# FOSTER CARE FACTS:

# Who Can Foster?

#### **EVERYONE!!**

- Students
- Families
- Seniors

We do perform a short screening process to ensure the safety and security of animals.

# When is it Needed?

We need foster homes year round, but especially in the spring, summer, and early fall months for pregnant cats and kittens.

# What Kind of **Animals?**

Mainly cats and dogs (& kittens and puppies!). But also:

- Guinea pigs
- Hamsters
- ◆ Turtles
- Rabbits
- Ferrets





# **Why Do Animals Need Foster Care?**



- Mainly Upper Respiratory Infections (URI) for cats and kittens
- Pregnant and too young/too small cats and kittens
- · Kennel Cough in dogs
- Recovery after medical procedures (dentals, amputations, bladder stones, FHO surgeries, etc.).
- Long term for over flow housing
- Socialization of nervous/shy cats and dogs



# **How Long Will it Last?**

- Usually foster care is for about 2 weeks (URI, kennel cough, recovery after common medical procedures like dentals etc.)
- Pregnant cats 8 weeks after birth of kittens
- · Kittens until they are 8 weeks and weigh at least 2lbs.
- There are cases when the usual doesn't apply and foster care turns out to be longer than we thought: i.e. if the animal isn't getting better or if there is no space at the shelter.



- We may ask if you can hold on to the foster animal longer in the case of no space or disease outbreak, but if you can't we will always take them back.
- You won't be stuck with them if you can't hold on to them.

### What Do I Need?

- TCHS will provide everything that you need (food, litter, litter scoop, carrier, toys, medication, bowls, and blankets)
- For cats and kittens in foster care a quiet room is ideal, extra bathroom or spare bedroom, etc.
- Love and attention
- Be willing to give medication mostly oral or topical
- Be ok with transporting (pick up and drop off at shelter, kittens and puppies for vaccinations

# What if there's an Emergency?

- Call the shelter or the emergency contact phone numbers on your foster sheet, please do NOT google issues and use any solution that may pop up. Several online suggestions are often very harmful or extremely unreliable.
- We will determine what care the animal needs. Most things we can help with at the shelter but we have used the emergency clinic and vet clinics in the area before if needed, but can only be used with prior approval from TCHS staff.
- Do not just bring the animal to a vet clinic!





## **Tri-County Humane Society**

# **FOSTER CARE PROGRAM**

What to Expect

#### **Would You Make A Good Foster Parent?**

1.	Are you able to devote the necessary amount of time to your foster animal (see chart below)?	Yes	No
2.	Are you able to bring foster animals to the shelter for vaccine boosters every 2—3 weeks?	Yes	No
3.	Are you able to contact TCHS staff or bring foster animals to the shelter quickly in an emergency?	Yes	No
4.	Are you able to separate foster animals from your household pets for at least 2 weeks to protect your pets from illnesses and allow the foster animal a proper adjustment time?	Yes	No
5.	Are you able to handle cleaning procedures such as washing hands after every encounter and cleaning/disinfecting the foster animal's living area routinely?	Yes	No
6.	Are you able to handle any potential home damage (carpet/clothing, and/or furniture) associated with animals?	Yes	No
7.	Are you prepared to handle sickness or possible death of a foster animal?	Yes	No
8.	Are you able to emotionally handle letting go of a foster animal after becoming attached once their foster period is over*?	Yes	No
9.	Are you able to handle the potential of foster animals carrying illness that could affect your household animals/family?	Yes	No

Type of Foster	Duration of Foster	Daily Commitment
Neonate Puppies	6-8 weeks	8 hours
Mom with Puppies	2-8 weeks	3 hours
Weaned Puppies	1-4 weeks	3-6 hours
Sick/Injured Dogs	1 week-2 months (or long-term)	2-3 hours
Neonate Kittens	6-8 weeks	Up to 8 hours
Mom with Kittens	2-8 weeks	1-2 hours or more
Weaned Kittens	1-4 weeks	2 hours
Cats with Upper Respiratory Infections	2-3 weeks	1-2 hours
Injured Cats	1 week-2 months (or long-term)	1-2 hours

<sup>\*</sup> Our foster homes do have first option to adopt their foster animal as long as the animal did not have a deposit hold on it prior to going to foster care.