

Fostering Handbook

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Introduction

Fostering is a labor of love for most of us who do it. We all have a common goal of saving as many animals as we can. We can't save them all, but, through fostering, we can play an active and important role in saving many of them.

Each month, the Monroe County Animal shelter takes in far more animals than can be adopted out locally. In order to save as many as possible, we work with many rescues who are able to adopt them out quickly. Some of these rescues require that the animals be fostered in a home for a period of time, usually 2-3 weeks. Fostering ensures a healthier and more socialized, therefore more adoptable, animal than one that is not fostered.

We work with several rescues, but we are a very proud partner of the PetSmart Charities Rescue Waggin' Program. The more foster families we have, the more animals that can be saved.

"We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals" -Immanuel Kant

"Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened" -Anatole France

"Animals are such agreeable friends – they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms" -George Elliot

Contact Phone Numbers

Monroe County Animal Shelter	423-442-1015
Liz Sneed	423-404-4650 (cell)
Cathy Barrett	423-884-2515 or 630-730-9729 (cell)
Dr. Gobble	423-884-3646
Monroe County Animal Hospital	423-337-7432
PPAW	865-856-7729

“To err is human, to forgive, canine” -anonymous

“To err is human, to purr, feline” -Robert By

How Do I Become a Foster?

There are a few steps involved in becoming a foster family.

1. Call or visit the Monroe County Animal Shelter and let them know you are interested.
2. The Volunteer Coordinator will call you to give you information and answer questions.
3. Get your pets vaccinated and/or spayed/neutered, if they aren't already.
4. Schedule a home visit.
5. Fill out paperwork.
6. Have a home visit and turn in your paperwork.
7. Receive final approval.

Hello Brenda,

I'm glad I got a hold of you on the phone last night. I thought it was important to know that you and your family's time, energy, and love was so greatly appreciated and we never would have adopted Maya without all the valuable info you provided. She clearly was loved and taken care of in your home, and I can't tell u how excited we are to have her as part of our family. My husband and I feel like we've had her forever, and I feel confident she will make a great family dog when we have children. I'll forward a few pics in another email.

Thanks again & keep in touch!

Joy Farrell

"There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face" -Ben Williams"

An animal's eyes have the power to speak a great language" -Martin Buber

What's Required?

To ensure the well-being and safety of shelter animals who are fostered, there are minimum requirements to becoming a foster family.

1. All family pets must be up-to-date on their vaccinations. This protects your pet, as well as the foster pet. Check with your vet to see what is recommended/required.
2. All pets must be spayed/neutered.
3. You must fill out and sign the appropriate paperwork before fostering. This consists of a Foster Family Questionnaire, Foster Care Agreement, MCFA Indemnity Agreement and Waiver, and Monroe County Animal Shelter Indemnity Agreement and Waiver.
4. You must agree to a home visit.
5. You must be able to bring the foster pet back to the shelter for vaccinations.
6. You must be able to bring the foster pet to the health check appointment. This usually takes place either at the shelter or a local veterinarian's office.
7. You must be able to bring the foster pet back to the shelter to meet its ride to rescue. This date will be known when you pick up the foster pet.

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated" -Mahatma Gandhi

"In the beginning, God created man, but seeing him so feeble, He gave him the cat" -Warren Eckstein

Things to Have On Hand

Here are some items that are good to have on hand when fostering:

- Crate/pet
- Dry and canned food
- Pee pads or newspapers
- Plenty of clean towels for crate
- Toys/chew bones
- Collars/leashes
- Shampoo/ear cleaning solution
- Cotton balls for cleaning ears
- Brush/nail clippers
- Panacure
- Pedialite
- Plungers for giving medicine
- Thermometer
- Canned pumpkin (pure pumpkin only – not pumpkin pie mix)
- Chicken or beef baby food
- Nutrical
- List of names and phone numbers for people to contact with any questions or concerns

