

# F o s t e r i n g

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Complete your  
application at  
[animalaid.org](http://animalaid.org)



WHAT TO EXPECT  
WHEN YOU'RE  
FOS'PECTING



# Congratulations - It's a...fur baby!



Welcome to the wonderful and rewarding world of fostering! We hope you find this information helpful.

Animal Aid of Tulsa's mission is to rescue homeless (stray) sick, injured or abused cats and dogs. Our animals come from the streets in need of emergency medical care. We know little, if anything, about their history before being rescued. One thing we do know, is all of them depend on us for help.

**A cat or dog in a foster home is a life saved.** As a foster parent, you are helping a homeless animal by providing a loving and stable home while they recuperate and are socialized. This helps prepare him or her for adoption.



**This can be fun and rewarding!** Fostering can be challenging at times, but you are never alone. There are many support systems in place to help you along the way: our foster coordinator, rescue and adoption supervisor, each of the board members is always available and most of all our other foster parents and volunteers!

**We thank you for volunteering your time to a very deserving cat or dog!** Whether this is your first time fostering or you're a seasoned foster, it is important to know your rights and your role as a foster parent—**you are an invaluable resource!** Your well being is just as important as that of your foster baby.



The first step is to work with our foster coordinator to **find the animal that is the right fit** for your home. It may take some time, but do not get discouraged.

**Be flexible but stand up** for yourself and/or your foster dog/cat. We often get very busy and don't respond promptly. Please do speak up if you have serious concerns—we are all available to help.

**Foster Coord: Heather Palomino 918-625-7599; Supervisor: Kelly Brown 918-951-6138  
President: Michelle Morris 918-853-3282; Vice President: Jenipher Rowe 918-637-2986**

Do not feel obligated to adopt your foster. Good foster homes are priceless, so keep on fostering and you'll become addicted! It feels good to get so many ready for their forever homes!

**Animal Aid covers all medical expenses and prescriptions for your foster. All animals will be micro-chipped, spayed/neutered and up to date on all shots.** We will also provide food, bedding, toys and treats as needed.

**You can be a part of the adoption process.** Typically, once an adoption applicant is approved, the application is forwarded to you and a meet and greet is scheduled. We generally like for meet and greets to take place where your foster animal will be most comfortable. Our adoption coordinator will work with you to get a meeting scheduled at a time and place that works.

Once your foster animal is adopted, you may stay in touch with the adopter for updates on how your foster is doing. You may exchange contact information with the adopter. Especially with email and social media, it is becoming easier to stay in touch once your foster is adopted.

Animal Aid of Tulsa maintains a volunteer Facebook page which is a forum where volunteers and fosters can learn of events and share ideas. Once approved, you will be added to the group. Feel free to ask questions and post stories and share photos of your furry foster.

**Before fostering, ask yourself -**

*What will I do with the dog while I am at work?*

How long can I foster?

*How will my resident pet handle a new guest?*

Does my building allow animals?

*Where will my foster sleep?*

What type of animal can I handle?

*Will my roommates be on board?*



Once you've decided on the logistics, make sure that you communicate your comfort level with us so we can successfully pair you with a dog or cat that is the right fit. You'll start to bond and may feel sad when he/she gets adopted. Sure, saying "goodbye" can be tough and emotional, but you will recover and then jump back into fostering another!

It is great to be proactive and **make your house safe for your new arrival**. Make sure tuck away things that your foster may get into, such as wires, shoes, houseplants, and open garbage cans. You will want to make sure you have the following items on hand as applicable: food, litter, bed, toys, “adopt me” bandana, harness or leash. If you buy supplies for your foster, they may be tax deductible!

You will now begin to help your foster learn behaviors that will increase their odds of being adopted into a loving forever home.

**Your first few days:** Depending on the situation your foster came from, they may need a little (or lot) of time to decompress. Be flexible and observe. Once in your home they may act differently than predicted. If they are shying away, that’s okay—give them time and some space. Let your foster come to you first by encouraging with treats by either sitting on the floor and gently calling to them. Best to take the first few days very slow, no parties, limit visitors, and slowly introduce your foster to your resident animals. Often separating them into different rooms for the first few days works well. Then, slowly introduce for small amounts of time. Slow and steady wins the race!

**Establish a routine.** Be consistent with feeding, walking (dogs) and bedtime. It is normal for your foster to have less of an appetite, fear of urinating, or sleeping a lot on the first few days or so. Keep an eye on them and alert us if anything serious seems to be going on.

Even if you think the foster is house trained, it is common for mistakes to happen while they adjust to a new environment, food and a new schedule. **Be patient.** Many of our animals have been through a difficult journey, neglected or treated unkindly. Your consistent, calm and kind behavior will help them develop a fresh new perspective and develop some improved behaviors.

**Work on basic training.** For dogs: Sit/Come/Down/Stay and Leave It are good commands to start with. For cats: Litter Box/Clawing Acceptable Objects Reward for good behavior—Most are treat motivated. Consistency is key!

Slowly and safely expose your foster to new things—kids, other dogs or cats. Ask our foster coordinator if it is okay to take your dog to a dog park. **Help us in promoting your foster** by having them wear their adopt me vest, talk to others about your foster, share what you learn about your foster and photos/videos you’ve taken on the Facebook page. **Bring your foster to adoption events!!**

