



A Commitment to Caring *Since 1899*

**Volunteer Services Department**

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**FOSTER PROGRAM MANUAL**

## WELCOME!

Dear Friend of The Anti-Cruelty Society,

Thank you for opening your home to help the animals of The Anti-Cruelty Society. Your generosity and dedication make a significant difference to our organization and, more importantly, to the dogs and cats in our care.

Each year The Anti-Cruelty Society comes to the aid of approximately 27,000 animals through various programs and initiatives. These include the animal shelter, our high volume adoptions, veterinary services including a public spay/neuter program, cruelty complaint investigation, animal rescue, and animal behavior and training programs. These results would not be possible without the passion and participation of hundreds of animal lovers like you, who selflessly donate over 30,000 hours annually to help the animals in our care.

You are joining us at a very exciting time, when your assistance is particularly critical to creating a brighter future for our animal companions. Since The Anti-Cruelty Society is now finding homes for all adoptable animals that come to us, we are further turning our attention to assist pets that are not yet adoptable through our rehabilitation centers. Just imagine how many additional animals can be rehabilitated and placed in loving homes with your help!

Equally exciting, The Anti-Cruelty Society is performing record numbers of spay/neuter operations, with an average of over 13,000 surgical procedures projected each year. Conducted in the home of Chicago's oldest and largest low-cost spay/neuter clinic, this amazing number of sterilizations prevents the birth of tens of thousands of unwanted kittens and puppies for whom there are just not enough loving homes.

Whether you are helping with adoptions, in the veterinary clinic, with special events, in the office, or by opening your heart and home as a foster parent, you can take great pleasure in knowing that you are making a difference in the lives of the animals at The Anti-Cruelty Society.

We hope that your volunteer experience with us is as rewarding to you as it is to the animals you are caring for. Without the help of each and every one of you, our work assisting animals would not be possible.

Thank you again!

**Robyn Barbiers, D.V.M**  
President

**Lydia Krupinski**  
Director of Community Programs

**Eric Tostado**  
Coordinator of Volunteer Services

**Tara Laffey**  
Humane Education Specialist

## WELCOME

By becoming a foster volunteer with The Anti-Cruelty Society you provide a vital lifeline for cats, dogs, kittens, and puppies who are not ready for adoption room placement, as well as those who may have already been waiting for adoption for an extended period of time. The individual love and care you provide gives animals an opportunity to flourish in a warm home environment, rather than in the shelter.

Being a foster parent for homeless animals is a rewarding and gratifying experience. With the extra attention and socialization, animals that are fostered are more likely to be adopted into permanent, loving homes. Thanks to foster volunteers like you - we temporarily house over 350 animals in the program each year and this number continues to grow!

In an effort to better the foster volunteer experience we have created the following manual to best serve your needs. In it we address questions and concerns that you may have while fostering with The Anti-Cruelty Society. The contents also include specific information regarding animal care and shelter policies – please be sure to review these carefully. We have also created a “Foster Resources” page on our website to provide you with additional materials, videos and educational articles at [www.anticruelty.org](http://www.anticruelty.org).

Thank you again for choosing to join this life-saving program. We’re excited to have you on the team!

## ABOUT THE ANTI-CRUELTY SOCIETY

The Anti-Cruelty Society, SPCA of Illinois (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), is Chicago’s oldest and largest private animal shelter and veterinary clinic. The Anti-Cruelty Society receives no state or federal funding and instead thrives through individual contributions, private grant funding, adoption fees, clinic fees, in-kind donations and special events.

### **Our Mission: Building a community of caring by helping pets and educating people.**

To achieve this mission, our goals are:

- To prevent cruelty, abuse, and neglect to animals.
- To shelter lost, abandoned, and unwanted animals.
- To place adoptable dogs and cats into good homes in the community.
- To educate the public about responsible animal ownership.
- To prevent the birth of unwanted animals.
- To humanely euthanize animals who are not adoptable due to their health or temperament.
- To provide veterinary care to shelter animals and to offer low-cost spaying and neutering of pets for the community.
- To offer low-cost veterinary care to qualifying individuals in our community.
- To rescue animals that are abused, neglected, abandoned, or mistreated and who are in danger of being hurt or hurting other animals or people.

## DEPARTMENTS & SERVICES

### **Customer Service**

The Anti-Cruelty Society Customer Service team provides the voice and face of the organization. Located in the main lobby of the shelter at 510 N. LaSalle Street, the customer service team is responsible for greeting and directing the public, answering general questions, collecting adoption fees, issuing adoption contracts, answering general phone inquiries, maintaining adoption records and selling merchandise from the adoption center store.

### **Animal Behavior & Intake**

The Animal Behavior and Intake team is responsible for the intake, evaluation and behavioral rehabilitation of animals who come to the Society. Animal Intake is located at 169 W. Grand Avenue and accepts incoming animals (including foster returns) from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. each day of the year. This important team provides a variety of services to both shelter animals and publically owned pets, including processing owner surrendered animals, conducting temperament evaluations, operating the Behavior Helpline, assigning Adoption Match categories, addressing behavior issues, coordinating organization-wide animal enrichment and coordinating our on-site School of Dog Training.

### **Shelter**

The shelter staff, our largest paid team of employees, is responsible for the day to day care of animals throughout the building. This includes cleaning and feeding of shelter animals in holding and adoption rooms, assisting the public in the adoption rooms and through the adoption process, and conducting adoption screens and counseling interviews.

### **Veterinary Clinic**

Our full service veterinary clinic, located at 169 W. Grand Avenue, provides a wealth of services to shelter animals and owned pets. These include low-cost spay/neuter services for cats and dogs, our Charity Clinic, which provides complete veterinary care for animals belonging to owners below the poverty line, physical examinations, treatment and clinical care of all shelter animals.

### **Field Services & Humane Investigations**

The Anti-Cruelty Society employs a team of state-approved Humane Investigators who enforce state humane care laws by responding to community concerns conveyed through our Humane Investigations tip line. Field Service agents investigate complaints and potential abuse cases. The team also picks up strays or owned animals for surrender and transports adoptable animals to our off-site adoption locations and to partner organizations. Anyone can call in a humane complaint providing Anti-Cruelty Society the address, location, and description of the problem. Reports are strictly confidential and callers are not required to leave their name or telephone number.

### **Community Programs**

The Community Programs team, which includes Volunteer Services and Humane Education, is responsible for actively engaging and educating the public on a variety of animal welfare issues. The team orchestrates on and off-site educational events, coordinates foster, individual, teen and group volunteer opportunities, develops national animal welfare programming, provides animal safety training for law enforcement professionals and more! Our Volunteer Services team also coordinates our free emergency boarding program SAFE.

### **Development**

The development department oversees marketing, fund raising, and special event responsibilities including all fundraising initiatives, direct mail campaigns, event coordination, grant writing, retail sales, and more.

### **Administrative Offices**

The administrative team at The Anti-Cruelty Society includes our President, Vice President of Operations, Vice President of Development, Vice President of Finance, Human Resources Director and accounting team. The administrative offices are located in the 169 W. Grand Avenue building on the third floor.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **MAIN LOCATION HOURS**

The main shelter at 510 N. LaSalle is open **every day of the year** for animal receiving and volunteering. There are no adoptions on major holidays, but volunteers are encouraged to come in to help take care of the animals. Shelter and Clinic holidays are as follows:

New Year's Day  
Independence Day  
Thanksgiving Day  
Christmas Day

Memorial Day  
Labor Day  
Christmas Eve  
New Year's Eve

### **Public Adoption Hours:**

Monday-Friday: 12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday: 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### **Animal Intake Hours:**

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. (every day of the year)

### **Clinic Hours:**

Monday-Friday 10 a.m. – 4p.m.  
Weekends: Closed\*

### **General Foster Service Hours:**

Foster Pick-Up Hours: 9 a.m. – 6:45 p.m.  
Foster Drop-Off Hours: 10 a.m. – 5:45 p.m.

\*Note that even when the clinic is closed there may be a veterinarian on-site and available for fosters.

### **PETSMART EVERYDAY ADOPTION CENTER HOURS**

The Everyday Adoption Center, our satellite adoption center located within the PetSmart at 1101 S. Canal, has augmented hours to match those of the store.

### **Public Adoption Hours:**

Monday – Saturday 10 a.m.–8 p.m.  
Sunday 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

### **Additional Adoption Sites:**

In an effort to help more animals find loving forever homes, we have partnered with a few local organizations that also promote adoption. Due to these partnerships, some of the animals that you see on our adoption page may not be available in The Anti-Cruelty Society's Adoption Facility but at our partner location. Their location will be stated in their online profile.

**Paradise 4 Paws:** 5262 South Kolmar Avenue, Chicago

- **Lambs Farm:** 14245 W. Rockland Road, Libertyville, IL 60048
- **PetSmarts:** We offer cat adoptions at the Brickyard, Evanston, Skokie, South Lincoln Park, Wrigleyville, Four Corners, and South Loop stores.

### **Adoption Match Program**

The Adoption Match Program is a tool designed to increase successful adoptions while helping personnel make the best match between adopters and pets. Our goal is to make the adoption process more fluid and guest-friendly by providing volunteers and staff with easy-to-read Adoption Match cards on each pet's kennel. These cards will categorize animals by Novice, Intermediate, Advanced (dogs only), and Special. They help volunteers and staff connect visitors with a pet that best meets their experience, knowledge, and expectations.

This program is *not* meant to be used as a screening tool to filter out adopters. Instead – it helps personnel make a good match for adopters while in the adoption room. Too often visitors fall in love with a pet that is not appropriate for their lifestyle and are later denied in the adoption screening process.

## **SPECIAL ADOPTION PROGRAMS**

### **Pets for Seniors**

Adopters 60 years and older qualify for our Pets for Seniors program and the adoption fee is waived if they adopt a dog over three years of age or any adult cat. The Anti-Cruelty Society is partially reimbursed by the program sponsor, Pets for the Elderly Foundation.

### **Aged to Perfection**

Aged to Perfection is a program created to promote the adoption of older pets from the shelter. The Society will reimburse (upon request) the adoption fee of any person successfully adopting any dog or cat 7 years of age or older after 90 days.

### **Pets for Patriots**

The Anti-Cruelty Society has teamed up with Pets for Patriots to offer a 10% discount to service men and women who are looking to adopt. Participants enroll in the program through the Pets for Patriots organization, and then choose us as an adoption site. Potential adopters still undergo our traditional screening process. Eligible pets include those who are 2 years of age or older, over 40 pounds or categorized as Special Needs.

### **Satisfaction Guaranteed Program**

The Adoption Guarantee Program is a concept that helps to address adoptions that are not working out. Adopters can return a pet that was not a good fit within 30 days and have their adoption fee refunded. Satisfaction Guaranteed supports our philosophy of guest services and successful pet matching. It works to instill potential adopters with an increased confidence in our process and to reinforce our open door policy.

## **SPAY & NEUTER PROGRAM**

Spay/neuter surgery can prevent problems such as territory marking, dominance, aggression, roaming instincts, and can prevent serious and costly health problems.

Due to reproducing animals and negligent owners, over 40,000 animals enter Chicago shelters each year. This is an important indicator of how vital it is to be a responsible pet owner and help control the pet

population. Volunteers, pet owners, veterinarians, shelters, and rescue organizations around Chicago are working together to limit animal reproduction and find good homes for adoptable animals through high volume programs.

Dogs and cats can be safely spayed or neutered as early as 8 weeks of age depending on the health of the animal. The procedure takes 15 to 30 minutes and, in most cases, the animal can go home the same day. Most animals recover quickly and are back to their normal behavior within a few hours.

The Anti-Cruelty Society's low cost spay/neuter clinic offers the community an affordable option when it comes to having pets undergo the procedure.

- Cat spay/neuter \$20
- Dog spay/neuter \$120
- Feral cats are free!
- Female dogs and cats are spayed.
- Male dogs and cats are neutered.

Additional information about spay/neuter can be found on The Anti-Cruelty Society website [here](#).

## **ADDITIONAL SERVICES**

### **Planned Relinquishment Program (PREP)**

Stress and disease are the two greatest dangers facing an animal in the shelter environment. We can't make these risks disappear but the Planned Relinquishment Program (PREP) can help minimize these risks and create a happy outcome for any pet left in our care. This program assures owners that their pet is vaccinated against common diseases and neutered or spayed and ready to go to a new home as soon as someone chooses them from our adoption population.

If a pet is not current on their vaccinations or not spayed/neutered, these services are made available through our clinic at no cost to the owner. If someone chooses to utilize PREP they must agree to make an appointment and keep the animal in their home for a short additional time to allow the vaccines to provide the necessary protection before they are exposed to the shelter environment. Having these necessary steps done in advance of arrival will minimize the time spent in the shelter and help ensure a happy new home for the pet. Owners who are giving up their pets are not required to use the program – it's simply a tool to help the animal be better prepared for entrance into our organization.

### **Home to Home: Shelter Bypass Service**

The Anti-Cruelty Society has developed the Home-to-Home Shelter Bypass Service to assist people who are looking to keep their pets out of the shelter system by re-homing them privately. Through this free service, The Anti-Cruelty Society creates a courtesy listing for these adoptable animals to include on our website and social media profiles. Additional details about this complimentary service can be found on our website.

### **Owner Surrender**

When a person surrenders an animal they are informed that:

- The relinquishers may not be able to reclaim the animal and must sign a release form.
- The Anti-Cruelty Society cannot guarantee the animal a new home.
- There is a suggested donation fee for relinquishment. If someone is unable to pay we will still take in their animal.
- The owner of an extremely ill or dangerously aggressive animal will be asked to sign a consent form to euthanize the animal.

