

Foster Care Guidelines

Foster care providers fostering animals for the R-H SPCA must be aware of the following guidelines and policies:

1. The health of animals being placed into foster care is unknown. Therefore, foster care home providers must be aware that infectious diseases may be present and may jeopardize existing pets in the household. Therefore, foster care providers can elect to test animals placed in their care for the presence of certain diseases through their veterinarian at their expense. The other option would be to keep foster pets completely separate from existing animals in the household. At a minimum, all existing pets in the household must be up to date on all vaccinations and free of disease. In the event a foster care pet becomes ill while in foster care, the provider must notify the SPCA and possibly return the pet to the SPCA. If the foster care provider elects to treat the animal, please be advised it will be at your expense unless the SPCA has treatment options available. At no time should a foster care provider attempt to self diagnose and subsequently treat an illness. Only treatments prescribed by a licensed veterinarian shall be administered.
2. The temperament of foster pets is also unknown. During their stay at the shelter, animals are continuously being observed for behavior problems. No animal is placed into foster care that exhibits serious behavior problems. However, the shelter is the most difficult place to accurately observe temperament. Therefore, it is recommended that animals placed in foster care be monitored closely. If the pet begins to exhibit serious behavior problems, the foster care provider must inform the SPCA and return the pet as soon as possible. If an incident occurs, the foster home provider will assume all liability.
3. Only animals that are deemed adoptable will be placed into foster care. Every effort is made to adopt pets placed in foster care. However, due to conditions beyond the SPCA's control, all animals placed into foster care may not be adopted or even made available for adoption. It is important that foster care providers understand this dismal fact and enter into fostering with this knowledge in mind. If a foster care provider does not feel they can accept an "other" outcome, they should not enter into a fostering agreement.
4. Foster care providers do not have the authority to adopt the animals placed in their care. All interested parties must apply for adoption and undergo the screening process set forth by the R-H SPCA. An animal in foster care cannot be sold, given away or otherwise disposed of. All adoptions must meet SPCA guidelines. If a foster care provider finds an interested party, the individual must present at the shelter and undergo the entire adoption process. If the individual is not approved, the foster care provider must honor that decision. A foster care provider must understand and support adoption guidelines as set forth by the Board of Directors.

If a foster care provider is found to misdirect or encourage an applicant to provide false information to the SPCA, fostering privileges will be immediately terminated.

5. Foster care providers should actively keep in touch with shelter personnel. Only the Executive Director has the authority to place an animal in foster care. However, timely status reports can be directed to the Shelter or Assistant Shelter Manager at any time.
6. Foster care providers are encouraged to participate in adoption events as often as possible. Special events where animals are seen in the community facilitate the adoption process. If feasible, foster care providers should participate in these events or at a minimum arrange for participation of the animals in their care. Remember, fostering is a temporary situation. Our goal is place the pets into a permanent environment.
7. Pregnant animals are not knowingly placed into foster care. If it is later determined that an animal placed in foster care is pregnant, the Executive Director must be immediately informed. Under no circumstances will the pregnancy be allowed to come to term. We have a serious pet overpopulation crisis in our community and the R-H SPCA will not knowingly contribute to this crisis.