Foster Check List

When you pick up animal to foster you will need to do the following:

- Make sure the kennel card is filled out as follows:
 - Weigh animal and record with date
 - Note when a second shot is needed (at least two weeks after 1st shot)
 - Bordatella should be given and put on kennel card with date given, if known
 - If fecal is done write it on card with results
 - Write in date of Health Certificate (usually same as run date) and time
 - Please make sure that Shelter Personnel know which animal(s) you are taking for fostering
- Make a COPY of the shelter sheet to take with you (never take original)
- Get a “Foster Report” form for each foster animal or download from the website
- Make sure the shelter has a picture of him or her
- Pick up any medicine if needed, such as panacur for worming
- If you get any equipment or supplies fill out sheet in binder

DAY OF RUN:

- The run coordinator will tell you if you should feed your foster(s) the morning of the run
- Try to bathe your foster before run day so he'll start out clean
- Don't forget to bring your Foster Report(s)

Checking Out Borrowed Items

There is a binder labeled "Foster Family Supplies" at the shelter with a page for each foster family. Please sign out appropriate items on your page.

The following items may be borrowed from the shelter:

- crate ** must sign out
- xpen (if available) ** must sign out
- food
- old towels
- food/water dishes
- collar(s)
- leash(es)
- medicine/plungers
- foster report(s) ** can also be downloaded from
http://www.friendsofanimalsmc.org/documents/Foster_Report.pdf

Healthy Information to Know

Sick Puppy/Kitty - Emergency Procedures

- The first indication that a puppy/kitty may be sick is if he has vomiting or diarrhea or is not interested in eating or playing. A puppy or kitten can get dehydrated very quickly so it is important to act right away if he is vomiting or having diarrhea. If you try some of the tips listed below to get him to eat or drink and he isn't interested, Contact the Foster Coordinator, Cathy Barrett 423-884-2515 (h) or 630-730-9729 (cell).
 - If Cathy is not available and this is a true emergency, call Dr. Gobble's office at 423-884-3646 or the Monroe County Animal Hospital at 423-337-7432. ***(Please be aware that you may not be reimbursed if you bring the foster animal to your own veterinarian.)***
 - The normal temperature for a puppy is under 102 degrees. It is 100.5 – 102.5 for a kitten. Check his temperature by using a standard or flexible baby thermometer. Lubricate it with Vaseline and insert into the rectum. It may be easier to have someone help hold the puppy/kitty still. **Never give a dog/puppy/cat/kitty aspirin without consulting a veterinarian.** It can be harmful if not administered properly.
 - If your puppy is not interested in eating or drinking you can try the following tips:
 - *Give him Pedialyte to drink (Gatorade will work, too). This can be diluted 50% with water.
 - *Moisten dry food with baby food, warm broth, a little canned food or canned pumpkin.
 - *Try feeding moist food.
 - *Try cooked egg whites
 - *Nutri-Cal (in a tube) can be given in more serious cases or if the puppy has not eaten in over a day.
 - ***All Cats and Dogs must be seen by a veterinarian if there are any illness issues in foster care.***
-

Going Potty

- Look at the stools when your puppy or kitty goes potty. Watch for signs of blood in the stools or diarrhea or worms. Although many worms can be detected only with a microscope, the presence of two types of worms may be determined by the naked eye. Roundworms resemble spaghetti strands. They may be found in vomited material or in the stool. Tapeworm egg packets look like rice grains and may be attached to the surface of the stool or to the hair near the anus or tail. Report any problems to the shelter director. You may be asked to bring a stool sample to be checked and get some medication.

