



# QUINCY HUMANE SOCIETY

SERVING PETS AND THEIR PEOPLE SINCE 1880

## The Highs and Lows of Fostering

Fostering is one of the most rewarding experiences you can have. We couldn't save as many lives as we do without the dedication of our foster parents. When you think of fostering, what kind of animal are you interested in taking home? Will you want a mom with her kittens/puppies, older kittens/puppies that are not old enough for adoption yet or animals that just need a 10 day quarantine?

### **Is fostering right for you and your family? Please go over this with your whole family.**

- Are you able to separate the foster animals from your own animals? Foster kittens/puppies must have their own room – even if you do not have other pets. Our animals come to you as healthy as we know about, but can harbor illness so it is very important for you to keep your pets separated from fosters at all times.
- It is important to keep your foster room clutter free. We recommend using a bathroom (be sure to keep the toilet seat lid down) for first couple of days to watch potty habits then move to another room that allows more space if you have it available.
- Are you and your family emotionally prepared for the death of an animal? As badly as we would wish otherwise, death can occur. Not all animals are born to live. There are congenital birth defects that we cannot see. Sometimes animals get sick and we will treat them with everything we have but sometimes they are too weak to survive. Because you will feed high-quality food, have them in a warm safe place, vaccinate, de-worm, etc. their chances of survival are much greater. *If a death occurs it will be emotionally hard and most of the time it will not have a direct reflection on your fostering skills or abilities.*
- Will you and your family be able to give up your foster at the end of the foster period? Foster families become very attached to their foster pets and sometimes find it difficult to give them to their permanent families, or to the shelter. You can adopt one of your foster animals, but you will need to go through the same process as everyone else. You will need to pay the adoption fee and go through our standard background check and adoption process.
- Will you and your family be able to spend quality time with your foster? Socialization is as important as feeding and keeping them clean. We ask that you go in and spend quality time with them. We want you to play with them so they know that hands are not toys. We want you to snuggle them. Socialization is a big part of fostering.

- Are you prepared to work with our veterinarian system? Will you be able to bring your animal to the shelter when they need to be seen? We specialize in shelter medicine and know what antibiotics are working on what illnesses we are seeing at the shelter. Our vets are free. **You do not own these animals and legally cannot seek treatment for them.** They need to be brought to the shelter for care.
- Do you feel comfortable telling people that these are not your animals and can only be adopted through the Quincy Humane Society adoption procedures? Please feel comfortable telling people that you are a volunteer for the Quincy Humane Society and cannot take these animals out of your home. Your fosters cannot go on play dates to neighbors or friends.
- Foster animals are your responsibility. All animals should be closely monitored regarding temperament and health. Close observation helps in appropriate placement in their permanent homes as well as avoidance of more serious health issues later on. Are they all playing? Is one sitting in the corner? Are they all feeling well? Is everyone pooping, peeing, eating, etc. ?
- All fosters must be kept strictly indoors. This is done to isolate the fosters to avoid the transmission of disease. Your foster cannot go outdoors unless they are in a crate and going to the shelter.
- All foster animals are to be strictly supervised by an adult when around children under 10 years of age. This is dependent on how you think your ten year old will be able to safely handle the animal. This is not an exact age requirement so use your best judgment.
- Even though your resident animal(s) will not come in contact with your foster, your animals must be current on vaccinations and veterinary care including spay/neuter. No exceptions. If you cannot meet these requirements let us know and we can give you the information needed to get it taken care of before you take home a foster. We do this to help stop the pet-overpopulation problems in our area.

### **Rewards of foster care – Saving lives!**

- You are saving animals' lives
- Children learn about the responsibility of caring for animals. It is a great way to help children understand what it takes to have a pet.
- There is no greater joy than watching animals at play or nursing a sick one back to health!
- Knowing that you are making a difference is a nice feeling.

At this time if you do not feel comfortable with our procedures and guidelines, we want you to know that we understand that this is not for everyone. If at any time your situation changes, please feel free to contact us again in the future.