



Foster Questions and Answers

Thank you for your interest in opening your heart and home to our shelter's animals. Your generosity will provide young and old, injured and sick, abused and under socialized animals a chance to grow or heal before finding their forever homes. Fostering is a wonderful experience for you and your family - you can feel good knowing you have helped save an animal's life. Even better, you will create space in the shelter to accommodate other homeless animals. Fostering provides companionship and purpose - your act of kindness is repaid in rewards that are beyond words.

1. How long are animals in foster homes?

It completely depends on the animal and the situation. The average stay in a foster home is about 2 months. However, most puppies and some dogs with a rescue may stay only a few weeks. Others, recovering from an injury, certain breeds and senior dogs, may stay much longer.

2. If I have my own animals, can I foster?

Yes, but keep in mind that it's always a health risk to expose your animal to other animals whether it's walking at parks, vet waiting rooms or other common animal areas. The health risk is minimal if your animals are current on their vaccinations, and maintain a healthy diet and lifestyle. If an animal in your household has not been vaccinated, consult your vet before fostering. Proper hygiene, preventative measures and an understanding of basic illness can reduce the risk of disease or illness.

3. What supplies are needed to foster?

Foster parents provide space, basic training, exercise and love for the dog. FoCCAS and the shelter will provide you with all the other supplies and equipment needed throughout your foster experience.

4. Do I need to have prior medical knowledge or expertise?

No, but you may be asked to dispense medicine to your foster dog so you will have to be comfortable following veterinarian's instructions if fostering a sick or injured dog.

5. What if my foster animal becomes sick?

If your foster animal becomes sick and it is life threatening, take the animal to one of FoCCAS's approved vets. If the illness is not life threatening, call your foster coordinator and they will advise you.

6. What if I go on vacation?

If given enough notice, we can usually find volunteers that can foster for short durations. Foster parents should not find placement on their own, FoCCAS will help find a short term foster.

7. Can I adopt my foster animal?

Every animal that goes into foster care has a different reason for being in foster care. Most of the time, the answer is no. Many animals are committed to rescue but there are some times when a foster can be adopted. If a foster can be adopted, we ask you to become an advocate for the animal and help promote the animal.

8. How do I get started?

The first step is to complete the FoCCAS Application to Foster Animals. A home visit is an essential part of the application process. Once your application is approved, you will be contacted about animals that fit into the environment you can provide. If you agree to foster, you will pick the animal up from the shelter (or another foster).

Thank you for your interest in fostering. We hope this information helps you to make an informed decision about your suitability as a foster home. If you decide fostering isn't for you we hope you will join us in other efforts to save the lives of homeless animals in Colleton County!



REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL FOSTER PARENTS

In order to become a foster parent, you will need to complete the following:

- Attend the Foster Dog Orientation and Foster Dog Training session.
- Complete a Foster Application; applications will be available at the Colleton County Animal Shelter or on-line at www.foccas.org.
- Agree and sign the Foster Agreement.
- Have a home visit from a FoCCAS foster committee volunteer.