- Coordination of the Society's SAFE housing program
- The animal will be placed in a holding area and scheduled for a physical exam, which could be as early as the same day. Once an animal passes their physical exam, it will remain in the adoption room as long as it is healthy and sociable.
- The Anti-Cruelty Society is in constant communication with other animal welfare organizations and will send pure bred or special needs animals to rescue organizations to create room if needed, and/or provide a non-kennel environment for animals in need.
- Injured, sick, or young animals will be treated and possibly placed into a foster home or our rehabilitation center until they recuperate.

## ABOUT THE FOSTER PROGRAM

The Anti-Cruelty Society foster program offers a unique opportunity for people in the community to get involved and help animals in need. Foster volunteers provide an animal with the individualized care and attention they need to be ready for placement with a forever family. Foster periods vary from a few weeks to a couple of months, but the impact on the person and pet lasts a lifetime.

### PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The goal of volunteers within The Anti-Cruelty Society's foster program is to provide a warm and nurturing environment in which shelter animals can flourish and prepare for placement in their forever homes. The Anti-Cruelty Society provides all foster animals with full veterinary care through our on-site clinic, and support from our behavior specialists. Foster volunteers are asked to supply food, toys, bedding, and the tender love and care an animal needs to become ready for their adoptive home.

Animals are nominated for foster candidate status by our team of on-site behavior specialists and veterinarians. Our staff provides foster volunteers with direction on what care is needed for each individual animal and an estimate of how long the animal will be in their homes. Foster parents are notified of an animal's availability for placement through our official [Foster Candidate page](#), which is updated by staff members several times each week. Our foster support team also provides regular check-ins with foster parents that have animals in their care, providing an opportunity for them to ask questions about the animal's behavior and health on a regular basis.

Whether you'll be providing care to a sick, underage, under socialized, or long-term animal, you have the opportunity to make a lasting impact in the life of an animal.

### Foster Volunteer Responsibilities:

- Provide basic care, socialization, and training to assigned foster animal/s
- Communicate updates to Volunteer Services staff
- Seek out assistance for medical or behavioral problems
- Complete a detailed Foster Personality Profile on each foster animal before drop-off
- Act as a community ambassador for The Anti-Cruelty Society
- Follow all policies and protocols as specified in this manual

## **FOSTER TRAINING STEPS**

**1) Prepare for Foster Orientation:** In preparation for your in-person Foster Orientation, please read this handbook in its entirety and watch our Virtual Volunteer Orientation at the following link. Please bring any questions you may have with you to the training.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RflnaNfEhxY&edit=vd>

**2) Attend Foster Orientation:** Attend an in-person program orientation with a member of Volunteer Services staff. This training will review policies and procedures as they are laid out in this handbook. The Foster Orientation will give you a good overview of what to expect with your first foster animal, and how to prepare in anticipation of their arrival.

**3) Schedule Your First Foster:** Once your Foster Orientation is complete you will be ready to schedule your first foster pick-up! Check the Foster Candidates web page on The Anti-Cruelty Society website to find an animal best suited to your lifestyle. Once selected, contact a member of the Volunteer Services department to schedule a pick-up. Upon pick-up you will be given a bag of food for the animal, an animal-specific contract, and medication (if needed). You will also need to purchase your foster license for the cost of \$25.

Foster animals remain the legal property of The Anti-Cruelty Society while they are in a foster's care. For this reason it is incredibly important that foster providers follow all of the policies and procedures that are outlined below. Failure to do so may result in a foster's dismissal from the program. If you have any questions regarding a policy or procedure, please contact the Volunteer Services Department using the Important Contacts information at the end of this manual.

## **GENERAL FOSTER POLICIES**

### **Foster Guardianship**

Foster animals should remain in the care of the licensed foster volunteer at all times. If an emergency results in a foster being unable to continue care for an animal they should contact the Volunteer Services Department so other arrangements can be made.

### **Licensing**

The State of Illinois Department of Agriculture requires that all fosters obtain a fostering license through their sponsoring shelter. Foster licenses are \$25 for a full calendar year from the date of purchase and will be processed by The Anti-Cruelty Society upon your first foster animal pick-up by our Customer Service team. The Anti-Cruelty Society will pay a \$25 renewal fee on each foster's behalf annually. If a foster becomes inactive for 6 months or longer, they will be asked to pay the renewal fee and re-register for a license.

### **Animal Identification & Leashing**

Each foster animal will be sent home with a collar and an identification tag, and in most cases, a microchip. These collars and tags should remain on your foster animal at all times. Microchips are embedded between an animal's shoulder blades and act as a back-up source of contact information should an animal become loose or lost. They are not tracking or GPS devices. Cats must remain housed indoors and should be placed in a carrier whenever coming to or from the Society. Dogs are required to be on a leash when outdoors. Dogs should never be left unattended in a fenced yard and should not be taken to off-leash dog parks or beaches.

### **Animal Behavior Problems**

Foster parents are required to contact The Anti-Cruelty Society should any behavior problems come up at any time during an animal's foster period. Behavior information is important in helping us determine behavior modification that may be needed, as well as making a successful adoption match for the animal in the future. Foster parents should contact our Volunteer Services Department, or a member of our Animal Behavior & Training team, to address issues as they arise.

### **Lost Animals**

The Anti-Cruelty Society should be notified immediately if a foster animal becomes lost. We will then mount a search effort while notifying local animal shelters and rescues.

Immediately after notifying the Society, fosters should begin a search and rescue effort in the neighborhood where the cat or dog was last seen. Fosters should put up fliers and posters, and contact any surrounding veterinary offices and police and fire departments. For more information on what to do should a pet become lost please visit the [Lost Dogs of Illinois](#) or [Lost Cats of Illinois](#) websites.

### **Medical Care**

The Anti-Cruelty Society provides all foster parents with access to our full-service on-site clinic. Foster volunteers should utilize the clinic for all their medical needs and should not take their foster animal to a private practice. Foster parents should not use any medications or special treatments on their foster animals without prior clinic approval. This includes holistic, herbal, or over-the-counter medical treatments.

### **Emergency Policy**

If your foster animal's behavior threatens the safety of you, your family or a family pet, please return them to The Anti-Cruelty Society immediately. If The Anti-Cruelty Society is closed, segregate the animal and bring them in as soon as we open for intake. Please be sure to follow-up with the Volunteer Services Department after their return so that the situation can be properly assessed.

If your foster animal indicates a sign of serious illness, please contact The Anti-Cruelty Society as soon as possible. Any excessive vomiting, diarrhea, blood in the stool, loss of appetite and lethargy that occur in a kitten or puppy, or for more than 24 hours in an adult pet, may be life threatening.

Foster parents can call our operators at (312) 644-8338 ext. 381 between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. or, in extreme cases, should bring the animal straight to the Society clinic. Always identify yourself as a foster parent with a medical emergency when calling in advance. If we are closed (7 p.m. – 9 a.m.) please seek emergency care as close to your residence as possible. The Anti-Cruelty Society will reimburse any medical charges you incur during an emergency if it takes place while we are closed.

### **Animal Death**

If a foster animal should die in your care please contact the clinic and Volunteer Services as soon as possible. You will then be asked to return them to the Anti-Cruelty Society Intake Department. Society staff will then ascertain the cause of death and will notify you of any special precautions you may need to take before taking in another foster animal.

### **Foster Mentors**

New foster volunteers will be paired up with a foster mentor at the beginning of their service. Foster mentors are foster parents who have a breadth of experience in the program – and are an added resource to new fosters. These special volunteers are available to answer questions and will help to navigate you through your first foster experience.

## **Weekly Foster Announcements**

Each week the Volunteer Services Department sends out a Foster Announcement which chronicles upcoming events, provides foster animal updates, Society news, and more. The announcements are compiled as an added resource to help foster volunteers remain engaged and connected throughout their service.

## **FOSTER SAFETY**

### **Household Hazards**

Always remember to cat or dog proof the area where the foster will be housed prior to bringing them home. Electrical cords, computer cables, medicine, cosmetics, plants, telephone wires, drapes, anything valuable or irreplaceable, etc. should be removed or secured. Survey the area where foster animals will be housed. Anticipate that as foster animals grow, or are rehabilitated, their capabilities may change (e.g. jumping over pet gate).

Never allow foster or your own animals to ingest chocolate, or other human foods, as many can have negative health effects. Visit the following website for a comprehensive and continually updated list of Toxic and Non-Toxic Plants: <http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants/>

### **Your Family's Safety**

Children should remain supervised when interacting with foster animals at all times. In addition to managing behavior on both the child and animal's end, it is a foster provider's responsibility to ensure the safety of all parties.

Should a child or adult be bitten by a foster in your care please contact the Volunteer Services Department immediately. Be certain you scrub the affected area with hot water and soap. You should also seek the consultation of your health care provider as soon as possible. A bite report may need to be completed by the authorities, depending on your community.

### **Your Pet's Safety**

The Anti-Cruelty Society highly recommends that new foster animals be kept apart from owned pets for a period of time once they have entered your care. This is not only to ensure that all animals in your household have a chance to properly acclimate, it is also to reduce the risk of spreading illness.

The majority of common dog and cat diseases are not transferable from one species to the other. Despite this, we still urge you to keep the foster animal segregated from your resident pet(s) for a period of time. Fosters should always wash their hands between handling a foster animal and a resident pet. As an added line of defense foster providers should ensure that all owned pets are up to date on their yearly vaccines. Note that the Anti-Cruelty Society will not reimburse you for medical attention for your own resident pets.

## **ANIMAL CARE BASICS**

### **GENERAL ANIMAL CARE**

The following is a list of general animal care information that is standard for all foster animals.

**Food:** Foster parents will be provided with a bag of species and age-appropriate Science Diet kibble for your foster animals. This is the same food that the animals are fed in-shelter, and since they'll return to

this diet post-foster, it's important to keep them on it. Please follow the feeding instructions that are printed on the back of each bag. Foster parents are welcome to supplement with additional wet food as needed. Note that any change in diet – even such a minor one as switching brands of food – may cause diarrhea.

**Appetite & Adjustment:** It is not unusual for some animals to have a reduced appetite for a day or two after entering foster care. Remember that the animal is coping with a new home and new people, which can be stressful. For this reason fosters are urged to maintain a calm and quiet environment in the beginning of each animal's stay. Allow your foster time to adjust to your lifestyle. Do not become overly concerned unless the animal is under-age, under-weight, or actively ill. If a foster animal develops persistent diarrhea, or does not eat after being in your care for 24 hours or more, please contact the clinic for assistance.

### **Exercise and Play**

Cats and dogs love to play and need plenty of exercise to burn calories, stimulate their minds, and help satisfy their urges to chase, fetch (dogs), stalk (cats), and run. If they don't have enough physical and mental stimulation, animals tend to get bored, which can lead to destructive behaviors. The amount of exercise and play necessary for your foster depends on their breed, age, gender, and personality.

**Bowel Movements & Gastrointestinal Upset:** All animals are given de-worming medication upon arrival at The Anti-Cruelty Society, however, further treatment may be required. Please monitor your foster animal's bowel movements. Loose or watery stools may be an indication of continued parasite infestation and should be reported to the clinic. Details on specific gastrointestinal issues and parasites can be found in the Foster Health section in this manual.

**Hygiene & Disinfection:** The Anti-Cruelty Society recommends the use of stainless steel food and water bowls. They are the most durable, easy to disinfect and keep free of contaminants. The best way to disinfect objects (toys, bowls, litter boxes, etc.) is with a mild bleach solution: 1 part bleach to 32 parts water (e.g. ½ cup household bleach in 1 gallon of water).

### **ANIMAL CARE SUPPLIES**

The Anti-Cruelty Society provides all foster providers with basic supplies, such as collars, leashes and food, for each foster animal. Fosters are asked to provide accessories and additional supplies as needed. Foster parents are encouraged to have all needed supplies on hand and set-up within their homes prior to picking up their foster animal from the shelter. Note that the Volunteer Services Department may sometimes have donations available for the items above. If there is something you need – don't hesitate to ask!

Some basic supplies that you will need for each foster animal include:

- **Carrier:** For small dogs or cats
- **Newspaper:** For lining dog kennels or kitten play areas
- **Litter Pans & Litter:** One per cat, should be size appropriate. We recommend clay-based litter as it's what's used in the shelter
- **Water Bowls:** We recommend stainless steel
- **Crate:** Not required but strongly recommended for dog fosters
- **Food Bowls:** Size appropriate
- **Canned Food:** To stimulate appetite
- **Towels:** To act as bedding and for clean-up
- **Treats & Toys:** For rewarding good behavior and to keep them busy

## **GENERAL CAT CARE**

Each cat you foster will have a unique personality and a different set of needs. Foster providers should adjust their approach with each individual who comes in. Some basic general care practices that may help get you started include:

### **Creating a Cat-Friendly Space**

Start your foster cat off in a quiet portion of your home. Make sure that there is a designated hiding spot so if the cat feels the need to burrow they're doing so in a safe space. Carriers and shoeboxes make for great hiding nooks. Look out for furniture or fixtures where a cat can hide themselves and then have difficulty being retrieved. The cat-friendly space should also include some soft bedding, water and food bowls, and toys. Pheromone sprays or diffusers are an added bonus.