Diarrhea

- The first thing to know is that when the brand/type of food is changed, it may mess up their system. Give your foster a few days to get used to the food you are using. Also, some foods use red dye. If your foster's stool looks reddish, try changing the food.
- Another cause of diarrhea is coccidia. If you bring a fecal sample to the vets, they can see if there is coccidia.
- Worms are another cause of diarrhea. The foster may need to be wormed or may be due for their second worming. Worms can be detected with a fecal sample that you may bring to the shelter. Panacur is used for worming. The dosage is 1cc per 5 pounds once each day for 3 days. This is repeated in 2 weeks.
- If there is no coccidia and the food is not the issue, talk to the shelter director about what to do next. Sometimes, a vet visit is needed to find the reason for the diarrhea.

Ear Mites

- Black, foul-smelling debris can indicate the presence of an infection or mites. Repeated head shaking, scratching of the ears, or rubbing of the ears are additional signs of ear problems that may warrant a possible visit to the vet. Call the shelter director for instructions.

Kennel Cough

- Your puppy should have received his bordatella vaccination prior to coming into your home. If the foster has a cough, you will probably notice it during the first day or two. Report it to the Shelter Director or Foster Coordinator. Kennel cough is usually not life threatening. Vaccination is not 100% preventative. If you think your foster has kennel cough, isolate him from your other pets because it is highly contagious.

Itchy Skin & Hair Loss

- You can minimize the puppy/kitty's discomfort by bathing with an anti-itch shampoo, like oatmeal shampoo. Some causes of itchy skin and/or hair loss are fleas, ringworm, and mites. Your foster will have Frontline on him before you bring him home, however it may take a little time to kill all the fleas. Ringworm is a fungal infection which is diagnosed through a fungal culture and treated with fungal shampoo, among other remedies. Mites are identified by examining a skin scrape with a microscope. Check with the shelter director if you think the itching is severe. Both ringworm and mites are contagious to people, so wash thoroughly after handling.

Upper Respiratory

- Kittens are prone to upper respiratory infections. If not treated, it can get serious. Symptoms include sneezing, runny/stuffy nose, and runny eyes. It is very contagious,

so it's important to separate a kitty at the first sign of sneezing or other symptoms. Contact the shelter director for instructions.

Medications

- Trimeth dosage – 1cc per 5 pounds two times a day for 10 days. Must be prescribed by a vet.
- Panacure (wormer) – 1 cc per 5 pounds once a day for three days. Repeat in 2 weeks.
- Benadryl – safe to use if the puppy is itching badly. The dosage is 3cc for a 7 lb puppy liquid or ¼ of a 25mg pill every 12 hours.

Bleaching

- Even though to your knowledge your foster puppy or kitty has been perfectly healthy, it is still recommended that in between fostering, all of the crates, pens, bedding, towels, and toys be bleached. To bleach the crates, pens, and floor, mix 1 part bleach to 10 parts water. Use a sprayer to spray, then let sit for about 10 minutes, then rinse off. Just add bleach to the wash for towels, bedding, fabric toys, and such.

“Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole” -Roger Caras

“Cats have incredible vision, but they never see your flaws” -unknown

Contact Information for Other Foster Families

There may be times when you are fostering that there is a day or two that you may be out the entire day or even overnight. Other times, something might come up unexpectedly that pulls you away for a period of time. In these situations, it would be wonderful if other foster families could come to the rescue and “babysit” your fosters. Here is a list of families who would be willing to do just that. These families would also be happy to answer questions that new foster families may have.

Jim & Cathy Barrett 132 Osprey Circle Vonore, TN 37885 423-884-2515	Wayne and Jan Zarnecki Tellico Village 865-458-3878 wzarnecki@bellsouth.net
Carol & Bill Morrison Tellico Village 865-458-6676 bcmo42@yahoo.com	Janet & Bob Korts 240 Indian Shadows Dr. Maryville, TN 37801 865-856-7416 janetkorts@bellsouth.net
Tina & Paul Wenner Sweetwater 423-442-2477 423-442-2477	Brenda Harris Tellico Plains 423-253-6358 513-3149717 (cell) BrendaTHarris@aol.com
Gary & Marilyn Fergestad (865) 408-0906 mferges@charter.net	

Bringing Home Baby

Getting your foster pet home can be stressful on him/her. Before they leave the shelter, they are poked and prodded. Then they go into a crate and end up in an unfamiliar place. Here are some tips for making the transition easier for your foster pets, your own pets, and you.

