



Everything you want to know about fostering....but don't know where to start!

I have a busy lifestyle and am worried I won't have a lot of extra time for a foster.

Most animals we rescue have experienced abandonment or neglect, so a warm loving home with even a little daily love and attention is a wonderful upgrade to them! We are careful to place each pet in a home that fits them best.

What if I have a very small home/space? Very little space is required to foster an animal. Even one spare room can be sufficient to provide a warm safe environment for a pet to call its temporary home.

How much will I know about the animal before I agree to take it into my home?

Everything that FON knows about the animal will be passed on to the foster family, so they are able to make an informed decision before placement.

How long can I expect to keep my foster animal? Because FON is not a brick-and-mortar shelter, all our rescues are housed in foster homes. Fostering can range from only a few days to months.

What kind of training will I receive? Every new foster receives an information packet to help guide you through the fostering process. We do our best to provide with as many resources as possible. We have Foster Coordinators, as well as a network of experienced fosters, who are willing to help mentor you through any questions you might have.

What if my foster pet needs veterinary care? Your foster information packet will outline specific steps to take in the event your pet needs medical care. FON covers all medical expenses for your foster pet!

Will my foster pet need a lot of appointments? When an animal is new to FON, s/he does need initial medical evaluation and treatment for any acute conditions. All our pets are also spayed and neutered, usually within 2 weeks of their arrival if they aren't

already. We work with a vet clinic, who caters to people who work during the day, so pets can be dropped off before work and picked up afterwards. When schedule conflicts occur, other FON volunteers can assist with appointment pick-ups and drop-offs.

What will my expenses be? As a FON foster, you are only responsible for providing love and getting them ready for their forever home! FON provides food and toys, gates, crates, medicine if applicable, and behavioral training if needed.

What is the adoption procedure? All FON adoptables are posted on Petfinder. The foster family helps assess readiness for adoption and assists with pictures and information for the website. Potential adopters must fill out an application and be pre-approved before meeting the animal. Clearly, the foster parents know the animal best, so they will play an important role in the final adoption decision.

What is the pet I'm fostering is not compatible with my family? If for some reason the foster pet can't acclimate to his/her new foster surroundings, we will make every effort to find a more compatible home for the animal. While a period of adjustment is usually normal, most families are enriched by the addition of a foster pet.

I love the idea of being a foster volunteer, but I'm worried about how hard it will be to 'let go' when they are adopted. It can be difficult to let go once you've become emotionally attached to a foster animal. FON screens potential adopters very carefully, and our foster parents help decide if they are the right fit – so it helps knowing that the foster animal is going into a great home! While you may experience some happy tears, foster parents play a crucial part in helping unwanted animals get into the permanent, loving homes they deserve. The joy we've experienced from playing a vital role in rescuing animals has far outweighed any heartache we've experienced from letting go of them.

FOSTERING IS NOT A LIFETIME COMMITMENT! If you're still not sure that fostering is a good fit for you, we encourage you to try it once! You may discover that there's nothing better than volunteering in the comfort of your own home and making a difference!

“To foster an animal is a great GIFT and act of KINDNESS. The animals hold a special place in your HEART, and you make a world of DIFFERENCE in their lives!”