### **Cat Grooming**

Cats clean themselves, so bathing is rarely, if ever, required. Small kittens may not quite understand the concept of cleaning and preening themselves so a sponge bath is all that is needed. Be careful not to get a sick or high risk kitten wet as their body may not be able to regulate their temperature safely. Nail clipping is fine, especially for kittens with razor sharp nails. Be careful when doing so, make sure you clip off only the curved end. Avoid the pink area where the veins are located. Frequent brushing will help alleviate the chance of a cat developing hairballs this and will also keep their coat clean and shiny. If hairballs do become prevalent, contact the Volunteer Services Department for clinic assistance.

### **Litterbox Usage**

Most cats have an innate instinct to relieve themselves in a designated spot. For domesticated cats – this is most often a litterbox. To set your foster cat up for success, make sure that the litterbox is set-up prior to bringing the cat home. After removing the cat from their carrier, place them in their designated litter box. This way they can use their box as a point of reference to other items in your home. For more details on how to address litterbox lapses, read the Animal Behavior section manual below.

### **Facial Marking**

Once you bring your foster cat home you may see them rubbing his or her face on the corner of your coffee table or up against your leg. This behavior is known as marking. Cats have scent glands on the sides of their faces and other areas on their bodies. Rubbing on objects or on your legs lets other cats know your cat has claimed that territory or has laid claim to you. If you have cats of your own at home and have your foster cat segregated from them, gently rubbing a towel on each of their cheeks and then allowing the opposite cat to smell the towel is a great way to help the cats become introduced to one another's smell and pheromones.

### **Play**

Cats love to play and stalk make-believe prey. They enjoy chasing toys and balls. If cats aren't stimulated with play, they may try to get your attention by excessively meowing or acting out in other ways. It's very important to play with your foster cats and keep them stimulated. The best cat toys are those that dance, jump, or move to look like they are alive. Cats can act out their predator role by pouncing on toys. Try to avoid using your fingers as toys, as this type of play may cause biting and scratching behaviors. For more details on how you can prevent play-biting, refer to the behavior section below.

## **GENERAL DOG CARE**

### **Foster Dog Do's & Don'ts**

The tips below are meant to help with the transitioning of your foster dog into your home. Remember that time and patience are the keys to success. Some dogs adjust to new homes quicker than others, so be prepared for some bumps in the road. If you run into any problems while introducing your new foster into your home environment, please reach out to the Volunteer Services Department.

#### **Do:**

- Take the dog outside on leash right away and let them sniff around. Keep the dog on a leash even in a fenced yard.
- Let the dog meet one family member at a time. They should try to make a good first impression by being calm, patient, and approachable.
- Avoid big parties and gatherings with your new foster dog until you know the dog's personality better. Does he like kids? Does she like being the center of attention, or is she shy?
- Let your new foster dog sleep in the same room as you, if possible. Dogs are social animals and sleeping alone in a strange place can be tough for some dogs. If it's not possible to be in the same room, make sure the sleeping area is dog-proofed, cozy, quiet, and safe. Don't pester the dog when they are sleeping. Everyone deserves to sleep in peace.
- Avoid crowded play areas in your neighborhood where kids and other dogs might scare your new foster.
- Assume that the foster dog will chew on things left on the floor. If the dog does have something they aren't supposed to, try to distract them and re-direct them to something appropriate. Be sure there is a toy in every room.
- Dogs are opportunists. Keep food off the counters, low tables, and keep garbage cans closed.
- Promote good behavior. Be proactive by teaching her what you do want her to do.
- Be patient. Everything, including you, is new to the foster dog..
- Create a comfortable environment of stability, ease, and trust.
- Do all you can to prevent problems, and spend your energy helping them adjust to a new environment.
- Keep your face away from the foster dog's face, don't hug or grab the dog, and avoid letting young children interact with the dog without carefully watching for signs of discomfort from the dog.
- Remember, even a well-adjusted adult dog can be a bit shell-shocked when you bring them home, and the dog you have on day one might be very different than the dog you have in 3 days or 3 weeks.
- Teach your dog to "say please." Saying please teaches a dog impulse control and manners. For example, a dog has to earn his dinner by sitting politely. Good things come to those who wait.

#### **Don't:**

- Give your foster dog a spa day right away. Unless the dog is matted, filthy, or in dire need of a bath, wait until they are settled in.
- Kiss or hug the dog. Some dogs dislike it. Think of it like kids getting pinched on the cheek by their aunt.
- Leave your foster dog loose in the house until you know them better. Your dog should be in view of you at all times, in a crate, or in a sectioned off area.
- Allow rough housing or chase games of any kind between children and the foster dog.
- Pester the dog while they're eating. Everyone deserves to eat in peace. Dogs behave differently in different environments, so be cautious in the beginning, especially around food.

#### **Training**

A well-behaved dog is a joy and makes them a more desirable adoption candidate. Teaching your foster

dog the basics—“sit,” “stay,” “come,” “down,” “off,” “leave it”—will help prepare them with basic life skills that they’ll need once they’re adopted. Utilizing positive reinforcement methods, which reward good behavior and re-direct unwanted actions, will help you to train your foster dog into a model citizen. Know that behavior is context dependent, meaning that all social animals behave differently in different environments. Understand that every dog, no matter what their age, comes with a need to learn new skills or change some behaviors in their new home. Your foster dog will make mistakes.

Foster parents should not utilize punishment or dominance based training with foster dogs. If you are in need of training assistance for a particular animal, please contact the Volunteer Services Department or the Animal Behavior & Training team.

### **Dog Grooming**

Foster parents are welcome to give their foster dogs a bath – though they should wait a period of time to get to know the animal first. If giving a full bath, always use a mild shampoo. Dogs who are being treated for kennel cough, who are underage or underweight can be bathed but should be blow dried immediately afterward to prevent their body temperature from dropping. Puppies in particular are difficult to keep clean. Frequent sponge baths or baby wipe-downs may be needed to keep their paws free of fecal material. If you are comfortable trimming a dog’s nails – please do – but watch their body language closely as some dogs do not like having their paws handled. Don’t do any kind of grooming that may put you or the dog at risk.

### **House-Training**

Foster parents should never assume a foster dog is house-trained. Shelter dogs come from a variety of backgrounds, and even if trained at one point in time, their stay in the shelter may have caused this training to lapse. For this reason all foster parents should anticipate that they will be doing some house-training with each dog they foster.

Accomplish housetraining by using the 4 C’s:

- **Consistency** of feeding and walking schedule
- **Confinement** when they can’t be watched
- **Cleaning** accidents with products designed for dog waste
- **Celebrate** your dog for doing positive things with rewards like treats, petting, and play

Additional information on how to address house-soiling and training dog can be found in the “Foster Behavior” section of this manual.

### **Crating**

Foster parents are encouraged to house dogs in size-appropriate crates when unsupervised. Some dogs do not like crates, and most dogs need to be transitioned or “trained” to use a crate, so it’s up to the foster parent to decide whether to crate or not. Putting the dog in a crate while you are gone will give you peace of mind knowing that they are in a safe place, away from harm, and not doing any damage to your belongings or themselves. For many dogs, a crate can also represent a safe and comfortable place to call their own and provides them with a sense of security. Dogs actually like having a “den” to cuddle up in. Crating should never be used as punishment.

### **Chewing**

Most dogs love to chew – so make sure to give them lots of appropriate outlets for this behavior. Make sure chew toys are manufactured in the United States. Foreign imports may contain pesticides or chemical preservatives.

### **Dog Parks**

Dogs should **not** be taken to any off-leash dog parks or beaches. The full behavior history of your foster

dog is not known and we want to prevent any incidents in which a foster dog may get into a fight with another canine. In addition, these spaces are often a breeding ground for germs and we don't want to expose fosters to additional pathogens. Leashed walks through non-dog parks are okay.

## FOSTER BEHAVIOR

### INTRODUCING FOSTERS TO OWNED PETS

Introductions between foster animals and owned pets need to be planned carefully. Each pet's previous experiences with animals will affect the introduction. For example, dogs that have been around bully cats may not be too excited about adding another cat to the household, or a cat that is used to living with a dog that chases the cat may decide to live his or her life perched in high places to avoid the dog.

First impressions between pets are just as important as they are between people. The following tips and precautionary steps can help make a smooth transition for your pets and fosters.

#### **The Introduction**

Before the introduction, keep the foster pet in a separate room for several days, with food, water, comfortable bedding, a litter box for a cat, and all of the necessities to keep them happy and healthy. The current pets should be free to roam the house while the new pet is getting acclimated to his or her room. If you wish to let the new pet out to explore for short periods of time, make sure the current pet is kept separate from the foster pet.

During the separation period, allow the animals to sniff under the door and to vocalize. Accepting the presence of a new animal or other species is a change for them too. It is important that the door cannot be pushed open, allowing access to the other animal. Once the growling or hissing has lessened, let the animals see one another by slightly opening the door. This allows each animal to work out their defensiveness without being able to harm one another. Repeat this several times until you feel comfortable enough to introduce them face-to-face.

When your home is quiet, allow the new pet out of the room and let him or her explore. Unless you are certain the pet is used to other pets, make sure you have a way to control them (i.e. a leash or towel for wrapping). Do not force the pets together; instead, casually let them encounter one another on their own. Have tasty treats on hand to distract the pet if a problem does occur. It's entirely normal for pets to hiss and growl at one another. This behavior may go on for several days or weeks. Your pets and fosters shouldn't be expected to be friends right away; however, tolerance, and possibly a great friendship, can develop over time.

Never leave foster pets unattended until you feel entirely comfortable that they will not hurt one another. Signs of a problem include litter box lapses, severe fighting, lethargy, diarrhea, hiding, lack of appetite, and general depression. If your foster animal or owned pet shows any of these signs, do not hesitate to call our Animal Behavior & Training team for advice.

#### **Tips for Introducing Dogs**

It is best to introduce dogs on a loose leash. Have your dog sit and stay before an introduction has started. Introducing fosters and owned dogs will work best outside of the home in neutral territory, like a park.

Pet the dog to keep him or her relaxed. Keep the dog's leash loose, so he or she doesn't feel restrained, but is still under control. As the pets get closer, let them sniff noses. While sniffing, call the dog to come back to you. If he turns and comes, it's a good sign. If the dog is curious about the pet and needs some coaxing, grab a treat and get his attention. If the dog is completely fixated on the pet and will no longer listen to you, then back up several steps and put the pet back in his or her separate room and take a break. You can start this process over from the beginning later that day after the pets have settled down. When your dog has had enough he or she will walk away or show disinterest.

### **Tips for Introducing Cats**

Make sure your home is ready for a new foster cat. Provide the new cat with his or her own litter box. While they may not use the litter box assigned to them, your owned cats will appreciate having their own litter boxes. Having separate food and water bowls away from the litter box is also a good idea.

## **SOCIALIZING KITTENS & PUPPIES**

As with babies, kittens and puppies are not born understanding about the world and how to behave. The best time to teach them is during the primary socialization period, which is roughly from 3 to 12 weeks of age. This is when kittens and puppies are most open to new experiences and are thirsty to learn. After this time they become more cautious of new people and situations and their behavior is less malleable. Well-socialized kittens and puppies are more likely to grow up to be friendly adults who are easy to handle and not overly frightened or stressed. Lessons not learned by 12 weeks of age can be partially, but never fully, recovered.

When socializing your kitten or puppy, it is important to remember that exposure is not the same as socialization. Having a screaming 4-year-old yanking on their ears and tail could well cause the pet to be afraid of children for life. But meeting several young children who are calm and handle the animal appropriately can lead to a pet who adores kids.

If you have a litter of kittens or puppies in your care, begin handling them as soon as possible. There is no truth to the idea that a mother will reject her babies if they are touched by people. However, mom needs to be okay with you petting the babies in order to avoid accidentally teaching them to be stressed by petting (if mom does seem to be too anxious for the first few days try petting them while she is out of the room or sleeping). Gentle petting and holding for just a few seconds several times each day is ideal for newborns. The babies should be picked up and held in different positions for brief periods each day by about 2 weeks of age.

As they get older, it is okay to handle them more frequently and for longer periods of time. Once they are about 5 weeks old, more people should be interacting with them. Behaviorists recommend that kittens meet as many new people as possible, while canine babies should meet at least 100 people during the primary socialization period. Ideally, the kitten or puppy should be exposed to a variety of people for optimal socialization: young, old; male, female; wearing glasses; wearing a hat; light-skinned, dark-skinned; animated, laid-back; etc.

Socialization should intensify at around 4 weeks of age by:

- Introducing new textures by playing with the kittens or puppies on carpeting, tile, wood, blankets, rugs, concrete, etc.
- Exposing them to household noises such as blenders, doorbells, banging pots, washing machines, alarm clocks, stereos, etc. If there are no children living in or visiting the home, buy a cd with the sounds of children and play it frequently. Very loud or harsh noises, such as a blender, can be muffled initially by covering the appliance with a towel or making the noise while the pups are in an adjacent room.

- Placing items, such as winter boots, skateboards, and books on the floor for the fosters to investigate.
- Offering a variety of objects for the kittens or puppies to play with, including empty plastic bottles, paper towel cores, and cardboard boxes in different sizes, as well as commercial pet toys.
- Continuing to handle the fosters daily, including touching every part of their bodies.

To help guide you further with proper kitten or puppy socialization be sure to print and complete the socialization tracker which is found at the end of this manual. The tracker will guide you in what exercises to perform each week of your foster's stay.