1. Have the foster pet's area ready – crate set up, food and water, bed or towels, and toys.
2. If you have pets, you may choose to let your pets meet the foster pet – it's best if this is a brief introduction, so as not to add a lot of stress. It's a good idea to separate your pets from the foster pets for a few days to monitor the foster pets' health.
3. Comfort and cuddle your foster pet(s).
4. Allow them time to become familiar with their surroundings and take a nice nap.
5. Once they wake up, play with them, bathe them, and have some fun!
6. Try to get into a routine for regular feedings, naps, and play. Just like us, animals are creatures of habit.

Helpful Websites

The Monroe County Friends of the Animals website

Events, links to adoptable pets, needs list, and much more.

www.friendsofanimalsmc.org

University of Tennessee veterinary website (excellent resource)

<http://www.vet.utk.edu/>

Petango website Online pet store that donates a portion of its sales to shelters, including the Monroe County Animal Shelter. Sign up, choose MCAS, then shop and a portion of the sale will go automatically to the shelter.

www.petango.com

Goodsearch

Search engine that donates for each search. You can also shop many popular stores through this site and a portion of the sale will be donated. Sign up and choose the Monroe County Animal Shelter, then search or shop and a donation will be made.

www.goodsearch.com

The place to look for your foster babies that went north.

Go to www.petfinder.com and type in the zip code 12804.

Helpful Tips from Experienced Foster Families

- *Rub puppy's paws, ears, nose, belly, etc. so he gets used to it. This is helpful when it comes to giving medication and when the vet needs to examine him. Tina & Paul Wenner
- *Sing or hold puppy next to your heart to help settle them down. Karen & Terry Walsh
- *Give them a warm blanket from the dryer at bedtime. This really settles them down fast. They love it! Esther Nunley
- *Have a definite schedule for feeding, taking out to potty, and bedtime. Janet & Bob Korts
- *When you first arrive home with puppy, let him run around outside and potty. This lets them know right away where they should go potty. Tina & Paul Wenner
- *Put small puppies in an x-pen with a piece of vinyl flooring underneath for easy clean up. Wayne & Jan Zarnecki
- *Have the crate/pen set up and ready before bringing pups home. Janet & Bob Valenta
- *Include pups in as many activities as possible. Go on lots of walks on leash, walk abouts in town, and car rides. If food is not for sale, usually a dog can go in. Brenda Harris
- *Talk to your foster with an even tone, not a baby voice. Esther Nunley
- *A good puppy is a tired puppy. Wear them out by playing with them outside. Janet and Bob Korts
- *Briefly introduce pups to your pets initially. Janet & Bob Valenta
- *Mix dry food with a couple of tablespoons of canned food and add enough warm water to the whole mixture but not too soupy. Pups love this! Esther Nunley
- *Use your tone of voice to let your pups know you are the Alpha dog. Karen & Terry Walsh
- *To housebreak, take puppy out frequently, especially after eating or playing. Brenda Harris
- *A fun toy most puppies like is an empty water bottle with some kibble in it. Carol Morrison

From Tina and Paul Wenner:

People always ask "How can you foster these puppies and send them away?" I always smile, and explain to them that we are making another family very happy and filling their lives with joy. Notes like this remind me that this is why we do what we do! -Tina & Paul Wenner

Hi, my name is Chris Hall. I am e-mailing you about one sweet pup who has met a sweet 13 year-old boy named Matthew and his family: mom - Anne, brother -Sam, two cats - Ruby & Abby, and last but not least, a 4 year-old female English bulldog who is nice as pie.

