

## **Foster Program FAQs**

### **What if someone asks me how they can adopt my foster animal?**

Provide the Foster Program Coordinator (A3PFosters@gmail.com) the person's contact information and we will gladly explain our adoption process.

### **How do potential adopters find out about my foster animal?**

Once available for adoption, our pets are listed on Petfinder and can be found on our website at [www.a3padvocates.org](http://www.a3padvocates.org). We regularly share updates on our animals in foster care via social media (mainly Facebook and Instagram) and work behind the scenes to match interested adopters with available animals. We also encourage fosters to advertise their foster animal on their own social media pages.

### **What if my foster animal needs to see a veterinarian?**

A3P covers the cost of veterinary care for foster animals and will schedule all routine medical appointments. Please contact the Foster Program Coordinator for any medical concerns or emergencies immediately

### **What happens if I want to adopt my foster animal?**

Fosters have the first right to adopt! "Foster fails" happen frequently within rescue so if you are leaning toward adopting, inform the Foster Program Coordinator so the pet can be listed as "not available" or "hold" on Petfinder.

### **What happens if I have to go on vacation and/or work-related trip while I have a foster?**

Please give the Foster Program Coordinator at least 1 week notice if you will be travelling. You'll be asked to either return the animal to A3P's Rescue Center or take the animal to another approved foster.

### **Do I get to choose which animal I foster?**

Possibly, we match newly approved fosters with their first foster animal based on their experience level and needs of the animal. Kittens and puppies are adopted quickly therefore most foster opportunities will be for neo-natal care, pets with medical requirements, pregnant pets, and those who have minimal interest or need additional socialization. Fosters can respond to foster opportunities that come up through our email newsletter or on social media. Keep in mind that the animals that are in need of foster homes vary and we can't give fosters a choice between multiple animals.

\*Note: Not every animal seen on our website is eligible for fostering.

## **What should I expect when I welcome a new foster into my home?**

Welcoming a new foster into your home is an exciting experience. It is important to acclimate your new foster animal appropriately. Upon being accepted into our foster care program, you will be briefed with the proper home acclimation methods for dogs and/or cats. Often times this is the animals first experience in a home, therefore, you should expect to work on common training issues such as house training, proper eating regimen, socialization, and basic obedience (for canines). We always provide fosters with as much information as we have on the pet and take into consideration the foster's experience level when placing an animal.

If you run into additional behavior issues with your foster animal more often than not, it is a small issue that can be corrected with a little extra attention and time. A3P has trainers available to discuss pet behavior and tips to correct undesired traits. We always ask, no matter how small the issue is that you notify the Foster Program Coordinator so we can make sure it is handled properly.

## **Is fostering hard?**

Fostering is extremely rewarding, but we acknowledge that sometimes it can also be challenging and emotionally taxing, especially when the pet is adopted. Every foster experience is different, but we're always here to help guide new fosters through the trials and tribulations of fostering. Often times, this may be the first home the animal has ever known so we ask that all foster animals are given the courtesy of an open mind and patience while they are settling into their new environment. Fostering is fun, rewarding, awesome, and so many other things, but nobody will say that it is always easy.

## **Can I foster an animal if I work full time outside of the home?**

Yes, but you need to make proper arrangements for the animal to be cared for during the day. This may include coming home on your lunch break to care for them or hiring a professional dog walker or pet sitter.

- Adult dogs must be let outside to relieve themselves at least 3x/day (the longest they can be left alone is 6 hours) and fed 2x/day (morning & evening). They also require proper exercise and mental stimulation. Puppies require even more attention and supervision, and are not typically placed with a foster who works out of the home full time.
- Adult cats must have their litter boxes scooped at least 2x/day and be fed 2x/day (morning & evening). They should receive socialization and fosters should plan to spend at least 10-15 minutes a few times each day engaging your cat in some form of activity. Kittens require even more attention and stimulation, and are usually placed in pairs.

## **What are my responsibilities as a foster parent?**

On a daily basis, you are responsible for providing your foster animal with love, food/water, shelter, safety, training, and proper socialization.

You are expected to be to provide updates, with pictures/videos, on how the animal is doing, transport pets to vet appointments, and meetings with potential adopters. You must answer any questions we may have about your foster animal honestly so that we can make sure they stay healthy and all of their needs are met.. We ask that foster families provide housing, food, bedding and toys for the animals in their care. To help reach a further audience to help place pets their forever home, sharing them on your social media is key.

## **What does A3P provide to fosters?**

If needed, A3P will provide its foster parents with initial supplies that their foster animal needs.

## **Can I foster if I already have an animal of my own?**

Yes, as long as your animal is up-to-date on all core vaccines and on monthly preventatives! We will need your veterinarian's contact information for a vet reference to verify your animal's medical history. Keep in mind that the foster animal is coming from a shelter or hospital environment and could be harboring an illness, so we recommend keeping the animal separate from your resident animal for at least two weeks. If the foster pet is a canine and there is a resident dog in the home, a meet and greet prior to fostering is required.

## **When do I have to bring the foster animal back?**

That depends on when/if a veterinarian needs to see the animal, or when a meet/greet is scheduled.

## **What kinds of animals do you have to foster?**

Dogs and cats, puppies and kittens. We often have orphaned kittens and puppies, senior-care dogs and cats, moms with babies and animals healing after surgeries.

## **What if it's not working out?**

There is always an adjustment period for fosters (humans and animals!). Fosters are expected to work through challenges with their foster animal with the help of the A3P trainers. However, if things aren't going as planned, contact the Foster Program Coordinator to return the animal.

### **What if there's a medical emergency?**

Contact the Foster Program Coordinator immediately. If the emergency occurs after hours and if it is believed to be life threatening, take the foster animal to the nearest emergency veterinary hospital. We will only cover the cost of an emergency visit if it is deemed life threatening.

### **What if I think my foster pet is sick?**

Please call the Foster Program Coordinator so we can schedule an appointment for the animal to be seen by a veterinarian.

### **What if I have other animals at home?**

Our foster animals will be vaccinated, dewormed, and flea treated prior to placement in a foster home. However, we don't always know the true history of pet in our care so certain behaviors or medical conditions could arise after being placed in a foster home. To ensure proper acclimation and socialization, Foster animals should be kept separated from animals at home for the first two weeks.

### **How many animals can I foster at once?**

It depends on your time, space and the needs of the foster pets. You can foster a whole litter of kittens ranging from 2-8 at a time, or a litter of puppies, or a single pet.

### **Can my neighbor/niece/nice boy down the block watch my foster pet for me if I go out of town?**

Sorry, no — the foster animal must come back to the facility unless the Foster Program Coordinator has another foster family lined up.

### **How long will I have my foster animal?**

It varies! We have both short term foster opportunities that last a couple of months and longer term foster opportunities that last until the animal is adopted.

### **What do you have to do to foster an animal?**

Fill out an application; be over 21 years old; live in the northern Virginia area and be allowed to have animals in the home. If you are renting, we need a copy of the lease pet clause. If you live with other family members, please check with all the adults to make sure everybody in agreement to foster.