## **POTENTIAL BEHAVIOR ISSUES**

### **Improper Attention Seeking**

Cats and dogs are social animals that like our company. They are also pretty smart. Put those two facts together, and suddenly you have a pet that quickly learns how to make you heed his call. Responding to your foster animal's plea for attention isn't always a bad thing; for instance, you should take your foster dog outside to eliminate when he barks at the door. However, if your foster cat decides that 4:00 a.m. is the best time for cuddling, or your foster dog always seems to want to play every time you are on the phone, you probably need some help.

If your foster is engaging in an undesirable behavior to get your attention, the best thing to do is ignore him. This teaches him that his behavior has the opposite effect of his intentions. Yes, this can be difficult to achieve, especially if your cat tries to get your attention by standing on your head. Move away from your pet or put him in another room for a minute or two if you feel yourself losing patience. Again, cats and dogs are pretty smart, so your pet will soon learn that certain behaviors don't work.

To make sure that your buddy doesn't run the gamut of "naughty" behaviors to try to get your attention (e.g., raiding the trash, meowing or barking, pulling your pant legs, scratching the furniture, etc.), be diligent about giving attention to your foster animal when he does something that you approve of (e.g., sitting, rubbing against your leg, lying on his bed, scratching the scratching post). That way you will have a courteous kitty or canine in no time.

Finally, should you find that your foster pet is seeking your attention several times a day or in increasingly mischievous ways, the answer isn't necessarily more attention, but rather structured attention. Schedule two or three play sessions a day (to total 30-45 minutes) and a couple of short "quiet-attention" times for cuddling, petting, massage, grooming, etc., as long as your pet enjoys these activities. Your cat or dog will be less likely to demand your time if he knows that he will be getting it at regular times each day.

### **Play-biting & Mouthiness**

Mouthiness or biting is not unusual during play. The key is teaching your foster animals to do so in a manner that will not inflict harm on a person or other animal. Play-biting may be the result of over-stimulation or the animal's innate predatory drive.

If your foster begins to bite during play, have a toy handy and direct the animal's mouth toward it. When they engage with the toy tell them "yes" to mark the behavior. With consistency and practice the cat or dog will learn to look for toys instead of hands. A loud "Ouch" will frequently work too. If you yell "ouch", immediately stop handling or holding the animal. If the animal continues to bite, a 5 minute "time out" in a quiet room (bathrooms are good) can also be effective or you can walk away, thereby taking away their reward (which in this case is you!)

If a cat ambushes you by attacking your legs or feet, try using a squirt bottle filled with water and zap them once with it. If plain water does not work, add a bit of vinegar to the squirt bottle. Also try using a toy attached to a wand or stick and drag it behind you. Hopefully they'll attack that instead of your feet.

If a puppy or adolescent dog's mouthiness amplifies to the point of causing pain or bruising, contact the Volunteer Services Department so that the issue can be addressed with the Animal Behavior team. Dogs who exhibit excessive mouthiness in a foster environment will usually amplify this behavior once back at the shelter – so training them not to before they return from foster is a priority.

### **Aggression**

Aggression can come in many forms: defensive behavior, dominance, resource-guarding, territorial displays and predatory hunting. There are no easy solutions to aggressive behavior, and aggression frequently is multi-faceted. If your foster animal exhibits any aggressive behaviors, please contact the Volunteer Services Department immediately. Even if the behavior seems minor, it is important that it is documented and addressed appropriately.

## **CAT BEHAVIOR ISSUES**

### **Scratching**

Scratching is a normal behavior for all cats, even declawed cats. They scratch for a variety of reasons, including exercise, play, agility, stretching, and most importantly, to remove the outer nail sheath that sheds routinely. By trimming your foster cat's nails every 2 to 3 weeks, nails will stay blunt and less likely to harm your skin or furniture. Provide your foster cat with a sturdy scratching post that allows him or her to stretch out completely when scratching. Try sprinkling catnip on the base or side of the post to entice the kitty. An occasional treat reward may be used as well. Scratching on inappropriate surfaces (such as furniture) can also be lessened by the use of double-sided tape, like Sticky Paws, available at most pet stores.

### **Litterbox Use**

Most cats have a specific preference about where they want to eliminate. All indoor cats need a litter box. Your foster cat's litter box should be placed in a quiet, accessible location where your foster can feel comfortable eliminating. A bathroom or utility room is often a good place. One litter box is recommended per floor in a multi-level home. Cats are sensitive creatures, so try to avoid moving the litterbox unless it's absolutely necessary. Keep the litter box clean. Cats won't use a messy, smelly litter box. Spot clean daily and completely clean and refill as needed. Don't use ammonia, deodorants, or scents, especially lemon, when cleaning the litter box.

Inappropriate litterbox use may arise from physical or behavioral problems. Always rule out medical conditions first by contacting the Society clinic. A kitten may have "accidents" because its living area is too large and is unable to make it to the box in time. Keep kittens confined to one room with their box when you are unable to closely supervise them.

If you are unsure why your foster cat is not using its litter box, and medical reasons have been ruled out by the clinic, call the Volunteer Services Department for assistance.

### **Over-grooming**

A cat that is grooming herself so much that she is creating bald spots or her skin is raw could be reacting to stress. However, there are a number of medical causes that should be explored first. The most common causes of this behavior are allergies and parasites. Parasites, such as fleas, are easy to diagnose. Allergies are not so simple to pinpoint. A cat that is biting and continually licking her belly may have feline lower

urinary tract disease. Pain from conditions such as arthritis, cancer, and hyperesthesia can also lead to excessive grooming.

Even if you believe that your foster cat is healthy, consult with the Society clinic if your foster is engaging in any over-grooming. Delaying treatment of a behavior problem is not going to harm your foster cat; delaying medical care can lead to a sicker cat and more costly treatment. If your foster cat receives a glowing health report, our behavior specialists are happy to help you resolve your cat's behavior problem.

### **Counter Surfing**

The domestic cat's ancestors used to climb and perch in trees in order to hunt and to survey their territory. Nearly 75% of the world's wild cats live in forested areas. Is it any wonder that pet cats jump onto the kitchen counter? However, many people do object to this natural behavior. Fortunately, there are steps that you can take to prevent or break this habit in your foster cat.

First, understanding that the need to perch is instinctual in cats, you must provide an acceptable elevated place for your foster cat. Cat trees are available in a myriad of sizes and designs. It isn't necessary to spend a lot of money to satisfy your foster cat. Clearing off an upper shelf of a bookcase can accommodate your foster cat just as well as a tree. Some cats don't need to be very high up and are happy with a windowsill or window perch. Keep in mind that in a larger home, more than one option will likely be required.

Encourage your foster cat to choose the location you have picked for her by placing treats or catnip there or giving her a spoon of canned food there. Praise and pet her when she rests on her perch. A shelf can be made more attractive by outfitting it with a bed or towel. Some cats will use their perches more often if doing so gives them the chance to watch birds and squirrels outside.

Second, counters and other off-limits areas need to be made unattractive to your cat. Be sure that no food is left unattended on counters or tables. "Booby trap" the counter by placing any of the following on the surface:

- Sticky Paws brand (or similar) double-sided tape
- Upside-down carpet runner or X-Mat Original Pet Mat
- Coir welcome mats
- Premier Spray Sentry – a can of citronella oil that sprays when motion is detected
- Ssscat – like the Spray Sentry but also sounds an alarm

None of these will harm your foster cat but they should be annoying enough that your cat chooses to avoid them. Yelling at, hitting, or spraying your cat with water will not solve this problem. They will merely teach your foster cat to not be on the counter in your presence; she will still go there when you – and the punishment – are not around.

### **Biting During Play**

Many cats enjoy being stroked– they purr, knead their paws, and lean into your hand. Sometimes it seems they quickly change their minds and bite out of the blue. Other cats only briefly tolerate petting and show no indication of actually liking it. Why do otherwise friendly cats bite when pet? The answer – we aren't sure. Repeated stroking might stimulate the nerves to a point that it becomes uncomfortable for the cat. Some cats may have been handled roughly as kittens and formed a negative association with petting. Regardless, there are steps you can take to increase the amount of petting your cat will accept.

Almost all cats who have petting-related aggression give a warning before they bite, though the warning may be subtle or quick. Common signs include tensing the body, becoming still, wagging the tail, rippling the muscles, and flattening the ears. A more exaggerated sign is quickly turning the head toward the area that is being touched. You need to know how long it takes to get to this point or if there are certain places on the cat's body that will elicit these reactions, as this is where training will start.

Let's say that your foster cat is content when you pet her five times but on the sixth her tail wags and she will bite after eight or nine strokes. Pet your foster cat five times and then give her a treat. Wait a few minutes and then repeat. Do this every time you pet your foster for the next several days, then do 6 strokes and give a treat. Gradually increase the number of times you pet her before you give a treat.

Make sure that all handling is gentle. Do not pat your foster cat or stroke her in the opposite direction of fur growth. Never hit or yell at your foster cat for biting. This will only reinforce in her mind that hands cause pain and she will become even less tolerant of handling. She could also become afraid of you. If your foster cat does bite, simply stop touching her and ignore her for 5 or 10 minutes. If she is on your lap and remains agitated, don't try to pick her up. Stand up and she will jump to the floor.

## **DOG BEHAVIOR ISSUES**

### **House-soiling**

House-training can be difficult to achieve during the brevity of a foster period. However, you can get an animal well on its way to an "accident" free life. What is first and foremost is establishing a routine. Once a schedule has been set, be consistent! Dogs and puppies need to eliminate after a nap, after exercise or play, and after eating and/or drinking.

Additional tips for house-training include:

- Keep a consistent walking and feeding schedule and remove left-over food between meals.
- Adult dogs should be taken outside early in the morning, before going to bed, and before being confined or left alone for periods of time. Fully house-trained adult dogs usually go out at least 3 times a day.
- Puppies should be taken out more frequently. In addition to first thing in the morning, and before bedtime, they should go out after meals, play, and waking from naps.
- Pace back and forth with your foster dog in an area rather than standing still. The movement will help stimulate the need to eliminate.
- If you see signs that he or she needs to eliminate, such as pacing, whining, circling, sniffing, or leaving the room, take your foster dog outside as quickly as possible to prevent an accident.
- Reward your foster with praise, treats, or play whenever they eliminate in the appropriate area.
- If you catch your foster dog in the act of eliminating inside the house, interrupt the behavior with a verbal cue like "not here" or clap loudly enough to startle but not scare. Immediately, quickly, and gently lead or carry your dog outside. Allow your foster dog to finish eliminating outside and then reward him or her.
- Do not punish or even acknowledge an accident. Your foster dog cannot connect punishment with something that happened even minutes ago. Punishment may make a dog fearful and worsen the house-training problems. Puppies will make mistakes, and it may be that you did not recognize the signs or take them out enough.
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### **Separation Anxiety**

Separation anxiety affects both dogs and puppies. Separation anxiety leads to destructive behaviors such as chewing, scratching, barking, howling, and "accidents" in the house. Boredom and anxiety are the

biggest reason for destructive behavior. Keep your dog occupied with chew toys. Filling a Kong with peanut butter or soft treats will keep a dog busy for a long time. Make sure you give the animal a lot of exercise time and mental stimulation. Don't "baby" them by lavishing them with too much attention as this can create over-dependence. If your foster dog is showing increasing signs of separation anxiety over the foster period, please contact the Volunteer Services Department or Animal Behavior & Training Team.

### **Coprophagia (Poop Eating)**

Eating feces is certainly one of the dog's less endearing behaviors but it is not abnormal. Many dogs do it, whether it is their own waste or that of another animal. There are a variety of hypotheses as to the cause. Dogs that were raised in unsanitary conditions may be attempting to keep their spaces clean. It is possible that a dog who is kept in a sparse environment without toys will play with its stool because it has no other options and this can then lead to eating it. Lack of nutrients from food can cause a dog to eat feces in order to reach its nutritional needs. Dogs who get little attention except when they are being "naughty" may include coprophagia in its stock of behaviors. Punishment-based housetraining – specifically, sticking the dog's nose in its poop – can cause the dog to eat its stool to avoid such (ineffective) consequences. Finally, there may be no other reason than he is a dog; it is thought this is a hold-over behavior from the dog's ancestors that necessitated eating of feces in order to not draw the attention of predators.

To help address coprophagia a foster must remain attentive to their charge at all times while outdoors. Immediately clean up any stool as it is released to prevent the dog from consuming it. Try to redirect them with "leave it" and into a "sit," offering them treats and praise when they aren't lured to the feces. If you use one of these cues every time your foster dog eliminates it will soon be an automatic response: in essence, the stool becomes the cue to look to you or come to you.

Be sure your foster dog also has a stimulating environment. Provide items such as Nylabone® Edibles and treat-filled Kong® toys. Teach a new behavior every week or two so that he doesn't get bored. There are things that you can add to your dog's food (and to the food of any canine housemates) to make the stool less appetizing to him. Rinsed crushed pineapple may do the job. If coprophagia persists, even after attempting to address the issue using the methods above, please contact the Volunteer Services Department for assistance.

