

Foster Pet Program Policy

PURPOSE:

Fostering is a method of caring for adoptable animals that have special needs. The purpose of this document is to establish a standard in providing temporary care for adoptable animals that have special needs.

POLICY:

Multnomah County Animal Services Foster Pet program provides temporary care for adoptable animals with special needs that cannot be easily provided at the shelter. Animals are fostered with screened and trained volunteers who can offer the animals a temporary home. The goal of the Foster program is to ultimately find a permanent home for the animal. The Shelter Manager shall be responsible for carrying out the Foster Pet program.

FOSTER CAREGIVER RESPONSIBILITIES:

Foster caregiver volunteers will provide the following:

1. Clean, safe home environment in which to care for the animal, prevent injury and spread of disease including: food, water, milk replacer, shelter, flea control, litter, exercise, socialization, and training.
 - a. Special considerations for fostering dogs: Foster caregivers must have a securely fenced yard or dog run with some form of shelter (any exceptions must be approved by Shelter Manager.) Additionally, a place should be provided in the home where the dog is welcome as they are social animals who crave interaction with people. If a foster caregiver rents, landlord approval is required.
 - b. Special considerations for fostering cats: All cats fostered from MCAS must be kept indoors at all times to prevent injury and the spread of disease. If a foster caregiver rents, landlord approval is required.
2. Veterinary Care. Foster caregivers are expected to use the healthcare services offered by MCAS. With a veterinarian on staff and certified vet technicians, MCAS provides health exams, vaccinations, spay/neuter surgery, and diagnostic services for animals in foster care. Medications prescribed by Animal Health will be provided at no cost.
 - a. Foster pet parents will follow medical instructions given by Animal Health.

- b. Appointments are required for a foster animal to be seen by Animal Health for an examination. To make an appointment, call Animal Health stating the reason for the exam.
 - c. If the foster animal requires spay/neuter surgery, there is generally a pre-surgery examination 2-3 days prior to surgery.
 - d. To make a spay/neuter surgery appointment, call an Adoption Counselor for a surgery date. Surgeries take place in the morning, foster animals need to be brought to the shelter by 8:00 am of the surgery and picked up between 3:00 pm and shelter closing.
 - e. Follow distemper/ringworm protocols as outlined in foster orientation materials.
 - f. In case of a medical emergency, contact Animal Health stating your emergency. If the medical emergency arises out side of shelter hours, you may seek emergency veterinarian care at your own financial expense. You may also contact your foster cat or dog coordinator for advice.
3. Finding a home for the foster animal:
- a. Evaluative dog foster caregivers are not required to find an adoptive home but return the animal to MCAS after the term of foster. Foster caregivers must make arrangements with Animal Care about scheduling the foster dog's return to the Shelter. MCAS does encourage foster caregivers to market their animals whenever possible.
 - b. Underage kitten foster caregivers should make every possible effort to find an adoptive home for the foster kittens in their care.
 - c. URI cat foster caregivers are not required to find an adoptive home but return the animal to MCAS cattery or approved MCAS outreach site. Foster caregivers must make arrangements with Animal Care about scheduling the cat's return. MCAS does encourage foster caregivers to market their animals whenever possible.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES RESPONSIBILITIES:

Multnomah County Animal Services is responsible for determining which animals are available for the foster pet program. MCAS will provide the following:

- 1. Health screen
 - a. Basic vaccinations, worming, and follow-up exams by appointment
 - b. MCAS will screen for FELV/FIV.
 - c. Spay/neuter surgery
 - d. Diagnostic services
- 2. Behavior assessment for dogs
- 3. If the animal meets age requirements, it will receive the following: microchip, license, and spay/neutering before going into the foster home.
- 4. Counseling: MCAS will offer guidance when the foster caregiver picks up the foster animal. The volunteer cat or dog foster coordinator will continue to guide the foster caregiver through the process and will provide educational resources for foster caregivers to use in caring for the foster

animal. Animal Health and Animal Care staff will also be available for counseling.

5. Adoption outreach resources: MCAS will provide assistance to foster caregivers in finding potential adopters for the foster animals in their care through a variety of resources including foster board at shelter, foster listings on web sites, outreach opportunities at the Shelter, and outreach opportunities at approved sites and events in the community. Foster animal information and digital photos will be provided by the foster caregiver.

FOSTER AGREEMENT AND REQUIREMENTS:

Potential foster caregivers will complete a written application form, attend a foster orientation, and complete an interview with an Adoption Counselor in which this policy will be fully discussed.

At the time of fostering, foster caregivers will sign a written Foster Pet Agreement for each animal or litter. This agreement includes a promise by the foster caregiver to: provide humane care and treatment, appropriate socialization, use the medical services provided by MCAS Animal Health; comply with all laws and ordinances; make no claim against MCAS and/or the rightful owner for any expenses including upkeep incurred while the animal is in custody; not attempt to hold MCAS responsible for any illness or damage which the animal may do to any person or property; and return the animal to MCAS if requested by MCAS. If the foster caregiver wishes to discontinue the foster relationship, the foster animal must be returned to MCAS. The Foster Pet Agreement includes: date, name of foster caregiver, address, phone, animal numbers, animal descriptions and impound date. The foster pet agreement will be signed by the foster caregiver and Animal Care Adoption Counselor at time of picking up the foster animal(s).

ADOPTION OF FOSTER ANIMALS

Foster caregivers may personally adopt the animal they are fostering. However, if it is their first foster animal, the Shelter Manager must approve the adoption. Foster caregivers will go through MCAS adoption procedures and payment of adoption fees.

While attempting to find a permanent home for the foster animal, foster caregivers trained in the adoption process may interview potential adopters to facilitate that process. Potential adopters must fill out MCAS adoption forms and fulfill adoption criteria. All adoption fees will be paid to MCAS.

FOSTER PERIOD

The foster period shall be for no more than 60 days. If the foster caregiver needs more time to develop the animal under MCAS adoptability standards, the caregiver must make additional arrangements with an Animal Care Adoption/Foster Counselor.

I have received a copy of this document and read it. I agree to the policies and procedures outlined above and will abide by them.

Volunteer

Date

Foster Counselor

Date