will abide by them.

Volunteer

Date

Foster Care Counselor

Date