### **Poor Impulse Control**

Some dogs who lack previous basic training, and are young in age or have high energy, may have difficulty navigating their natural impulses, which leads to play-biting, leash grabbing, jumping and other nuisance behaviors. Teaching your foster dog to wait, even when faced with various stimuli, will help them in gaining impulse control which will lead to easier adoption placement. Utilize the techniques below to teach your foster impulse control:

- Have the dog wait or "sit" until given permission to take a toy, a treat from a hand, or food bowl.
- Ask the dog to "wait" at doors until told "let's go"
- Waiting for calm behavior before exiting their kennel (if crate training)
- Ask the dog to "look" and make eye contact with you when in the face of stimuli
- Teach the dog to sit before greeting people
- Work on "sit" hold and "down" hold by rewarding a dog consistently as he maintains the sit or down position for longer periods of time (with increasing distraction)
- Clicking/rewarding for brief (and eventually, sustained) calm behavior in or out of kennel
- Desensitizing/rewarding for calm behavior in the presence of triggers like leashes, passing dogs, or manipulating kennel latch, etc.

If a dog does not respond to your re-direction and becomes overly mouthy or jumpy, it's time to walk away or give them a time out. By allowing a dog who is "acting out" to continue their inappropriate behavior we may actually be doing them unintentional harm. By helping a dog learn to consistently control their own impulses (and then holding them accountable for doing so at all times), you can help curb a lot of jumpy, mouthy, hyper, over-reactive behavior which can discourage adopters.

## FOSTER HEALTH

The health of your foster animal will be determined prior to them being placed in your care. All foster animals who are actively ill will be identified as such prior to placement. In some cases, however, it should be noted that a medical condition may surface after they have been in your home. Below is general information on the most common health issues that may arise.

### COMMON MEDICAL CONDITIONS

#### **Vomiting**

In dogs and puppies vomiting can be caused by any number of reasons. It may be that the dog is stressed, ingested grass or a foreign body, or is eating their meals too quickly. Vomiting can also be an early sign of something as severe as parvovirus. If your dog or puppy vomits, pay close attention to the consistency and color, as well as texture. If the vomiting is accompanied by other symptoms, or happens more than once in a 24 hour time frame, please contact the Society clinic by referencing the contacts list at the end of this manual.

If you are fostering a cat or kitten who vomits note the consistency, color and texture and contact the Society clinic. Vomiting in cats may be an early sign of a severe illness and should be addressed immediately, especially if accompanied by other symptoms.

#### **Diarrhea & Loose Stool**

Diarrhea and loose stool may be common among sick or stressed animals. Diarrhea can be caused by parasites, viruses, bacteria, anxiety, over-feeding, or changes in diet.

If the diarrhea is mild and the animal is otherwise alert, you should offer the animal less canned food (if you were at all) and more dry food. If the diarrhea is severe, lasts more than 2 feedings, contains any evidence of parasites or blood, or is accompanied by other symptoms you should contact the Society clinic. The clinic may ask you to bring the animal in for an exam or observation, or may ask you to drop off a stool sample.

#### **Fleas & Mites**

If a cat or dog is identified as having fleas or mites they will be treated by the clinic prior to being placed in foster and a note will be included in their Foster Candidate profile. Should the problem persist, or should the foster identify fleas once the animal is already in your care, please contact the Society clinic for treatment information.

If a cat has been treated for ear mites you may notice a crumbly dark brown discharge in the outer ear canals. This is a residue that can be swabbed out gently with a cotton ball. Do not put anything (including "Q-tips") into the ear canal. If the discharge continues after a week in your care, please contact the clinic for potential follow-up treatment.

## **Ringworm**

Ringworm is a fungal infection that appears as irregularly shaped spots of fur loss. The skin will appear rough and scaly. Ringworm is zoonotic, which means it is contagious to other animals including cats, dogs, and humans. If your foster animal has any unusual fur loss, please contact the Society clinic.

## **Fading Syndrome & Sudden Death**

Fading kitten and puppy syndrome (a.k.a. "sudden death") may occur in kittens and puppies that are particularly young, especially those who are less than 6 weeks of age. While no one knows exactly why this occurs, it is suspected that the internal physiology of these animals is so under-developed that they cannot sustain themselves. If a puppy or kitten passes while in your care, please contact the Volunteer Services Department immediately, and take note of any and all symptoms that may have preceded their death.

## **INTESTINAL PARASITES**

Intestinal parasites are worms and microscopic organisms that commonly infect dogs and cats. Pets often become infected after contact with contaminated feces. These parasites cause illness by living in the intestine, and feeding off of a pet's nutrition or blood, and can cause many problems for a pet, including diarrhea, weight loss, dull coat, poor body condition, or even blood loss.

### **Roundworms**

Roundworms are the most common intestinal parasite of cats and dogs. Infection is frequently transmitted from a mother dog or cat to her offspring. Cats and dogs can also become infected after eating contaminated soil. Sign of roundworm infection include diarrhea, poor coat, or thin body condition. Puppies and kittens may have a distended "wormy" belly. Sometimes these long white worms are seen in the stool.

Roundworm infection is so common in pets that all shelter cats and dogs are routinely dewormed at their arrival. Roundworm infection is a zoonotic disease and can be a serious problem for humans. Roundworm infection is spread in the stool, and humans can become infected by ingesting contaminated stool. You can protect yourself by washing your hands after carefully disposing of your foster pet's waste.

### **Hookworms**

Hookworms are intestinal parasites transmitted to cats and dogs after contact with contaminated soil through ingestion or through their skin. Hookworm infection is especially common in puppies, and transmission can occur during nursing. Signs of hookworms include diarrhea and weakness caused by blood loss. Hookworm infection in pets is easily treated, and all cats and dogs are routinely dewormed for hookworm when they arrive at the shelter. Additional deworming is sometimes recommended if a fecal exam results in a positive identification.

Hookworm infection is also a zoonotic disease that is transmitted in feces. Remember to wash your hands after disposing of your foster pet's stool. Also wear shoes when walking outdoors because hookworm can enter through the skin from contaminated soil.

### **Whipworms**

Dogs become infected with whipworms after ingesting contaminated soil. Whipworm infection causes severe, often bloody, diarrhea. Whipworm infection is considered a zoonotic disease; however, it is extremely rare for people to become infected with whipworm from dogs.

### **Tapeworms**

Tapeworm infection is transmitted by ingestion of a flea or rodent that carries tapeworm. Signs can include weight loss or scooting. Tapeworm segments are short, white, flat pieces of the worm that can be

seen on the pet near the rear end or in the feces. A combination of de-worming with flea control is very important to treat tapeworm. Tapeworm infection is also zoonotic; however, people are at low risk of tapeworm because this infection requires ingestion of an infected flea.

### **Coccidia**

Coccidia is an intestinal parasite that is also a microorganism (protozoa). Pets become infected after ingestion of water or anything in the environment exposed to contaminated feces. Rodents can carry coccidia. Infection with coccidia causes diarrhea, vomiting, lethargy, and possibly weight loss and dehydration. Coccidia is so common in puppies and kittens that all youngsters are treated with medicine upon their arrival at the shelter. Additional treatment may be necessary if there is a positive identification of the protozoan. The type of coccidia that infects cats and dogs does not infect people.

### **Giardia**

Giardia is an intestinal parasite that is also a protozoa that can infect cats and dogs. Cats and dogs become infected with giardia after contact with contaminated water, such as ponds or puddles. Some cats and dogs have giardia in their system, but do not become sick with diarrhea until their immune systems are stressed. This can happen in a shelter, because it is a new environment for the pet. A fecal test at your next veterinary visit will screen for infection, and medicine may be necessary. Giardia is considered a zoonotic disease; however, people are at a low risk of infection with giardia from their pet. Infection in people generally results from a type of giardia specific to humans.

## **CAT-SPECIFIC MEDICAL ISSUES**

### **Upper Respiratory Infection**

Upper respiratory infection (URI) in cats is a contagious viral infection of the upper respiratory passages. Bacteria may become involved secondarily. The incubation period for URI is anywhere from 2 days to 2 weeks, which is why cats may appear healthy upon pick-up, and may still develop the illness.

URI is highly contagious among felines. Note that humans and dogs cannot be affected by the virus. Symptoms include sneezing, runny nose or eyes, lack of appetite, lethargy and fever. If you have a foster cat who begins to show preliminary symptoms, please contact the Volunteer Services Department. If the symptoms begin to compound, and the cat is not eating or, if the discharge has become yellow or green in color, contact the Society clinic. A veterinarian will be in touch with you to determine the course of treatment which may sometimes include a physical examination, medication, or hospitalization.

When caring for a cat with URI in your home your most important goal is to keep the cat eating. When they are congested cats can't smell food and may lose their appetite. Offer smelly, fish-flavored canned food. Warming it up a bit in a microwave may help too. Gently clean the nose and eyes with a washcloth moistened with warm water. If medication is prescribed, make sure to give the animal all doses until it is completely gone. Call your assigned veterinarian if the animal is not showing any signs of improvement after one week, or if there is any deterioration in condition.

### **Feline Distemper**

Feline distemper, otherwise known as panleukopenia, is a highly communicable virus that is fatal to young kittens and senior cats with no vaccine history and poor health. It is spread by direct contact with infected animals or their secretions. Contaminated food dishes, bedding, litter boxes, and the clothes or hands of people who have treated an infected cat are routes of exposure.

Feline panleukopenia, also called feline infectious enteritis, is a leading cause of death in kittens. For this reason each cat is immediately vaccinated against the illness upon arrival at the Society, though it takes several rounds of the vaccine for a kitten to develop full immunity. Feline distemper bears no relation to the virus that causes distemper in dogs.

Early signs include loss of appetite, severe apathy, and fever. The cat often vomits repeatedly and brings up frothy, yellow-stained bile. The cat may be seen crouching in pain, their head hanging a few inches over the surface of the water bowl. If they are able to drink, they immediately vomit. With pain in the abdomen, the cat cries plaintively. Diarrhea may appear early in the course of the disease, but frequently comes on later. The stools are yellow or blood-streaked. In young kittens (and some older cats), the onset can be so sudden that death occurs before the cat shows any signs.

If you have a foster cat who is showing signs of feline distemper, please contact the Society clinic immediately. Also take precautionary measures until a diagnosis has been made by limiting the cat's exposure to other felines.

## **DOG-SPECIFIC MEDICAL ISSUES**

### **Kennel Cough**

Kennel cough is a mild infection of the respiratory passages that is very common among shelter dogs. Bacteria and virus may be involved either alone or in combination. The disease is spread by close contact. In spite of strict sanitary measures, it is sometimes difficult to control the disease in hospitals, kennels, and in shelters.

Like URI, kennel cough has a long incubation period, anywhere from 5 to 15 days, so it is not always diagnosed prior to foster placement. If you have your own dogs at home, ensure that they are up-to-date on their Bordetella vaccine to ensure they are protected against one of the causative agents.

The major symptom of kennel cough is a dry, harsh cough that is worsened with exercise or excitement. Dogs usually do not run a fever. Other symptoms include sneezing, snorting, gagging and a discharge from the nose or eyes. Retching or gagging might follow the cough. Severe cough may occur for 5 days but a mild cough may persist for 10 – 20 days.

The disease is self-limiting. Usually no treatment is necessary in otherwise healthy adult dogs. If you have a healthy adult foster dog who comes down with symptoms make sure they are comfortable, rested, and drink plenty of fluids. Wipe their nose with a warm, damp cloth to remove any discharge. If the cough is severe, contact the Society clinic for directions on how to administer an over-the-counter cough suppressant.

If the cough is severe our veterinarians may recommend the use of specific over-the-counter cough preparations. It is imperative that you use only the particular formulations given. Others formulations may contain harmful ingredients. Contact your assigned veterinarian if the dog is not showing any signs of improvement after 7 days, or if there is any deterioration in condition.

If you are caring for a puppy who begins to show symptoms, please contact the Society clinic. If an adult dog loses their appetite, becomes listless, if discharge becomes discolored, if the dog feels warmer to the touch than normal, or is experiencing breathing difficulty contact the clinic. A veterinarian will be in touch with you to determine the course of treatment which may sometimes include a physical examination, medication or, in extreme cases, hospitalization.

### **Canine Distemper**

Canine distemper is a highly contagious viral disease acquired by dogs. Puppies younger than 4 months old and unvaccinated dogs are at a high risk for becoming infected. The virus attacks the respiratory,

gastrointestinal, and nervous systems. Distemper can also infect foxes, wolves, coyotes, raccoons, skunks, and ferrets. It does not infect people or domestic cats.

The virus may be shed in all body secretions. Early distemper symptoms may look similar to those of kennel cough but progress into neurological issues. Transmission usually occurs through inhalation of airborne virus or direct contact between susceptible and infected dogs. It can also be spread through fomites (inanimate objects, such as clothing, that become contaminated) or the environment, but the virus does not remain infectious outside the body for more than a few days in a perfect environment, and for only a few hours in other conditions.

All dogs are vaccinated against distemper immediately upon arrival at the Society and thanks to this practice, is a rare occurrence in the shelter. If there is ever suspicion that the illness has affected any foster animals the foster team will be notified immediately. To keep your own canines safe, please ensure that they are up-to-date on their vaccinations at all times.

### **Canine Parvovirus**

Canine parvovirus is a serious and highly contagious disease caused by a parvovirus. It is transmitted by direct dog-to-dog contact or contact with contaminated feces, environments, or people. The disease affects dogs, foxes, wolves, and coyotes but does not infect humans.

Signs of the disease include lethargy, loss of appetite, fever, vomiting, and severe, often bloody, diarrhea. Vomiting and diarrhea can cause rapid dehydration and can quickly lead to death (usually within 48-72 hours after the first clinical signs appear). If your foster puppy or dog is showing any of these signs, contact the Society clinic immediately.

Vaccination and good hygiene are crucial in the prevention of canine parvovirus. All dogs who enter the Society are immediately vaccinated against the disease though puppies need a series of vaccinations to be adequately protected. For this reason puppy fosters should use caution in exposing their young dogs to other dogs until the vaccination series is complete.

