

THE **HUMANE SOCIETY** OF GREATER KANSAS CITY



FREQUENTLY ASKED FOSTER QUESTIONS

What supplies are needed to foster?

The shelter can provide you with initial supplies and all needed medications throughout your foster experience. The Humane Society's veterinary staff provides all vet care. Foster families provide space, food, basic training and love for the pet. Any food or supplies you can donate obviously help the pets in our shelter and are tax deductible.

Do my hours count toward volunteering?

Yes! Please count three hours per day of fostering toward your yearly volunteer hours. You can record those hours by signing in at the shelter for your total hours at the end.

Do I need to have prior medical knowledge?

Not at all! You may be asked to dispense medications, so you will have to be comfortable following our veterinarian's instructions in that case. We are always here to answer any questions you may have.

Depending on the reason a pet goes into foster care you may be asked to transport the pet to follow up or recheck appointments. These appointments could either be at the shelter or at an offsite clinic and can be scheduled at your convenience during normal clinic hours.

What if my foster pet becomes sick?

If you have questions regarding the health of your foster pet please contact The Humane Society. If the problem isn't an emergency, we will make an appointment for you to bring the pet in to see the vet. In an emergency we will schedule you immediately. All non-emergency care must be scheduled with our vet clinic. All veterinary care is given at the shelter. Should you choose to take HSGKC foster animals to your own veterinarian, please be advised that we CANNOT reimburse you for any medical costs.

IMPORTANT: If a pet in your care should pass away, please call your Foster Coordinator immediately! It is important that our veterinarian has the opportunity to examine the pet to be certain that nothing will transmit to other foster animals you may have now or in the future. HSGKC has cremation services for any pets who do not survive.

Can foster parents name their foster pets?

In most cases foster pets will already be named. If they aren't we ask that you abide by our guidelines which are included in this packet. We reserve the right to either change a name or ask the foster parent to change the name.

Can foster parents adopt their foster pets?

Yes! As long as foster parents meet the shelter requirements that are necessary for adopting, foster parents *usually* have the first choice to adopt their foster pet. The only exception would be a pet for which we already have an adoption or media plan, which will be noted at the time of pick up.

How long are pets usually in foster care?

That will depend on the pet and the situation. The average stay in foster care is two to four weeks. Some available pets with a great photo and story stay only a few days, while others, if recovering from an injury or surgery will be in foster care for as long as it takes for them to heal. We will usually ask you to keep your foster pet for 24-48 hours after spay or neuter surgery. In some cases you will keep the pet until he or she is adopted.

How are foster pets adopted?

Photos and stories of all available pets in foster care are posted on our web site where the public can view available pets. Please provide us with cute photos, videos and stories of your foster pet. It will help get them adopted more quickly! Potential adopters are advised to contact the shelter and arrange a meeting for a pet in foster care.

Foster pets can also be promoted at one of our special events held throughout the year. Foster parents are welcome to participate in these events as long as arrangements are made in advance. For dates and times of events or to make arrangements to attend, please contact Jana at janabrunner1@gmail.com.

If your foster pet does not have an adoption or media plan and you would like to promote your foster pet yourself, see below for some suggestions. Keep in mind, since your foster pet is being promoted by the shelter it is important to stay in contact with our staff and inform them of any meetings with potential adopters as waiting lists can form quickly.

All adoptions must be processed by a Humane Society adoptions coordinator, including adoptions by family or friends of foster parents. Foster pets remain the property and responsibility of HSGKC and it is crucial that all paperwork be completed before a foster pet is given to a potential adopter. Foster pets **must not** be transferred to a potential adopter until paperwork is completed, even for an overnight trial.

How can I promote my foster pet?

For pets **without** a prior adoption or media plan, please feel free to help us find their forever home! The following are some ways that can be helpful:

- Cross posting on Facebook or other social media sites
- Emails or newsletters to family and friends; photos are always helpful
- Walks in the community to both socialize and show off your foster (dogs only, and please stay on leash)

Please do not:

- Post on free sites such as Craig's List
- Visit off-leash areas
- Transport cats to other locations; this is very stressful for the cat

Are foster animals contagious? Will my pets or my health be jeopardized?

It is always a health risk to expose your animal to other animals, whether at off-leash areas, the vet waiting room or any common animal areas. Your foster pet may have been exposed to contagious disease and can in turn expose your pet. Please consider the age and health of the pets in your home when you foster. We suggest you keep your foster pets separate from your owned pets, and make certain your pets are current on their vaccinations.

A zoonotic disease is defined as a disease transmitted from animals to humans and also from humans to animals. Proper hygiene, preventative measures and an understanding of the illnesses can reduce the risk of disease.

If someone in your household is immune compromised, consult the doctor before fostering. If you (or someone in your home) are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, talk to your doctor before fostering cats. You may need to take some special precautions during your pregnancy.

Are foster pets ever euthanized?

Adoptable pets are not euthanized at HSGKC. The only time a pet is considered for euthanasia is for terminal health or severe behavioral reasons. The same criteria apply to foster pets. Euthanasia is never an easy decision, and we understand the level of attachment you may develop for your foster pet. If you have any concerns you should discuss them with your Foster Coordinator.

What if I have to return my foster pet to the shelter?

If you are unable to care for your foster pet for the entire length of the foster agreement, notify us as soon as possible so that alternate arrangements may be made. We will need to make kennel space and it can be difficult to accommodate last minute returns.