

WHY FOSTER?



WE ASK, WHY NOT?

Friends of Wayne Animals Inc. is always in need of homes willing to foster animals until they find their forever home. We cannot accept the surrender of animals without foster homes in which to place them. Therefore, we are limited in the number of animals we can help by the number of foster homes we have. If you have the space, a little extra time, and extra love to give, consider opening your home and heart to an animal in need.



FOWA's foster homes, many of which have been with us for many, many years, experience great joy and deep satisfaction when they see that through their efforts a neglected dog or cat gets a second chance at life and a new opportunity to share his or her unconditional love. Not only do foster homes have the joy of seeing their foster animal placed into a new forever home, but also there is the additional joy of seeing the happiness of the new family: many of these homes need the dog/cat as much as the dog/cat needs them.



Why would anyone open up their home to an unknown, sometimes untrained animal? Because the rewards are amazing. Just some of the rewards of fostering include:

- Being able to experience that “new pet” excitement – over and over
- Being able to have a young puppy/kitten in your home any time you want
- Enjoying the unconditional love of an older dog/cat
- Knowing that you have saved an animals life
- Watching a scared dog/cat turn into a happy, well adjusted dog/cat that is ready for a new family
- Giving a family the joy of a new family member
- Making friends with other animal lovers and meting a wide variety of people
- Learning from experienced trainers and other team members



Requirements for foster families

- Any pets you currently own must meet the same minimum medical requirements we ask of our adopters. Current on all vaccinations, must be spayed/neutered and show consistency in receiving monthly heartworm preventative (for dogs).
- Love and treat your foster cat or dog like your own while it is in your home
- Provide house training, crate training (we provide the crate if needed), leash manners and indoor manners training for dogs as needed
- Have your foster live indoors
- Provide a diet of good, nutritional, age appropriate food which FOWA will provide
- Have a safe, secure yard for your foster dog during its time outdoors or be able to provide exercise. A tired foster is a well behaved one....
- Seek advice early and commit to work with your foster through any behavioral issues
- Give monthly heartworm and flea protection which is provided by FOWA
- Provide transportation for your foster animal to one of our APPROVED veterinary clinics (cost covered by FOWA with prior approval and arrangements), and attend adoption events when able
- Work with prospective adoptive families to help your foster animal find a home

We understand that some people like or are better equipped to handle a certain type of foster dog/cat. For this reason, on your foster application, you can indicate your preference in size and age of the animal you would like to foster.



How do I begin?

Start by filling out a foster application online. We STRONGLY recommend that if you have any dogs, that they Bordatella vaccination prior to you bringing in a foster dog. Bordatella (kennel cough) is very common and many foster dogs come down with it.

Next, a member of our rescue team will visit your home. The purpose is to answer any questions and to learn more about your level of experience. At this meeting, we will go over our fostering guidelines and ask you to sign our foster agreement.

THANK YOU

[Author Unknown]

Thank You for bringing this foster dog into my life.

Had I not made the decision to participate in rescue, I would never have had the chance to meet him. If I had sat here comfortably in my home and said "I already have four dogs and I know that I couldn't take in another - even on a temporary basis," I would never have met this dog.

Yes, it takes time to rescue and foster... but who gave me Time in the first place? And why or what was the reason I was given Time? To fill my own needs? Or was there another reason ever so small and seemingly insignificant, like rescuing this one dog, that could make a difference in another's life? Perhaps to add joy, hope, help and companionship to another who is in need?

With great sadness, I sat down on a footstool in my kitchen this morning and watched as this foster dog bounced back into the house and skidded across the floor to sit ever so perfectly in front of me. He was the picture of health, finally. He was all smiles for me.... and I smiled back at his happy face. Deep in his eyes, the storm clouds of illness and generalized poor health had blown away, and the clear light of his perfection radiated out from his beautiful soul. He holds no ill will toward man. He forgives us all.

I thought to myself as I impressed this one last long look of him into my heart, what a very fine creature you have created. Tears slowly pooled and spilled over my cheekbones as the deeper realization of how wonderful this dog is sank into my internal file cabinet of Needful Things to Remember.

Lord, he's a dog - but he's a better human being than I am.

He forgives quickly. Would I do the same?

He passionately enjoys the simple things in life. And I have often overlooked them.

He accepts change and gets on with his life. I fuss and worry about change.

He lives today and loves today. And I often dwell in the past or worry about the future.

He loves no matter what. I am not that free.

This very lovely dog has gone to his new home today and already I miss him. Thank You for bringing this dog into my life. And thank You for the beautiful and tender lesson on how to be a better human.