## **THE FOSTER PROCESS**

### **SELECTING YOUR FOSTER**

The Anti-Cruelty Society keeps an up-to-date list of animals awaiting foster care on our website. Included in the information provided will be the animal's age, breed, weight, foster reason, and estimated length of stay. The foster list can be found on our main website under the "Ways to Get Involved" page [here](#).

Reasons animals may need foster include:

- **Young Age:** Animals must be at least 2 months or older to be adopted. Animals that come in who are stable in health, but under the 2 month marker, may be added to the foster candidate list.
- **Low Weight:** Some animals may come to us neglected and emaciated and have a low weight as a result. The chief goal for these fosters is to gain weight in a timely fashion.
- **Contagious Illness:** Most frequently this is seen as kennel cough in dogs (not contagious to cats) and upper respiratory infection in cats (not contagious to dogs). These animals may be sent home with medication.
- **Non-Contagious Illness:** Some animals may need foster while a broken limb heals or for general medical rehabilitation.

- **Socialization:** These are shy, shutdown animals who would benefit from additional exposure to human socialization.

In addition to the reasons above, some animals may be placed in our foster program for a special program or project including:

- **Foster to Forever:** In this unique foster program foster providers bring home an animal that is already approved and ready for adoption with the goal of recruiting their forever family straight from foster care. Partnering with the Volunteer Services and PR Departments, foster parents solicit their animal on and off-line, and attend events, in the hope of securing an adopter. This is a great special project to undertake for new or novice fosters.
- **SAFE Program:** Animals who enter the SAFE Program have owners who are facing a temporary housing crisis or hospitalization. The Anti-Cruelty Society boards these pets, free of charge, for up to 30 days if the owners meet basic qualifications. In some cases, it may be appropriate to send a SAFE animal out to foster care. If there is a candidate for this special foster program you will be notified directly via email through the Volunteer Services Department.
- **Behavior Observation:** In this special project foster providers bring home an animal whose behavior history may have some gaps or need clarification. Foster providers are connected directly with the Animal Behavior & Training team prior to foster placement and maintain ongoing conversations on how the animal is adjusting to the home environment. This foster special project is recommended for experienced fosters only.

When choosing an animal to foster you will want to pay particular attention to the suggested foster length of stay as well as the reason for foster. You know your own availability best and can choose which animal/s is right for you. When selecting a foster, only choose animals who you feel confident in sheltering. If you have little experience dealing with older dogs with behavior issues, perhaps a puppy is a better fit. A litter of kittens that needs to be bottle fed 6 times a day may not be suitable for someone who works 8-10 hours on weekdays.

In addition, fosters marked as “high risk” should only be fostered by experienced foster volunteers, as these animals may be more susceptible to complications or death. All fosters also run the potential of developing a communicable illness such as Bordetella or upper respiratory infection (URI) – even if sent out for age, weight, or socialization. Keep all of these factors in mind when choosing who to bring home.

We have found that most young foster animals do better in pairs. If you’re considering fostering a kitten or puppy who is amongst a litter, think about taking a sibling in as well. Many times young animals gain valuable socialization from their litter mates and provide round the clock companionship for the animal.

Once you have chosen your foster animal, contact the Volunteer Services Department and indicate who you are interested in taking and when you are available to pick them up. Please wait for confirmation of your foster assignment before coming in.

If, at any time, you should find that your foster is not a good fit for your household or lifestyle – please let us know! We want you and the animal to have a positive experience, so don’t be embarrassed to contact us if things aren’t working out.

## **FOSTER PICK-UP**

Our Customer Service Department, which assists fosters during pick-up, is open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. 7 days a week. When you arrive at the shelter, check-in with the Customer Service team in the Adoption Center Lobby. A staff member will ask for your name and will confirm the number of animals you are signed up to foster. They will print out one contract per animal for you to sign and will also provide you with copies. Please keep these files for reference during the entire length of the foster animals stay.

Once the contracts are signed a staff member will bring the animal to the front desk. Unless the animal is too young, they will be microchipped and will be wearing a collar with their unique Anti-Cruelty Society tag number. When picking up litters it is important to keep these collars on the animals to ensure proper identification during clinic visits and returns.

If you do not bring a carrier with you, the staff member will place smaller animals in a recyclable paper crate, or if the animal is walkable, will provide you with a leash. You will also be sent home with a bag of dry Science Diet food, free of charge. Fosters receive a 10% discount in our store and are encouraged to pick up any additional supplies and accessories at the time of pick up.

## **FOSTER RETURNS**

### **Before their Return**

Prior to returning a foster animal ensure that each of the following is complete:

- **Foster Stay:** Verify that the foster animal is ready to return. Were they sent out for age? If so – they need to be at least 2 months old and 2 pounds heavy to be passed for adoption. Were they fostered for illness? Make sure they have finished their medication and are no longer showing symptoms. Were they sent out for socialization or behavior? Be sure to check in with the Foster Coordinator to ensure they are ready to return.
- **Personality Profile:** Please turn in a completed personality profile for each foster you return. These profiles allow the behavior specialists to properly categorize the animal for our Adoption Match Program while giving adopters vital information about each animal's observed personality. Copies of these profiles can be found at the end of this manual.

### **Foster Drop-Off**

Our Receiving Department is open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. 7 days a week. When returning a foster animal, staff will ask you for the name of the volunteer with which the animal was originally booked. Please keep this in mind if your partner or a friend is making the return. Please note that any toys or personal items left with the animal may not make their way with the pet to the adoption room.

### **Foster Return Follow-Up**

Foster parents are encouraged to check in with the Volunteer Services Department regarding status updates on their foster animals. A general weekly update will be included in the Foster Announcements newsletter for all animals who are currently in the program, as well as those who have graduated and are in the process of going to their forever home.

While we can never breach the privacy of an adopter - such as giving out name, address or telephone number - we can inform you of the status of the animal – so don't be afraid to ask!

## RECRUITING ADOPTERS

One of the most gratifying moments of fostering is knowing you helped your foster become prepared for their forever home. Take that feeling one step further by helping us promote your foster animal and place them with an adopter faster! Below are some ways in which you can help.

### FOSTER MEDIA

#### Before & After Photos

A picture is worth a thousand words! Help get more exposure for your foster animal, your work and the Society by snapping a photo the first and final day of each foster's stay with you. Once the foster has returned to the shelter, send your photos to the Volunteer Services Department who will forward them on to our PR team for placement on our website or social media pages.



*Before*

*After*

#### Glamor Shots

Just as with the before and after photos – taking a high quality picture of your foster animal in a home environment, and sending them in to the Volunteer Services Department, can help speed their adoption.

Here are some tips to follow when shooting photographs of your foster cat or dog:

- Turn the camera so that you take the photo vertically, or as a portrait, rather than a landscape.
- Squat while taking the picture so the photo is captured from the animal's level.
- Avoid taking photos where an animal looks 'choked' by a leash or hand.
- Try to capture photos of the animal showing off their personality. Whether that's lounging on a windowsill, or playing fetch in your backyard, snap a picture that represents who they are as a pet.
- Turn the flash 'off' for better picture quality.
- Use the 'macro' (flower) setting to take more textured close-ups. Note – this will only work well with animals who are standing relatively still.
- Do your best to take the photo against a plain backdrop, with no people in the shot.
- Arm yourself with a squeaky toy, clicker, and treats to help get the dogs attention when snapping the photo.
- Review the pictures after you take them to ensure sharpness, light, and overall quality. If you do not like the photos, take more.



### **Foster Videos**

We live in a digital age where many adopters go online to view an animal's profile before coming in to the shelter to meet them. Give your foster animal an advantage by filming a video of them playing or snuggling and posting it to YouTube. Once you've listed the video, send the Foster Coordinator the link, and they'll embed it to connect with that pet's profile.

### **FOSTER BLOG**

The foster blog is a wonderful resource for foster volunteers as well as an avenue for promoting current adoptable animals and furthering the mission of The Anti-Cruelty Society. Many animals find their future homes because of the extra exposure received through the foster blog.

The blog is located at the following url: <http://acsfosters.wordpress.com/>

You must have your own Wordpress account activated prior to joining the blogging team. Once you have an account, contact the Volunteer Services Department to be added to the 'authors' list. Alternately, send write-ups and photos to staff to create a blog post on your behalf.

#### **Creating a Foster Blog Post:**

To create your first post, follow these steps:

1. **Create a New Post.**
  - a. Sign in to your Wordpress account.
  - b. Go to My Blogs>The Anti-Cruelty Society Fosters>New Post
  
2. **Compile your Blog Post.**
  - a. Create a title. Be sure to include one of the following before it:
    - i. Adopted, The Anti-Cruelty Society News, The Anti-Cruelty Society Events, In Foster Care, Available for Adoption, Pet Care Tips
  - b. Type up the written content in the body of your post.
  - c. If you're writing about a foster animal, be sure to include their animal ID number so that potential adopters can reference it when contacting the Society.
  - d. If you reference a website be sure to link to the source.
  - e. Include an engaging question at the end to encourage readers to comment.

- f. Add media, like pictures or video. Be sure to include a link to the source for copyright purposes.
3. **Choose a Category:** Once you've compiled the post, you'll need to choose a category for the post. On the right hand side of the post editor page you'll see "Categories" and various subjects. Make sure you choose the one that matches your title.
4. **Add Tags:** Tags are very important as they guide web users to our blog.
  - a. If you're writing about a puppy use tags like the following: The Anti-Cruelty Society, dog, puppy, canine, adoption, foster, volunteer, Boston Terrier, Border Collie, mix, Chicago, Illinois, shelter, rescue, adopt.
  - b. Be creative with your tags.
  - c. The more you include the more people will find us on Google and other search engines.
5. **Publish Post:**
  - a. Now that you've compiled your post, created a category, and tagged your feature, click the green Publish button on the top right hand corner of your screen. This will make the blog post visible.

#### **Editing Posts:**

If you'd like to make changes to your blog post you can do so at any time by finding the page and clicking edit under the title.

#### **Scheduling Posts:**

You can also "Schedule" a post to publish it at a future date. To do this, look under the "Publish" box on the right hand side. You'll see a heading that says "Publish Immediately." Next to it you'll see an "Edit" button. Click on it to change the date and time the post will go live. Then click "Schedule."

### **ADOPT ME VESTS**

The Anti-Cruelty Society has a supply of wearable "Adopt Me" vests available for dog fosters to use with their current charges. If you plan on bringing home an underweight, underage or socialization foster – request a size-appropriate vest from the Volunteer Services Department to use during your foster's stay. The vest will help alert your community that the dog is soon to be available for adoption.

### **ADOPTING A FOSTER**

#### **Adopter Recruitment**

If you have a friend, relative, or co-worker who wishes to adopt your foster animal please have them complete an adoption application for the specific animal. Applications can be downloaded from the Society website [here](#). While awaiting an application's receipt please keep the animal in your care and contact the Volunteer Services Department.

Completed foster adoption applications should be sent to the Volunteer Services Department at [foster@anticruelty.org](mailto:foster@anticruelty.org). Once an application is received staff will review the applicant's adoption candidacy and will remain in contact with all parties regarding the application's status. It is important that fosters do not promise an applicant the animal since in some circumstances the application may not be approved.

Basic adoption requirements include:

- Full household consent
- Adopter must be 18 years of age or older
- Renters applying for a dog: Landlords will be called to verify if the apartment is pet friendly
- When screening applications The Anti-Cruelty Society also looks to see if the adopter's training and care knowledge is sufficient and aligns with universal standards.

### **Adoption Fees**

- Puppies (5 months and younger): \$200
- Adult Dogs: \$120
- Long Term Dogs (60 Days +): \$60
- Kittens (5 months and younger): \$100
- Adult Cats: \$60
- Small Animals: \$20

Adoption Fees at our satellite adoption centers vary. Please check the animal's adoption profile for additional information.

### **Adoption Fee Includes:**

- Spay/neuter surgery
- Rabies vaccine
- Distemper vaccine
- Leukemia screening for cats/ Heartworm screening for dogs
- Collar & personalized identification tag
- Microchip
- Leash or carrier
- Free 30 day pet insurance through 24PetWatch

If the adoption application is approved the Volunteer Services Department will schedule a day and time for the foster animal's drop off, as well as their adoption.

- If the animal is already spayed or neutered the adoption will take place during general adoption hours, with the foster bringing the cat or dog back that same day for the exchange.
- If the animal is not spayed or neutered the procedure will be scheduled in advance and the foster will be asked to drop the cat or dog off the evening prior. The pre-approved adopter will be asked to come in the following day between 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. to process the adoption.

### **Foster Adoptions**

Foster providers are pre-approved for the adoption of any animal in their care. If you have made the decision to adopt your current foster – congratulations! Please notify the Volunteer Services Department so that adopter recruitment efforts can be discontinued and so an official adoption date can be scheduled.

Please note that if an adoption application has already been received and approved from an outside party, we will have to honor the animal's placement with the external adopter.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Can I join the foster program if I have pets or children at home?**

Yes! We are always looking for a variety of foster homes so that we can make the best foster matches possible. Some animals may benefit from being placed in the care of a foster who has other animals. In

other cases, being in a home with children may build additional socialization skills.

Keep in mind that there is always a health risk to expose your animal to other animals whether it's walking at parks, veterinary waiting rooms or other common animal areas. The health risk is minimal if your animals are current on their vaccinations, maintains a healthy diet and lifestyle, and are not elderly or very young.