Matthew has been wanting a buddy of his own. He was looking on pet finder.com and came upon the pictures of the pups. His heart was won over by one of them, a sweet pup named Bomber, and he could not see him until Friday. Then we came to find out the SPCA was two and a half hours away and was first-come first-serve, and were also told Friday's are a mad-house.

We live in South Burlington, VT. My son and I got up at midnight and drove and sat at the SPCA for five hours just to be first on the list. By this time, we were the "talk" of the place. The SPCA did not open for three more hours. One hour went by and a nice lady came out and handed me paperwork for adoption and said we could work on it. A half-hour before they were to open, they called us inside and let us see Bomber. For Matthew and Bomber, it was love!!! For his tough dad, I had tears in my eyes. This was Bomber's forever home.

After the long ride home, Bomber was greeted by wife and bulldog like he was a long-lost member of the family, and it was the same as other family members came home. Last night he slept all night long in bed with Matt, melted in his arms... as I looked in on them a lot.

Well, I was just handed Bomber after his bath in the sun. You guys are great for all your hard work. Thank you. There will be more to come as he grows. My son will e-mail you to keep you informed.

The Forever Family

The Hall Family

Fostering

Author Unknown

*There I sat, alone and afraid,
You got a call and came right to my aid.
You bundled me up with blankets and love.
And, when I needed it most, you gave me a hug.*

*I learned that the world was not all that scary and cold.
That sometimes there is someone to have and to hold.
You taught me what love is, you helped me to mend.
You loved me and healed me and became my first friend.*

*And just when I thought you'd done all you could do,
There came along not one new lesson, but two.
First you said, "Sweetheart, you're ready to go.
I've done all I can, and you've learned all I know."*

*Then you bundled me up with a blanket and a kiss.
Along came a new family, they even have kids!
They took me to their home, forever to stay.
At first I thought you sent me away.*

*Then that second lesson became perfectly clear.
No matter how far, you will always be near.
And so, Foster Mom, you know I've moved on.
I have a new home, with toys and a lawn.*

*But I'll never forget what I learned that first day.
You never really give your fosters away.
You gave me these thoughts to remember you by.
We may never meet again, and now I know why.*

*You'll remember I lived with you for a time.
I may not be yours, but you'll always be mine.*

Quotes

“An animal’s eyes have the power to speak a great language” -Martin Buber

“We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals” -Immanuel Kant

“The purity of a person’s heart can be quickly measured by how they regard animals” - anonymous

“Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole” -Roger Caras

“Until one has loved an animal, a part of one’s soul remains unawakened” -Anatole France

“In the beginning, God created man, but seeing him so feeble, He gave him the cat” -Warren Eckstein

“A house is not a home without a pet” -anonymous

“There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face” -Ben Williams

“No heaven will not ever Heaven be unless my cats are there to welcome me” -anonymous

“To err is human, to forgive, canine” -anonymous

“To err is human, to purr, feline” -Robert Byrne

“You can say any foolish thing to a dog, and the dog will give you a look that says?’My God, you’re right! I never wouldn’ve thought of that!’” -Dave Barry

“Cats are love on four legs” -Richard Torregrossa

“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated” -Mahatma Gandhi

“I’ve met many thinkers and many cats, but the wisdom of cats is infinitely superior” -Hippolyte Taine

“Every boy should have two things: a dog, and a mother willing to let him have one” - anonymous

“A dog has lots of friends because he wags his tail and not his tongue” -anonymous

“Animals are such agreeable friends – they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms” -George Elliot

“The greatest pleasure of a dog is that you may make a fool of yourself with him and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself, too” Samuel Butler

“When I play with my cat, who knows whether she is not amusing herself with me more than I with her” _Montaigne

“Cats have incredible vision, but they never see your flaws” -unknown

“Our perfect companions never have fewer than 4 feet” -Sidonie Gabrielle Colette

“Blessed are those who love cats, for they shall never be lonely” -unknown