

Becoming a Foster Parent to a Homeless Dog or Cat

*Visits to the vet and medical care...FREE
Food, bowls, toys, leashes & collars....FREE*

*A temporary home with some time and love for an animal in need?
PRICELESS...and URGENTLY NEEDED!*

The Central Pennsylvania Animal Alliance (www.CPAA.info) and its member rescue groups rely on a fostering network to provide temporary homes for the homeless dogs and cats they rescue. Rather than keeping animals caged in a large facility, animals live in foster homes until they are placed in quality forever homes of their own.



CPAA and its member rescues have very limited foster resources and often must turn away animals in need because of a lack of foster parents. Good, loving foster homes are very much needed, and fostering might be right for you!

Q: What are the responsibilities of the foster parent versus the rescue group?

A: Foster homes provide love and shelter, while the rescue group pays for food, supplies and all medical expenses. A foster home is precious to a rescue group because the foster parent gets to know the animal's personality and helps the rescue group better match the pet with the perfect forever home. The foster parent must be able to transport the animal, when needed, to and from vet appointments and weekend adoption events. You can also help process adoption applications submitted for your animal or help with the home visits, if you choose. By doing so, you have the opportunity to get to know the prospective adopters for your foster animal. You will be able to see the interaction between the animal and the family and help with the adoption decision.

Q: How long will a foster dog or cat stay in my home?

A: The average time an animal is fostered is several weeks; however, it could be as little as a few days or as much as a few months. Foster animals get adopted at different rates depending on age, breed, gender and ability to get along with children and/or other animals. Although rescue groups prefer an animal remains in one foster home until a permanent home is found, they realize this is not always possible. Foster parents have the right to discontinue fostering at any time for any reason. Fostering help for days, weeks or months is needed and welcome!

Q: Why is fostering necessary?

A: CPAA and its member rescues rely on a foster network to provide temporary homes for rescued animals. Our animals are kept in foster homes until they are placed in permanent loving homes of their own. We currently have limited foster resources, so we often have to turn animals in need away because there is no one to foster them.

Q: What if I already have another pet(s)? What about children?

A: Many people with children and pets foster animals. The rescue group will gather as much information as possible on the background of its rescue animals and their ability to get along with children and other animals. You, of course, need to know your children and pets' abilities to adjust to a visiting dog or cat.



Fostering an animal can save a life! Please help.

Q: What do I need to foster?

A: Personal Qualities: If you want to foster, you should consider yourself a compassionate, patient and committed person. You will also need to be flexible and to have a practical attitude. A good sense of humor can help too! These qualities will enable you to help a dog or cat recover from the trauma of being displaced and make a good adjustment to a new home.

Suitable Home: A fenced yard is great, but not necessary. If you rent a home, you need to have your landlord's permission to have a dog or cat living with you, even on a temporary basis.

Equipment: Nada – **everything can be supplied to you!** Vet care, food, dishes, leash, collar, treats, toys and medications will be provided as needed. A crate is a convenient piece of equipment for foster animals and can be provided if needed. If you already have a pet bed, that's great. If not, old blankets and towels make a comfortable place for your foster to sleep. You are welcome to supply equipment listed above, but not required to.



Time at Home: You should plan to spend at least an hour per day for care and exercise of the animal, and you should spend sufficient time getting to know the animal. You shouldn't foster if you plan to be away on a trip soon after you take in a foster animal.

Experience: Past fostering experience is not required; however, some experience with animals is good to have. If you have experience with a particular breed, you may want to foster that breed. Providing some simple training or re-training of basic obedience is desirable; in some circumstances, attending a dog training class may be necessary. If you are a first-time foster parent, the rescue group will help you determine which animal would be best for your situation and provide you with information that will be useful to you.

Q: How do I prevent myself from becoming too attached?

A: A good idea is to never think of a foster animal as "yours". Instead, realize that each animal already belongs to someone else – the pet just hasn't found that person yet. The animal is staying with you until that special person is found to take the pet home. A great way to keep from getting too attached is to remember there is another animal that needs your help after this one goes home.

Q: What if I do get attached to the animal I foster?

A: While it is common to become attached to an animal you are fostering, we often remind ourselves that our main goal is to save the animal's life. Without a foster home, that animal wouldn't get a second chance at life. Foster families very often keep in touch with the adoptive family to check on the animal's progress. It also makes many of us feel better to know that releasing our fosters to a new, loving home enables us to again take in and give a chance at life to another animal. Of course, if you absolutely cannot see yourself giving up the foster animal and can accommodate that animal in your home, adoption is a consideration.

If you have questions or may be interested in opening your home and becoming a foster parent, please fill out an information form or contact CPAA at info@cpaa.info or 717.732.0611





www.cpa.info

Fostering, Adoption, Volunteer and Sponsor Information Request Form

Please tell us how you are interested in helping CPAA and animals (*check all that apply*):

I am interested in more information about fostering a rescued dog or cat

I am interested in adopting a rescued dog or cat

I am interested in volunteering with CPAA and/or its member rescue groups

I am interested in becoming a CPAA sponsor or providing a donation.

Other:

My name and address:

Please contact me by (*fill in one or both options*):

Phone:

Email:

Thank you! Please give this form to a CPAA volunteer or call, email or mail it to us at:

**Central PA Animal Alliance
1802 Silver Pine Circle
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050**

**Phone: 717.732.0611
Email: info@cpaa.info**