



Foster Care Volunteer

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I become a foster parent?

You can start the process of becoming a foster parent by submitting a Foster Application. You can download an application from our website (www.AdoptLansing.org) and submit via email to foster@AdoptLansing.org, or you can complete an application at the shelter. We would encourage that you review the foster materials on our website prior to submitting an application to learn more about our Foster Program and determine if fostering will be a good fit for your family.

I have other pets at home. Will I still be eligible for fostering?

Absolutely! Many of our active foster homes have resident pets at home. We would encourage that you check with your regular veterinarian to make sure that your resident animals are current on vaccinations as well as appropriate testing and preventatives.

We ask that resident dogs are current on rabies, DA2PP and bordetella vaccines, as well as heartworm testing and heartworm preventative. We ask that resident cats have had a negative Feline Leukemia/FIV test and are current on rabies and FVRCP vaccines. We also encourage flea preventative for resident pets.

CAHS can provide you with information about how to introduce new animals to resident pets.

What are the financial commitments involved with fostering? What supplies will CAHS provide for me while I am fostering?

CAHS will provide basic supplies such as a pet carrier, crate, dishes, toys, litter boxes, leash/collar, food, etc. CAHS will also provide all veterinary care to foster animals. We do ask that the foster home provides unscented, non-clumping clay litter for their cats and kittens while they are in foster. This can be purchased in bulk quantity at a discount at the shelter (as supplies are available).

My schedule is variable. How often am I expected to foster?

CAHS has year-round foster needs, and foster homes can foster as frequently or as infrequently as they would like. However, for foster homes that are inactive for over a year, they may be asked to submit a new foster application if their information has changed.

I have submitted my foster application. Now what?

Depending on the volume of applications received, foster applications may take up to two weeks to process. Please make sure that your foster application has been completed in its entirety as incomplete applications will take longer to process. Once your application is approved, you will receive a welcome email with additional information for you to review before taking your first foster pet.

What kinds of animals could I expect to foster? Are they always sick?

No, not necessarily. We have animals that need foster homes for many different reasons. Some reasons include:

- Juvenile puppies or kittens that are too young for adoption
- Pregnant or nursing mothers with puppies or kittens
- Animals needing additional socialization
- Animals on medication for a treatable illness
- Animals needing a break from the shelter
- Animals needing weight gain
- Dogs/puppies that do not do well in the shelter, but can attend weekend adoption events with their foster families
- Small animals such as rodents, rabbits, or ferrets that may need additional socialization, weight gain, or a break from the shelter.

Once we are a foster home, how do we get foster animals? Do we get to choose our foster pets?

After receiving your welcome email, you will be contacted for potential foster animals based on the preferences you listed on your application. If you are willing to foster different types of animals with different needs, there will likely be many options for foster animals for you to choose from. Not all of the animals on our website will be available for fostering. However, you will be able to choose from the list of animals that are looking for foster homes. All foster pick-ups are scheduled in advance by appointment.

How long will I have my foster pet?

The length of a foster commitment will vary greatly depending on the type of pet you will be fostering. You will always be given an estimate in advance on how long you will have a particular foster animal. The minimum foster commitment is typically one week. We ask that foster homes do their best to accommodate their foster pet(s) for the agreed length of time as space at the shelter is very limited. If a foster home has a foster pet that is not a good match in their home or something unexpected arises that does not allow the foster home to keep the pet for the full time period, we ask that they call the shelter immediately to make arrangements for a return appointment as it may take a day or two to make space for the early return.

Foster homes may be asked to bring their foster pets in for periodic rechecks at the shelter as well for reasons such as weight checks, vaccinations, or rechecks with the veterinary staff. These recheck appointments will be discussed prior to taking your foster pet(s).

Can I adopt my foster pet?

Absolutely! Many foster families decide that they would like a foster pet to become a permanent member of the family. Some foster animals may be available for adoption to the public while they are in foster care so please contact the Foster Supervisor or Adoption Supervisor immediately to start the adoption process and ensure that you will be first in line. Foster families are still asked to go through the normal adoption process and pay adoption fees.