If you or someone in your household is immune-compromised, consult your doctor before fostering since working or living with animals exposes humans to a group of diseases called zoonoses. A zoonotic disease is defined as a disease transmitted from animals to humans and also from humans to animals. To find out more about zoonoses, talk to your doctor and/or veterinarian. Proper hygiene and an understanding of these illnesses can reduce the risk of disease.

### **How long are animals typically in foster care?**

On average, most Society foster animals are in care for about 4 weeks. When placing a cat or dog on the Foster Candidate list our staff provide an estimate of the anticipated foster length of stay. If an animal becomes ill while in foster and requires additional time in your care you will be given the option to extend their stay or bring the animal back for re-fostering with another family.

### **What if my foster and I don't "click?"**

Making successful foster matches is key for the program to thrive. For this reason we urge fosters to contact the Volunteer Services Department if an animal you bring home is not adjusting, or is simply not a good fit for your family. Each animal is a unique individual and has a history we may not completely know. When sending them into foster care we prepare you as best we can – but situations and behaviors sometimes arise that may make the animal unsuitable for continued care in your household. If you should need to bring an animal back sooner do not consider it a defeat. The information you discovered, even if you only had the animal for a short period of time, will be invaluable to our staff.

### **Help! My foster pet is sick! What should I do?**

Our on-site veterinary clinic is open to all foster animals who are in your care and we ask that all foster animals be serviced by our staff. There is no need to take your pet to a private veterinarian, unless we are closed and your foster pet is having a medical emergency.

If your foster animal is conscious and not in immediate distress, call the main clinic line between 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mondays - Fridays at (312)644-8338 ext. 351 to make an appointment to see a veterinarian. If you need to speak with a member of staff regarding your animal's health beyond those times, please call the main customer service line at (312)644-8338 ext. 381.

If your foster animal has a medical emergency while we are closed, please seek help at your local emergency veterinary clinic. After their admission please connect with a member of The Anti-Cruelty Society staff as soon as possible so that transfer of care can be coordinated with the clinic.

### **Who can I call if my foster dog or cat has behavioral issues?**

Our team of Animal Behavior Specialists are available to you each day of the week for addressing behavior concerns. You can call Specialist at 312.644.8338 ext.343. When leaving a message include your foster animal's identification number (off their foster contract), your name, phone number and a note that you are calling about a foster pet. You can also write to them through [info@anticruelty.org](mailto:info@anticruelty.org). The service is free and open to everyone regardless if you adopted from The Society.

### **I have a family emergency and have to go out of town! What do I do with my foster?**

If emergency strikes and you are not able to provide care for your foster animal please bring them back to The Anti-Cruelty Society and contact the Volunteer Services Coordinator. We'll work with you on placing them into another temporary foster home or can board them on-site. At no time should a foster board an animal privately or place them in someone else's care.

### **Am I responsible for finding my foster animal their forever home?**

Only foster volunteers who take part in the Foster to Forever program are required to recruit their animal an adopter. Other foster providers are not required to recruit an adopter, but we always appreciate a foster's assistance! You can help us find your foster's forever home by telling friends, family and neighbors about the animal's current status. If you have an animal in the Foster to Forever program we'll even create a personalized media kit for you to use. You can also send us photos and updates so we can add them to our foster blog and social media pages to help with exposure.

Should a potential adopter be recruited we will review the adoption application, and if we think they're a good fit, will connect them with the foster directly to schedule a meet and greet. Meet and greets can take place at your home, at the shelter or anywhere else you deem appropriate. We will then follow-up with you to see how things went. Your quick response and then final input on the potential adopter is critical to finding a great match.

Many times a foster parent will find a perfect match through their own network of friends, family, and colleagues. The shelter greatly welcomes these referrals! If you think you have found a perfect forever home for your foster, remember they still must go through the application process and be approved by the shelter staff before the animal is officially placed in their care, or announced as their pet.

### **Can I adopt my foster?**

Yes! We love "foster failures!" If you make the decision to adopt your foster, please notify the Volunteer Services Department immediately so we can break off adopter solicitation. We'll then schedule a post-foster examination for the animal and schedule a day and time for you to come in and process the final adoption contract. Once you've adopted a foster you are welcome to continue on in the foster program if you choose.

### **I haven't fostered in the last 6 months or more – can I still bring an animal home?**

Fosters who have not been active for a period of 6 months or longer may need to schedule a refresher training with Volunteer Services to ensure they are up to date on all current protocols and procedures. In addition, fosters who have not brought an animal into their care in more than 6 months will also need to pay their own foster license renewal fee before bringing a new foster animal home.

### **Do you euthanize animals? Are you a no-kill shelter?**

The Anti-Cruelty society is an open admission—or open door—humane society. This means that we will not turn away any animal that comes to our doors. Many of these animals are healthy, good natured dogs and cats who go up for adoption—and there are no time limits on how long they can stay up for adoption.

However, there are animals that come to a shelter sick, severely injured, or too aggressive or behaviorally unsound to be placed up for adoption at that time. While open admission shelters will give at least temporary refuge to these animals, many limited admission shelters—which sometimes call themselves "no-kill"—do not have the resources to dedicate to such animals. These shelters must make a decision as to which dogs or cats will receive their care and attention, and therefore they limit the number of animals they will accept. As a result, some limited admission shelters may choose not to help the animals that come to them with health and/or behavioral issues. It is The Anti-Cruelty Society's belief that no animal should be turned away. Sometimes, these animals can be rehabilitated but sometimes they cannot. In this

case, we strongly believe that euthanasia is the most humane alternative to an existence of suffering and pain or being limited to life in a cage.

While the phrase “no-kill” can stir many emotions in people, it can also be very confusing and misunderstood. There are many good shelters that call themselves “no-kill,” just as there are many fine shelters—such as The Anti-Cruelty Society—that are “open admission.” Ultimately, much of the confusion about “no-kill” stems from the fact that there is no universally accepted definition of the term. One organization’s idea of no-kill can vary widely from another’s. Therefore, it is important to look into the issues surrounding the idea of no-kill in order to understand the ways in which organizations help animals.

The Anti-Cruelty Society believes in helping the greatest number of animals with our available resources. As such, we will accept any animal that comes to our doors. We place healthy, or treatable animals into new homes. We provide rehabilitation for those animals that may need some extra care and attention before they *are* adoptable. And we only euthanize animals who are so sick or behaviorally damaged that they would not become adoptable. In fact, many “no-kill” shelters also euthanize animals because of severe health or behavioral issues. The Anti-Cruelty Society’s goal is no euthanasia for all adoptable or treatable animals.

In the end, it is not words or phrases that help animals but actual efforts, programs, and initiatives.

## POSITION STATEMENTS

### **Companion Animals**

The Anti-Cruelty Society believes that since companion animals provide people with joy, recognized health benefits, friendship, and are completely dependent on human care, all members of the household should carefully and in full agreement decide to adopt an animal. Ownership carries the responsibility of meeting the physical and social needs of the animal including food, shelter, safety, veterinary care, and companionship. We strongly encourage the identification of all pets through collars with tags and recommend permanent identification methods (i.e. microchips). The owner should be familiar with and follow the existing laws relating to animals such as licensing, leash regulation, rabies vaccination, and waste disposal. All animals should be under proper restraint or control at all times. We discourage the subjection of animals to cosmetic surgery, such as tail-docking and de-clawing, which are unrelated to their health and well-being.

### **Service Animals**

The Anti-Cruelty Society recognizes that certain companion animals can assist special-needs individuals lead more independent lives by helping to perform everyday tasks which would otherwise be difficult or impossible for these individuals. Service animals have been shown to greatly assist people who have physical, visual, or hearing limitations. We feel it is important that during training, and subsequent placement, the service animal’s physical, medical, and behavioral needs are always considered and humanely met. We support the use of positive reinforcement training for the teaching of tasks to service animals.

### **Education and Training**

The Anti-Cruelty Society is deeply committed to humane education programs, especially in the primary and secondary schools. Such training should be an integral part of study programs.

The Anti-Cruelty Society continues to support initiatives and dialog aimed at reducing violence and abuse in all of its forms. We recognize the distinct connection between human and animal violence, and believe

that by increasing awareness of this link through humane education, we can help more effectively address the violence issues facing society and our animals.

Keeping live animals in schools as pets should be limited by the availability of responsible supervision, proper care and facilities.

We support zoos which encourage education and an interest in animals. Sanitary conditions and adequate habitats must be provided. We encourage all captive animal facilities to achieve and maintain national accreditation standards.

Dog training allows animal owners to learn about the behavior of their pet and how to positively affect changes. We recommend basic obedience training based on positive reinforcement rather than on punishment.

### **Spay/Neuter**

The Anti-Cruelty Society believes spaying and neutering are the most effective ways of overcoming the companion animal overpopulation crisis. Mandatory spay/neuter procedures prior to adoption are supported within The Society and in cooperation with the State of Illinois, other humane societies, and veterinarians. We support early-age (pre-pubertal) sterilizations.

### **Euthanasia**

The Anti-Cruelty Society remains an open-admissions shelter and we accept all animals that we are legally permitted to hold. While The Anti-Cruelty Society energetically promotes the adoption of shelter residents, we believe not all animals are adoptable due to health status, age, or dangerous behavior. Therefore, The Anti-Cruelty Society may administer euthanasia in accordance with an owner's wish or to prevent further animal suffering. The Anti-Cruelty Society strongly supports the use of the most humane methods available for the intended species. Euthanasia by injection, attended to by trained personnel, is currently recommended for all companion animals and is the only method used by The Anti-Cruelty Society.

### **Pound Seizure**

The Anti-Cruelty Society deplores the requisition of unwanted animals from pounds and shelters for experimental purposes. The availability of animals at a cheap rate for experimentation merely encourages waste of life. We believe the use of pound and shelter animals corrupts the meaning of shelter. We actively oppose legislation permitting these activities.

### **Animal Research**

The Anti-Cruelty Society believes the use of animals for research should be permitted only when there are no known feasible alternatives. Research should be limited to the smallest number of animals of the most suitable species, maintained in sanitary conditions and cared for in a humane manner.

### **Animals for Sport and Entertainment**

The Anti-Cruelty Society supports efforts to assure that animals used for entertainment purposes are not depicted in a brutal manner or treated inhumanely. Live animals should not be used as prizes or premiums.

The Society remains a strong opponent of all forms of animal fighting, and we support law enforcement and prosecutorial activities intended to reduce this wide-spread inhumane practice. Carriage horse operations, horse racing, and circuses should be conducted in a humane manner and should be inspected by the appropriate authorities to ensure humane care and public safety.

Rodeo events, because of procedures and equipment exposing rodeo animals to cruel treatment and the

likelihood of injury, are opposed by The Anti-Cruelty Society.

The Anti-Cruelty Society opposes dog racing because of cruel training methods, the large scale breeding of unwanted dogs required to produce a winner, and because this so-called sport is an inhumane and unjustified exploitation of animals for profit.

### **Animal Industries**

The Anti-Cruelty Society disapproves the system of raising animals in an artificial and inappropriate environment. We believe it is wrong to maintain animals in a manner that causes them discomfort or denies them an opportunity to develop naturally. We oppose any cruelty and abuse in any animal industry and encourage the humane treatment of all animals. Procedures for the slaughter of animals should be conducted to minimize fear and eliminate pain and suffering.

### **Protection of Wild Animals and Endangered Species**

The Anti-Cruelty Society urges Federal and State wildlife agencies to broaden their protection of all species and encourage citizens to assist in preserving habitat where such species are known to reside. We recommend orphaned or injured wildlife be placed with a licensed rehabilitation facility for care.

### **Dangerous Dogs**

The Anti-Cruelty Society supports legislation designed to protect the public from all dangerous dogs, regardless of breed. Breed specific legislation fails to address the problem of attacks by dogs other than the proscribed breed or breeds and the problem of irresponsible owners.

### **Wild and Exotic Animals as Pets**

The Anti-Cruelty Society believes wild and exotic animals make unsuitable pets and most people are not equipped to properly maintain such animals in a home environment. These animals should be placed with a licensed rehabilitation facility or wildlife sanctuary for care or eventual reintroduction.

### **Sale of Animals in Pet Stores**

The Anti-Cruelty Society is strongly opposed to the sale of companion animals through pet stores and similar outlets (i.e. puppy mills and indiscriminate breeders). Investigations have exposed cruel and inhumane conditions in many such establishments; including overcrowding, filth, inadequate shelter, and lack of food, water, and veterinary care.

The Anti-Cruelty Society supports work being done to enforce licensing and operational requirements of the federal Animal Welfare Act, which would abolish "Puppy mills" as they are now.

### **Legislation**

Local, State, and National Sponsorship of specific legislation or support and participation on issues shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors as these issues arise and the extent of commitment and resources made available (e.g. financial, oral and/or written testimony) shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Over the years, a tremendous amount of success and progress has been achieved in the care provided to animals and educating the community. However, more work needs to be done. Together with the help of foster volunteers like yourself, who selflessly contribute hundreds of hours annually, the companion animals of Chicago have a voice and advocates to provide them with the love, care, and attention they all need and deserve.

We thank you again for your decision to become a foster volunteer with us and for choosing to help the animals in our care. Your efforts make a significant difference in The Anti-Cruelty Society's work and our mission to find loving homes for shelter pets.

We hope you find your foster volunteer experience at The Anti-Cruelty Society enjoyable and rewarding. If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please contact the Volunteer Services Department.



