

HSC's 2009 FOSTER PROGRAM POLICY/ Foster Care Agreement Combined

Rescuing Animals One At A Time

HSC's Foster Pet Program provides temporary care for adoptable animals, when both physically and financially possible, for the rescue of companion animals that are homeless, stray, surrendered, endangered, injured or facing eminent death at a county shelter. Animals are fostered with screened volunteers who can offer the animals a temporary home. The goal of the Foster Program is to ultimately find a permanent home for the animal. A home visit and written application is required.

FOSTER CAREGIVER RESPONSIBILITIES

Foster caregiver volunteers will provide the following:

1. Clean, safe home environment in which to care for the animal, prevent injury and spread of disease including: water, shelter, flea control, litter, exercise, socialization, and training (when necessary).

Special considerations for fostering dogs: Foster caregivers must have a securely fenced yard or dog run with some form of shelter (no exceptions). Additionally, a place should be provided in the home where the dog is welcome as they are social animals who crave interaction with people.

Special considerations for fostering cats: All cats fostered from the HSC must be kept indoors at all times to prevent injury and the spread of disease.

You will receive specific guidance for puppies, kittens (litters) and ill/recovering animals that may require special care or "animal-proofing". If equipment is needed (such as carriers, enclosures, food dishes, leashes, pens, crates, etc.), the HSC will provide them if necessary.

Food is provided and should be monitored by an HSC representative. We prefer our animals eat either Science Diet or Purina dry food products. You will be required to make arrangements during business hours of the HSC to pick up your supply needed. If you purchase food and seek reimbursement, again it must be approved by an HSC representative first.

Should you choose to donate food to feed your foster animal on your own, please make sure that it is first reviewed by an HSC representative (and know that we sincerely appreciate your contribution!)

2. Veterinary Care. Foster caregivers are expected to contact the HSC for medical care if necessary. Medications will be provided at no cost.

If the animal needs a spay/neuter/vaccination, this will be provided by the HSC. HSC representatives/office staff will make necessary appointments with local veterinarians and the foster should provide transportation to and from such surgery. The foster caregiver will monitor the fostered animal for any signs of a medical condition, whereas upon discovery, will notify the HSC immediately and administer care as needed. Do not attempt to make these decisions on your own, otherwise you may be responsible for vet charges that have not been HSC approved. Please try to reach the office staff during business hours, which are between 9AM and 5PM Monday through Friday. 727-7554 In case of a medical or life-threatening emergency

or if the medical emergency arises outside of our office hours, you may seek emergency veterinarian care to be paid by the HSC, after contacting an authorized HSC representative at the following telephone number. The HSC approves the following emergency hospitals:

3. Finding a home for the foster animal:

HSC encourages foster caregivers to market their animals whenever possible. Foster volunteers are to assist in the adoption process of the animal by participating in Adoption Events and other HSC promotional activities. This can entail bathing/grooming the animal as well as transportation to and from the event. The foster volunteer may also be asked to take additional photos of the animal for the website or adoption-related efforts. Digital photos are preferable. The foster volunteer should frequently provide updated information on the animal to HSC regarding the animal's condition, well-being, behavior, habits and appearance.

HSC RESPONSIBILITIES

The HSC is responsible for determining which animals are available for the foster pet program and whom is chosen to foster them.

In most cases, the animal will be given an examination by a local veterinarian and all shots up to date before the animal is released to a foster caregiver.

In addition to veterinary care, HSC will provide all food and any medications needed. Young animals or lactating mothers may require special foods such as milk replacement, canned food or vitamins. HSC will provide for such needs.

Animal's picture will appear on the HSC (PetFinder) website until such time as an adoptive home has been found.

Animal will be required to participate in any Adoption Days held at the Culpeper PetSmart and any other area HSC events that apply.

The HSC will prescreen potential adopters through the use of an adoption application.

The HSC will respect the privacy of the foster caregiver by not disclosing private information without the foster's permission.

FOSTER AGREEMENT AND REQUIREMENTS

Potential foster caregivers will complete a written application form.

At the time of fostering, foster caregivers will sign a copy of this policy and agreement for each animal or litter.

This agreement includes a promise by the foster caregiver to provide humane care and treatment, appropriate socialization, any medical services necessary, compliance with all laws and ordinances, make no claim against HSC and/or the rightful owner for any expenses including upkeep incurred while the animal is in custody; not attempt to hold HSC responsible for any illness or damage which the animal may do to any person or property, and return the animal to HSC if requested.

If the foster caregiver wishes to discontinue the foster relationship, the foster animal must be returned to HSC. A sufficient amount of time must be allowed to find suitable arrangements for this transfer. Two weeks will be considered the appropriate amount of notice/time.

The HSC reserves the right to remove the foster animal or terminate this agreement

when a breach of contract or harm/neglect has been inflicted upon the foster animal. This Foster Pet Agreement includes, date, name of foster caregiver, address, phone, animal numbers, animal descriptions and impound date. This agreement will be signed by the foster caregiver and a representative of the HSC at time of picking up the foster animal(s).

Foster animals are the sole responsibility of the HSC and will not be adopted or given to anyone without the permission of the HSC. The foster volunteer understands and acknowledges that one does not have any right or authority to keep or place foster animals in other homes or with other individuals.

ADOPTION OF FOSTER ANIMALS

Foster caregivers may personally adopt the animal they are fostering. They will go through HSC adoption procedures and payment of adoption fees.

The HSC may contact the foster to have them concerning inquiries of adoptive animals and will require that you make every effort to contact those prospective adopters in a timely fashion - either by telephone or email, if provided.

Likewise, if a foster has identified a prospective adopter of his/her own, please contact the HSC and notify us of their intent so that they may complete an adoption application.

While attempting to find a permanent home for the foster animal, foster caregivers may interview potential adopters to facilitate that process. However, the HSC office staff must first be notified of such an interview and the potential adopter must then go through the adoption process.

Potential adopters *must* fill out HSC adoption application through the HSC office staff and fulfill adoption criteria.

Once a meeting or consultation has taken place with the foster animal/foster, the HSC will arrange for a home visit.

All adoption fees will be paid to the HSC and done prior to the transfer of the foster animal to his/her new home.

CURRENT ADOPTION FEES

Cats - \$55 (at the HSC's discretion, kittens - particularly siblings, can be adopted as "two for one")

Dogs - \$75

Adoption fees include:

Cats - 1st FVRCP for cats under one year of age, rabies vaccination, worming and FIV/FelV combo test

Dogs -

****UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES** will HSC animals be adopted to the public prior to a spay or neuter surgery. Special consideration may be used in early adoptions (arrangements made prior to suitable age for spay/neuter) but this is rare and must be approved by the HSC Board of Directors. A deposit for such surgery may also be applied if necessary, in this rare occasion.**

FOSTER PERIOD

The foster period shall be reevaluated should it go beyond 6 months and should not exceed one year. If the foster caregiver needs more time to develop and/or train the animal, the caregiver must make additional arrangements with HSC.

Please sign and return page 4 or the last page of this Foster Policy. Keep the other pages of the Policy for your records.

I have received a copy of this document and read it. I agree to the policies and procedures outlined above and will abide by them.

Foster Caregiver

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Foster Animal Name/Description: _____

Date _____

HSC Representative

Date _____