

Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter

FOSTER PROGRAM FAQ

Want to make a direct impact on an animal's life while enriching your own? Fostering is an amazing way to help! A foster animal offers companionship and gratitude while freeing up space in the shelter. Foster families focus on adult dogs, seniors, and kittens; animals that would otherwise live without the loving touch and stability so crucial to their health and happiness.

A dog/cat is in the shelter because something unfortunate has happened in his life. Fostering takes tolerance and patience to help these animals recover from trauma. Nurturing these dogs/cats back to health (both mentally and physically) is both a rewarding and emotional experience, but well worth the effort. Fosters truly save lives. Consequently, we encourage foster families to treat the foster dog/cat like their own pet as much as possible.

The email for the foster coordinator is tstinson@jeffparish.net

If you have an emergency, you must contact the shelter directly.

EB 504 736-6111 or WB 504 349-5111.

After hour emergencies call 911 and ask for animal control dispatch.

How does the shelter communicate with the foster?

Mainly, via email. Your main contact with the shelter will be through the foster coordinator. You must have a valid email on file and regularly check your email so that we can schedule adoption appointments with you when someone is interested in adopting your foster. Please ensure that you also check your

Spam folder as emails have been known to end up there.

How long can I expect to keep my foster animal?

It varies, however, you are never under any obligation to keep the dog/cat longer than what you can provide. In the end, how long you keep your foster animal depends on how long it takes to get adopted, and/or what condition the animal is in.

What if I can no longer foster an animal or I go out town?

Please let us know if you plan to be out of town/can no longer foster, so that we can attempt to find an interim foster home. Otherwise, the animal must be returned to the shelter.

What are my responsibilities as a foster?

- Cats must be kept indoors at all times. Dogs are to be kept indoors with the exception of bathroom breaks, playtime, etc.
- Foster families must have the financial ability to provide food and water for the foster dog/cat and be able to transport the animal to the shelter vet and adoption events around the local area.
- Provide proper bathing and grooming, if needed.
- Foster families help us get to know the animals. Please send pictures and personality updates to the foster coordinator so we can add to their profile. Social media is a great way to network your foster animal. Feel free to 'market' your foster pet and have fun being creative! *Be sure that all potential adopters are referred to the foster coordinator so that we can follow necessary procedure.*
- Administer medications (if needed) and seek medical care as soon as needed (provided by the shelter).

- If there are any signs of behavior issues, you must notify the shelter immediately so that we can address them as soon as possible.
- **MONTHLY HEARTWORM AND FLEA PREVENTATIVE ARE PROVIDED BY THE SHELTER AT NO COST TO YOU and must be administered to your foster animal, by you, monthly.** When you pick up your foster animal, be sure to request a copy of their medical records and ask when preventative is due. Please make note of the date and administer preventative every 30 days from the date on the medical records.
- In the event of an emergency or urgent care *after hours*, we work with the Metairie Small Hospital on Metairie Rd. (MSAH). You *must* contact the shelter immediately should your animal show any medical issues that need to be addressed. After hours, please call 911 and ask for Animal Dispatch. Our on-call Animal Control Officer will be able to advise you. **If you seek alternative or unnecessary treatment *other than what is approved by the shelter*, you will be responsible for those costs.**

What are the shelter's responsibilities?

- We provide monthly heartworm and flea preventative. Just give us a call before you come to pick up so you can avoid waiting.
- Our resident shelter veterinarians provide medical care for our foster animals. It is at the sole discretion of the shelter to keep the animal comfortable and address known medical conditions. Any unapproved or alternative care will be the financial responsibility of the foster.
- We promote your foster pet for adoption via Petfinder/PetTango/social media, adoption events, rescue groups, and potential transports out of state etc.
- The shelter will provide the animal with a collar and a JPAS Foster ID tag. Please be sure to request this if you are not provided one. The rabies and microchip tag will remain at the shelter and can be picked up by adopter

once an adoption is finalized.

- The shelter usually has extra crates for new fosters to borrow but must be returned when the animal is adopted.

I have other pets. Can I still foster?

This will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please notify the shelter if you have pets in your home, or who visit frequently. Every animal's circumstance is different. We do our best to match you with an appropriate foster. Your existing pets must be up to date on vaccines and heartworm preventative.

On intake, animals are given a health check; vaccinations, fecal and heartworm tests, flea preventative, dewormer, and FIV/FELV test for cats. Animals are kept at the shelter for 5 business days before becoming available for foster/adoption. (Some exceptions apply). The shelter does not knowingly send animals out with contagious diseases, however, sometimes symptoms do not present right away and kennel cough and ringworm are very common. Should symptoms present, let us know and we will try to address any issues right away.

I have children. Can I foster?

This will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please ensure that you notify the shelter if you have children of any age in your home or who visit frequently. Sometimes our shelter animals are traumatized and although they are not aggressive, they may get overwhelmed by loud noises and sudden movements.

Are the dogs house trained?

It's hard to know whether an animal is house trained when in a shelter

environment. The best we can tell you is if a dog tends to keep its kennel clean and waits to be taken outside, unless the previous owner gave us more information.

Many animals need a few days to adjust even if they are house trained and sometimes have an accident when in a new environment.

Can I adopt my foster?

Absolutely! If you decide to adopt your foster yourself, you will be required to fill out additional paperwork (adoption application, contract, and microchip registration) to finalize the adoption. You may also have to pay the adoption fee if not otherwise waived. You will be subjected to the same approval process as any other adoptive family.