



Title: **Foster Program FAQ**

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1. Purpose and Scope

It is important that members of the public who inquire about the HRA Foster Program are given consistent information, regardless of point of contact. This list of FAQ's and responses is provided to enable any HRA staff person to respond to inquiries appropriately and in a timely manner.

2. FAQ

How do I become a foster parent?

To become a foster parent, please visit humanerescuealliance.org/foster to complete an application. Once you submit an application, a member of the foster care department will contact you to sign you up for a foster care orientation. After attending a foster care orientation, you will be able to foster an animal.

Is orientation mandatory?

Yes.

Am I allowed to select which animal I want to foster?

Based on specific criteria, the foster program manager determines which animals are eligible for foster care. Foster parents indicate their willingness and ability to care for various types of animals (species, size, age, etc) and a member of the foster care program makes a match accordingly. Typical foster candidates include baby animals, senior animals, animals who are stressed in the shelter environment, or animals with medical needs.

What if I have breed restrictions where I live?

This will be taken into consideration when you're being matched with a foster candidate.

Can I foster just one kitten?

Unless the kitten has serious medical or behavioral needs that would necessitate specialized one-on-one care, we ask that our foster families be willing to foster at least 2 kittens at a time. If a single kitten comes into our care who needs a foster home, we will not prevent it from being matched with a foster home purely because he is on his own, but will make every effort to pair the kitten with another kitten or litter.

I am really interested in adopting "Fluffy" but want to foster him first to see if it will work out, can I do that?

Currently, HRA does not place animals into foster care purely as trial runs for adoption. The foster care program is reserved for animals who would benefit from care outside of the shelter environment, and not for animals who otherwise are adoptable directly from the shelter. Individuals who foster animals for HRA have gone through orientation and other screening prior to becoming foster parents.

I just submitted my application to become a foster parent, but I haven't heard back yet.

Instructions to staff: Find out when they submitted their application. If it was less than 72 hours ago then let them know it takes about 48 hours for the foster department to process applications and someone will be in touch soon.

If it has been more than 72 hours, please get the person's full name and let them know you will check in with the foster department about their application and someone will be in touch. Please send this information to the Foster Care Program Manager via email.

Do I have to use the online application?

Yes, the foster care program accepts applications via the online method only.

If I have other animals at home, what vaccines do they need so that I can foster other animals in my home?

Please consult with your veterinarian and let them know you will be taking in an animal from a shelter environment. This animal will probably have limited medical history. Together, you and your veterinarian can

determine what vaccinations are appropriate for your animals. When sending an animal into your home, HRA will provide you with full medical information, as known, and can guide appropriately for how to integrate or quarantine, as determined necessary.

What supplies will I need?

Generally speaking, we ask that our foster families take responsibility for all of the non-medical expenses associated with caring for their foster animals. This includes food, bedding, toys, carrier, crate, leash, harness, etc. Medical care is provided via HRA. If the animal requires specialized care due to age or other factors, HRA will provide resources necessary to provide this care.