

How do I become a foster parent?

You will need to fill out Spokane Humane Society's online foster parent application. Our volunteer and foster coordinator will contact you directly to set up a time for an over-the-phone or in-person interview as well as basic training for the type of foster pets you are interested in fostering.

What is required of me as a foster parent?

Providing a safe, 'foster-proofed' room in your home that contains your foster pet's necessities; food, water, bedding, litter box (for cats), toys, etc. Almost all supplies are provided by Spokane Humane Society.

You are responsible for ensuring that your foster pet receives any scheduled medical treatments, including vaccines, on time, is healthy, and well socialized. SHS provides all veterinary care for foster animals, all you have to provide is transportation to and from appointments.

What are the requirements for a foster room?

The foster room needs to be a designated place for your foster pet to spend the bulk of their time. Spokane Humane Society recommends a spare bedroom, den, office, or a large bathroom. This room will need to be 'foster-proofed' and have plenty of space for a litter box, food and water dishes, as well as sleep and play areas.

What supplies do I need to provide myself?

Spokane Humane Society will provide you with almost everything you need, including food, litter, litter boxes, toys, beds, blankets, crates/kennels, food/water bowls, leashes and collars, harnesses, etc.

How do I get foster pet?

After you have completed foster training you will begin to receive Foster Plea emails detailing the type of animal, their needs and approximately how long they will need to be in a foster home for. Whoever responds first, and is the best match for the foster pet, will be contacted to set up a time to come in and pick them up.

Can my foster pet interact with my resident pets?

Typically yes, although it depends on the situation. We strongly recommend keeping foster pets separate from personal pets for at least 2 weeks to monitor for any potentially contagious diseases.

Foster pets and personal pets must be monitored by an adult at all times and should never be left alone together. Please ensure you have the ability to separate foster pets when needed.

Personal dogs are required to meet any foster dogs prior to being brought home. This is done at the shelter and is facilitated by shelter staff.

Personal cats and foster cats can interact if they get along, but many cats require a long period of introduction before they feel comfortable together.

Puppies and kittens who have been vaccinated may interact with personal cats and dogs.

Mother dogs and cats with puppies or kittens must be kept separate from all personal pets at all times.

Can my children interact with the foster pet?

We encourage your children to have supervised interaction with foster pets! Children should not be permitted to handle newborn kittens or puppies, however. Caution and direct supervision is a must at all times.

Do we bottle feed kittens or puppies?

Spokane Humane Society does occasionally take in kittens or puppies who require to be bottle fed or have litters born in our care that require supplemental feeding. If this is the case we will train our foster parents to bottle feed, or place the puppies or kittens with a foster parent who is experienced at bottle feeding puppies or kittens.

I found a litter of kittens. Can I foster them through your program?

Not typically. All lost or found pets must be brought to SCRAPS as they are Spokane County animal control.

How will people know that I have a foster pet?

The majority of foster pets are not available for adoption. If there is an instance in which a foster is available for adoption while in your care, they will be placed in our website and promoted on our social media pages. Potential adopters will contact the foster and volunteer coordinator in order to schedule a meeting date and time with you and your foster pet! If they want to adopt, they will complete the paperwork at the shelter.

Who do I call for help?

If you ever have any questions, concerns or experience an emergency, please contact the foster phone at (509) 847-5591.

If my foster pet needs veterinary care, do I take them to my own vet?

All veterinary care will be provided through Spokane Humane Society. Foster parents are not permitted to seek veterinary care from outside clinics. Any visits to outside veterinarians that are not pre-approved will be the financial responsibility of the foster parent.

What do I do if my own pet gets sick?

Your pets should be kept separately from your resident pets for at least two weeks in order to help prevent illness from spreading to your personal pets. However, we do recognize that cross contamination can happen. If your own cats get sick, it is your responsibility to seek veterinary treatment. Remember there is always an inherent risk of disease when you bring new animals into your home. This is why we require that all animals in the home are current on vaccinations.

Do my owned pets have to be up to date on their vaccines?

For everyone's protection and safety your resident pets are required to be up to date on vaccines.

Do my owned pets have to be altered before I foster?

No, but it is strongly encouraged. If your animals are not altered, you will not be eligible to foster unaltered foster pets, including pregnant/nursing cats/dogs. If you are interested in altering you pet, Spokane Humane Society can help you set up an appointment to have this done.

What if I have to leave out of town unexpectedly?

Contact the foster coordinator as soon as possible so that we can find alternate placement for your foster pet.