

Adult Cat Fostering Guidelines

Thank you for opening your home to a homeless cat in need!



We greatly appreciate you and your family for giving SPCA's deserving pets a chance to spend time out of the shelter in a loving home.

The transition from shelter to home can be trying on new pets as they learn what is expected of them and where they fit into the household. To ensure an enjoyable time for all, please abide by the following:

- *All foster cats must be kept strictly indoors*
- *Limit socialization of your foster cat to animals within your own home*
- *If your foster animal gets loose call the emergency phone*



Cats generally take longer to adjust to a home than dogs do. With the exception of surgery recovery, the majority of adult cat foster periods are open ended. The least stressful option for your foster cat is adoption straight from foster.

A Safe Room Is...

All adult cats should transition to a new household in a safe room. A safe room where a new cat can gain confidence and adjust to their new environment. The safe room should be a quiet area without children or other animals. It is best to use a room where cats cannot get under or behind a large piece of furniture and not be monitored. You should be comfortable providing food, litter, water, etc. in the safe room while the new cat resides there and after.

How do you find your foster cat a forever home?

Record your foster experience!

Take lots of photos and videos. Some great examples to show the cat's personality would be photos of your cat:

- *having a good snuggle*
- *sleeping soundly their first night out of the shelter*
- *playing with resident pets*
- *playing with resident children*
- *eating a yummy treat*
- *fun playtime with cat toys*



If your foster is available for adoption, you are expected to respond to adoption inquires within 24 hours.

Adoption staff will connect you via email with pre-screened adoption applicants.

As a foster parent, you are in a unique position to speak on behalf of your foster. Think of how you could write a catchy bio about him/her. Always lead with positive attributes while still being truthful and honest.

Remember, cats show best in an environment they are comfortable in. Feel free to video chat the adoption applicant to ensure they can see the best side of your SPCA foster kitty!

Returning Your Foster Cat

We understand that not all cats will work out in your home. If you are experiencing difficulties, please reach out for assistance before it comes to the point of a foster return.

If your cat is ready to come back to the shelter because your foster period is over or because the cat is not working for your household, please contact the foster team at foster@casppca.org to schedule a return at least 24 hours in advance.

If you need to return your foster animal for any reason, we ask that you fill out a foster feedback form with information about how your foster cat did in a home.

Thank you again for opening your home to an animal in need. If at any point you have questions, please reach out for support. We cannot do our lifesaving work without you!

Upper Respiratory Infections

Feline Upper Respiratory Infection (URI) is similar to a cold in humans.

It is especially common in cats that have been exposed to a lot of other cats, just like a child getting a cold once school starts. URI is rarely fatal in adult cats, and usually resolves within a few weeks. Treatment generally consists of supportive care, as the underlying cause is often a viral infection. Antibiotics do not cure viral infections however, they may be prescribed to treat possible bacterial infections. As with the common cold, there is no completely effective treatment besides time and allowing the cat's own immune system to do its job.

Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA

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