*Thank you again! We look forward to working with you!*

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS LIST

### MAIN TELEPHONE NUMBER

(312)644-8338

### VETERINARY CLINIC

#### Main Switchboard

Ext. 350 or 351

If you need to reach a member of the clinic team beyond switchboard hours, please call our operator at (312)644-8338 ext. 381 and identify yourself as a foster parent in need of medical assistance. Note that there are no staff in the building between 8 p.m. – 8 a.m.

### VOLUNTEER SERVICES DEPARTMENT

#### Eric Tostado

Coordinator of Volunteer Services

Foster Program Lead

[sbruno@anticruelty.org](mailto:sbruno@anticruelty.org)

ext. 313

#### Tara Laffey

Humane Education Specialist

Neo-Nate Foster Lead

[tlaffey@anticruelty.org](mailto:tlaffey@anticruelty.org)

ext. 341

#### Lydia Krupinski

Director of Community Programs

Foster Program Support

[lkrupinski@anticruelty.org](mailto:lkrupinski@anticruelty.org)

ext. 330

### ANIMAL BEHAVIOR & INTAKE

Leave a detailed message on the voice mail. Most behavior calls are returned the following afternoon. Please identify yourself as a foster parent when leaving a voicemail. Your calls will be made a priority.

#### Tracy Hamilton

[thamilton@anticruelty.org](mailto:thamilton@anticruelty.org)

ext. 343

#### Melissa Klett

[mklett@anticruelty.org](mailto:mklett@anticruelty.org)

ext. 315

#### Avril Brown

[abrown@anticruelty.org](mailto:abrown@anticruelty.org)

#### Lillian Butterfield

[lbutterfield@anticruelty.org](mailto:lbutterfield@anticruelty.org)



## FOSTER CAT PERSONALITY PROFILE

Please complete this questionnaire in advance and bring it in with your foster on the day of their return to the shelter. The Receiving Team will attach this form to their kennel card, which will make it available to both personnel and potential adopters. The more detailed information you provide, the better job we can do of matching your foster animal to the appropriate adoptive home. Thank you in advance!

Cat's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Animal ID # \_\_\_\_\_ Return Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Time in Foster: \_\_\_\_\_ Are they returning early? No\_\_ Yes\_\_

Reason Fostered? Age/weight \_\_ Medical\_\_ Socialization\_\_ Injury\_\_  Shelter Vacation\_\_

## FOSTER BEHAVIOR INFORMATION

Describe the ideal home for your foster animal:

Cute things your foster does that could be endearing to a future adopter:

What kinds of routines and activities does your foster like most?

How social is your foster when meeting new people? Describe their behavior.

What are her/his favorite games and toys?

Please list anything s/he may be afraid of (e.g. thunder, vacuum, etc.)?

How does s/he react when afraid (hides, growls, etc.)?

Did s/he stay with other animals? No\_\_ Yes\_\_

If yes, what kind? Dogs\_\_ Cats\_\_ Rabbits\_\_ Birds\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

How did s/he get along with them?

Did s/he live with children? No\_\_ Yes\_\_ Ages: \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, how did s/he get along with them?

When was the cat active? Early\_\_Daytime\_\_Late\_\_Overnight\_\_All day\_\_Never\_\_

Has the cat used a scratching post? No\_\_ Yes\_\_

Post Material: Carpet \_\_ Sisal\_\_ Rope\_\_ Wood \_\_ Combination \_\_Cardboard\_\_

Please check any and all problems you may have experienced with this foster cat:

Meows excessively\_\_ Hisses\_\_ Fearful \_\_ Eats plants\_\_ Tries to escape\_\_

Jumps on counters/tables\_\_ Wakes you overnight\_\_Play bites \_\_ Bites\_\_

## FOSTER CARE INFORMATION

Food Preferred \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_ How often? \_\_\_\_\_

Where did the cat stay during the foster period? \_\_\_\_\_

Single-level House\_\_ Multi-level House \_\_ Apartment/Condo\_\_

How many litter pans did the foster have available? \_\_\_\_\_ Location/s: \_\_\_\_\_

What type of litter was used (e.g. clumping, clay, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

Was the litter pan hooded? No\_\_  Yes\_\_  Did you use litter liners? No\_\_  Yes\_\_

Did you add a deodorizer? No\_\_  Yes\_\_  Did you use a litter box mat? No\_\_  Yes\_\_

How often was waste scooped? \_\_\_\_\_ How often was the box completely cleaned? \_\_\_\_\_

Did the foster ever not use the litter pan? No\_\_  Yes\_\_

If yes, please describe the circumstances (where did s/he go, urine, stool, how often):

Additional Notes:



## FOSTER DOG PERSONALITY PROFILE

Please complete this questionnaire in advance and bring it in with your foster on the day of their return to the shelter. The Receiving Team will attach this form to their kennel card, which will make it available to both personnel and potential adopters. The more detailed information you provide, the better job we can do of matching your foster animal to the appropriate adoptive home. Thank you in advance!

Dog's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Animal ID # \_\_\_\_\_ Return Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Time in Foster: \_\_\_\_\_ Are they returning early? No\_\_ Yes\_\_

Reason Fostered? Age/weight \_\_ Medical\_\_ Socialization\_\_ Injury\_\_  Shelter Vacation\_\_

## FOSTER BEHAVIOR INFORMATION

Describe the ideal home for your foster animal:

Cute things your foster does that could be endearing to a future adopter:

What kinds of routines and activities does your foster like most?

How social is your foster when meeting new people? Describe their behavior.

What are her/his favorite games and toys?

Please list anything s/he may be afraid of (e.g. thunder, vacuum, etc.)?

How does s/he react when afraid (hides, growls, etc.)?

Did s/he stay with other animals? No\_\_ Yes \_\_

If yes, what kind? Dogs\_\_ Cats\_\_ Rabbits\_\_ Birds\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

How did s/he get along with them?

How does s/he react toward unknown dogs?

Did s/he live with children? No\_\_\_ Yes\_\_\_ Ages: \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, how did s/he get along with them?

When was the dog most active? Early\_\_Daytime\_\_Late\_\_All day\_\_Never\_\_

Is s/he used to walking on a leash? No\_\_Yes\_\_

Has s/he had any training while in foster care? No\_\_Yes\_\_

If yes, what have you been working on?

What cues does s/he know, including tricks?

In what ways was s/he corrected? Verbal\_\_Time-out\_\_None\_\_Other\_\_\_\_\_

How did s/he respond to correction?

Complies\_\_Sulks\_\_Growls\_\_Snaps\_\_Other\_\_\_\_\_

Please check any and all problems you experienced with this foster dog:

“Marks” indoors__	Chews__	Fearful__
Mouths when playing__	Jumps on people__	Has excessive energy__
Howls or whines__	Bolts out doors__	Growls__
Barks excessively__	Digs__	Has bitten__

Additional Behavior Notes:

## FOSTER CARE INFORMATION

Food Preferred \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_ How often? \_\_\_\_\_

Where did the cat stay during the foster period? \_\_\_\_\_

Single-level House\_\_ Multi-level House \_\_ Apartment/Condo\_\_

Was the foster usually confined? No\_\_ Yes (during the day)\_\_ Yes (overnight)\_\_

If yes, where? Yard\_\_ Crate\_\_ Kitchen\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

For how many hours a day were they confined? \_\_\_\_\_

Why (e.g. housebreaking, chewing, to provide a “den,” etc.)?

Where does s/he sleep? \_\_\_\_\_

How long is s/he able to go without eliminating? \_\_\_\_\_

Where does s/he eliminate (yard, on walks, paper, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

How often did you take the dog outside? \_\_\_\_\_

If crate trained, does s/he soil the crate? No \_\_ Yes\_\_

Additional Care Notes:



### Foster Kitten Activity Sheet

Thank you for volunteering to foster one or multiple kittens for The Anti-Cruelty Society!

Please complete this worksheet during the course of your foster time and turn it in to our Intake Department when dropping off your foster/s. This sheet will help us ensure that each kitten is receiving age-appropriate socialization and exposure to sights, sounds and experiences that will help them build a proper behavioral foundation.

Foster Volunteer Name \_\_\_\_\_

Foster Kitten Pick-Up Date \_\_\_\_\_ Foster Kitten Return Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Kitten	Physical Description	Sex

Kittens raised in an enriched, stimulating environment have a more complex web of neuro-pathways. They are better able to handle changes and stress, have better problem solving abilities and are less nervous/hyperactive. To encourage this level of development – practice each of the following exercises for 3 to 5 seconds once a day.

- **Tactile stimulation** - holding the kitten in one hand, gently stimulate (tickle) the kitten between the toes on any one-foot using a Q-tip. It is not necessary to see that the kitten is feeling the tickle.
- **Head held erect** - using both hands, hold the kitten perpendicular to the ground, (straight up), so that its head is directly above its tail. This is an upward position.
- **Supine position** - hold the kitten so that its back is resting in the palm of both hands with its muzzle facing the ceiling. While on its back, the kitten is allowed to struggle.
- **Thermal stimulation** - use a damp towel that has been cooled in a refrigerator for at least five minutes. Place the kitten on the towel, feet down. Do not restrain it from moving.

**Age Specific Exercises:**

**Age 4 to 6 weeks**

- 10 minutes of individual handling/gentle restraint apart from litter each day
- Routine inspection/restraint – include nail trims
- Introduce short car rides while in carrier(if no car – short walks in a carrier through the neighborhood)
- Provide an appropriate scratching post
- Provide safe hiding places for stalking and chasing toys and littermates
- Increase level/proximity of household noises
- Begin meeting safe, friendly dogs and other animals when possible
- Begin meeting new people and older children

Date	Describe Activities Completed



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### Foster Puppy Worksheet

Thank you for volunteering to foster one or multiple puppies for The Anti-Cruelty Society!

Please complete this worksheet during the course of your foster time and turn it in to our Intake Department when dropping off your foster/s. This sheet will help us ensure that each puppy is receiving age-appropriate socialization and exposure to sights, sounds and experiences that will help them build a proper behavioral foundation.

Foster Volunteer Name \_\_\_\_\_

Foster Pick-Up Date \_\_\_\_\_ Foster Return Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Puppy	Physical Description	Sex

Puppies raised in an enriched, stimulating environment have a more complex web of neuro- pathways. They are better able to handle changes and stress, have better problem solving abilities and are less nervous/hyperactive. To encourage this level of development – practice each of the following exercises for 3 to 5 seconds once a day.

- **Tactile stimulation** - holding the puppy in one hand, gently stimulate (tickle) the puppy between the toes on any one-foot using a Q-tip. It is not necessary to see that the puppy is feeling the tickle.
- **Head held erect** - using both hands, hold the puppy perpendicular to the ground, (straight up), so that its head is directly above its tail. This is an upward position.
- **Supine position** - hold the puppy so that its back is resting in the palm of both hands with its muzzle facing the ceiling. While on its back, the puppy is allowed to struggle.
- **Thermal stimulation** - use a damp towel that has been cooled in a refrigerator for at least five minutes. Place the puppy on the towel, feet down. Do not restrain it from moving.

**Age Specific Exercises:**

**Age 3 to 4 weeks**

- 5 to 10 minutes of individual handling/gentle restraint apart from the litter each day
- Introduce household objects
- Introduce brushing
- Introduce general inspection/restraint
- Introduce new surfaces (rugs, tile, grass, etc.)
- Introduce novel household noises at a distance or low level (vacuum, phone, hair dryer, oven timer etc.)
- Introduce safe sensory toys (toys that stimulate multiple senses)
- Begin meeting new people

Date	Describe Activities Completed

**Age 4 to 5 weeks**

- Begin/continue weaning process (when applicable)
- 10 minutes of individual handling/gentle restraint apart from litter each day
- Continue introducing new household objects for inspection
- Introduce safe chew toys
- Continue brushing/routine inspections
- Introduce short car rides (if you don't drive – walks around the block in a carrier work too!)
- Increase level/proximity of household noises
- Share high valued chew toys with individual puppies
- Begin reinforcing outdoors for elimination
- Continue meeting new people
- Begin meeting safe, friendly dogs, cats and other animals

Date	Describe Activities Completed



**Age 6.5 to 8 weeks**

- 20 minutes of time apart from litter (time spent handling and allowing puppy to safely entertain itself - independent playing/chewing) each day
- Individually crate puppies for 10 to 15 minutes each day (when applicable)
- Continue brushing/inspecting
- Introduction to leash (supervised dragging at first, then leash in hand - following puppy around)
- Continue petting/gently handling puppy while it is eating food/chewing high valued chew toys
- Continue meeting new people and safe, friendly animals
- Continue teaching positive reinforcement for sitting, jumping, mouthing
- Introduce restraint exercises (short sessions of holding the puppies individually until they accept the restraint)
- Introduce social remediation (mild, abrupt “ouch” for hard bites while mouthing, chewing wrong items – be sure to substitute with appropriate chew toy)

Date	Describe Activities Completed

**Age 8 to 12 weeks**

- Littermates may need to be completely separated due to social conflicts
- Individually crate puppies at night or when left alone
- Continue petting/handling puppy while it is eating food/chewing high valued chew toys
- Continue meeting new people and animals

- Begin taking individual puppies to new places to combine habituation, socialization and manners training
- Begin teaching basic behaviors (sit, down, maintain, come, leash walking)
- Discourage mouthing via abrupt “ouch” that cause the puppy to remediate and choose another behavior (bite inhibition training)

Date	Describe Activities Completed