



## Foster Help Sheet

Thank you for choosing to become a foster provider with The Anti-Cruelty Society! This is a quick cheat sheet to help you with your first foster case. Additional details regarding health, behavior, and other foster information, please consult the official Foster Program Manual.

### Quick Contacts

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <u>Clinic Reception</u>(Weekdays 9am-4:30pm): (312) 645-8051</li><li>● <u>Behavior Helpline</u> (Voicemail): (312) 645-8253</li><li>● <u>General Operator</u> (Daily 9am - 6pm): (312) 645-8220</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <a href="#">Foster Candidates Page</a></li><li>● <a href="#">Foster Pet Library</a></li><li>● <a href="#">Clinic Request Form</a></li><li>● <a href="#">Foster Food Pickup Appointment Form</a></li><li>● <a href="#">Foster Booster Appointment Form</a></li><li>● <a href="#">Foster Return Appointment Form</a></li></ul> |
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### Foster Support Team:

- Elizabeth Lopez: Manager of Foster Services (Sun-Thurs 8:30 am - 4:30 pm)
- Eric Tostado: Coordinator of Volunteer Services (Tue-Sat 9 am - 5 pm)
- Steve Weaver: Director of Community Programs (Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 4:30 pm)

**Main Foster Email:** [foster@anticruelty.org](mailto:foster@anticruelty.org)

**Main Behavior Email:** [help@anticruelty.org](mailto:help@anticruelty.org)

### General Foster Tips:

- **Question? Email us!** The [foster@anticruelty.org](mailto:foster@anticruelty.org) email address comes to several different people and is the best way to get in touch with us for non-medical inquiries.
- **Medical concerns:** If you have a foster animal who has loose stool, cold symptoms, or another medical concern, contact the Clinic Reception team at the number above. Or fill out the Clinic Request Form which can be found at [anticruelty.org/foster-news](http://anticruelty.org/foster-news) under Important Links and in Quick Contacts above
- **Behavioral concerns:** If your foster animal is exhibiting any kind of concerning behavior, please reach out to the Behavior Helpline above. Our Behavior Specialists can give you tips to help and may have additional insights about your foster animal's history. You can also reference the Pet Library at [anticruelty.org/library](http://anticruelty.org/library)
- **Staff follow-up:** Remember that The Anti-Cruelty Society is a high volume shelter and that it may take some time before you receive follow-up to a non-emergency email or voicemail.
- **Foster emergencies:** Please note that if you utilize a veterinary clinic outside of The Anti-Cruelty Society's clinic we are not in a position to offer you reimbursement.
- **Take pictures and send updates!** Due to the number of animals currently in foster we may not be able to check in with you on a regular basis so be proactive and email us or post to the [Foster Facebook page](#)
- **Length of foster stay:** The length of stay for your foster animal is defaulted to the estimate given to us by our veterinarians or behaviorists. Reach out to us before returning your animal to ensure they're adoption ready



- **Adoptions:** If you, or someone you know, wants to adopt your foster email us right away. *Do not return them to the shelter* until you've connected with the Adoption Team at [adoption@anticruelty.org](mailto:adoption@anticruelty.org)
- **Foster returns:** You can schedule foster returns by using our Foster Return link. This link can be found on [anticruelty.org/foster-news](https://anticruelty.org/foster-news) under "Important Links" and in Quick Contacts above

### Your New Foster Animal:

The animal in your care has been through a lot and will need a calm environment in which to unwind. We recommend keeping social visits to a minimum and giving them ample time to rest and recover during the start of your foster stay. Here are some tips to help you acclimate them to your home:

- Keep things calm and quiet. Minimize socialization for the first 24 hours.
- Create a safe private space for the animal. An oversized crate or a pet-proofed room is ideal.
- Refrain from introducing the foster to your own pets until you get to know each other (if at all).
- Do not leave the pet unattended in a space beyond their safe crate or assigned room.
- Dogs should always be leashed when outdoors – even when in a yard. Scared and stressed dogs have a propensity for escaping and getting lost.
- Fosters should not travel beyond state lines without permission from Society staff in advance.
- Dogs do not have clearance to visit Chicago dog parks or off-leash areas.
- Cats should always be indoors. Provide them with a designated hiding space in their room to help with acclimation.

### Medical Tips:

- It is not uncommon for a new foster to have a reduced appetite for the first 48 hours. If after that time they continue to fast, contact our clinic.
- Prolonged soft stool or diarrhea may be caused by an infection or parasites. Contact our clinic if more than 48 hours elapse between normal stools.
- Contact the clinic if your animal shows any signs of lethargy, is vomiting, or has blood in their stool.

### Behavior Tips:

- Set your foster up for success! Give them time and space to acclimate.
- Provide a variety of toys and reinforce polite behaviors with treats. A bored animal is a naughty animal.
- Trade up. Don't just take away an animal's food, treat, toy, or other resource. Trade them up for something better.
- Formulate a plan. Anticipate potential behavior issues and consider how you'll address them if they come up.
- Capture cute behaviors on videos and in photos and share them with us! Share your foster's antics by emailing us at [foster@anticruelty.org](mailto:foster@anticruelty.org) or on the foster Facebook page.