

BECOME A PCHS FOSTER PARENT

Occasionally PCHS is in need of foster homes. Please read the information below about fostering an animal or email us with any questions.

Fostering a dog is one of most important gifts you can give to a rescue dog; these animals have waited their whole lives to be in a loving home. Not only does fostering give them the gift of life, but it is more than likely the first time they've been treated with such kindness and compassion. Many rescue dogs have never even been in a home before. The first time you have a foster dog in your home and see the transformation when they finally realize they are safe and loved is the MOST precious and special emotion.

Even though fostering is a very rewarding, fun, and special experience, it is important to know that it is not all easy! Fostering is hard work. Some of the animals need work learning manners, house breaking, crate training, walking on a leash - you name it. These animals have been failed their whole lives and it's up to us to help them become fun loving pets.

By taking an animal into your home on a temporary basis, the animal is given an opportunity to adjust to a home environment, and we are given additional time to find a permanent home.

Becoming a foster parent is easy! Just fill out an application to help us match a foster animal with you and your lifestyle. We will contact you. You will be doing a wonderful service for an animal in need and the animal will be introduced to what a true loving environment feels like. If at any time the animal you are fostering isn't the right match, we will take it back and try to find another foster home.

Unless you would like to do so yourself, PCHS will provide all food and supplies while the animal is in your care. All supplies you purchase for fostering are often times tax-deductible. Check with your tax advisor.

PCHS is responsible for all veterinary care of the animal while you are fostering it.

Frequently Asked Questions

What does a foster parent do?

Foster parenting is a wonderful way to enjoy the love and attention of an animal without making a permanent commitment. Because we don't have a permanent facility, volunteer foster parents could be the difference between life and death to a four-legged animal...a way to give animals in crucial need of placement a second chance at life. By taking an animal into your home, you are allowing it to become accustomed to a safe and loving home life. Although we can't guarantee how long it will take to find the animal a home, the average is several weeks; however it could be as little as a few days or as much as a few months. If at any time you would like to discontinue fostering, you are always given the option to stop.

Do I get to choose which animal I want to foster?

Due to the fact that we do not have a shelter from which to choose an animal it is improbable that one would be able to choose. However, you always have the right to decline a foster opportunity.

I don't think I could be a foster parent, I'd become too attached.

This is one of the most common phrases we hear and we share the sentiment whole-heartedly. But we also know how rewarding it can be when watching a new owner shower an animal with kisses and love, and know that you had a hand in saving a life and creating a new family unit. Foster parenting can be one of the most rewarding events in your experience, and one of the reasons PCHS will work tirelessly to make it happen!

What if the animal I am fostering doesn't work out for me?

If at any time the animal in your care is not working for you, we will take the animal back and try to find it another foster parent. Just like humans, animals all have different personalities, and our goal is to help find the best match for both you and the animal.

Do I have to pay for food for animals in my care?

If you are able and willing to supply food on your own, we welcome your generosity. If not, PCHS would provide food.

What about veterinary fees or emergency care?

PCHS gives all foster parents a list of veterinarians with whom we have associations and pays for all veterinary fees and inoculations for animals that are fostered by our kind parents.

If I have other animals in my home, can I still be a 'foster parent'?

Absolutely, as long as your pets are comfortable with their new short or long-term visitors.

If I have children, does that rule us out as a foster family?

Absolutely not; families with children can make excellent foster situations. However if you have toddlers in your family, we will take extra care in the choice of animal.

But how will the animal find a permanent home if it is living with me?

PCHS will be actively involved in trying to find a permanent loving home for the animal. PCHS will employ all means available to advertise the need for the pet to be adopted and how important it is that it be a permanent adoption so as not to put the animal into another stressful situation. Like humans, pets need stability.

How long will I be required to foster?

Because the animal's history most likely has been one of instability and distress, we prefer that foster parents try out the animal for at least one week. If everyone is happy with the situation, the animal can remain in your care until we find a permanent home. Although we can't guarantee how long it will take to find the animal a home, the average is several weeks; it could be as little as a few days or as much as a few months. If at any time you would like to discontinue fostering, you are always given that option.

Is there a limit to the number of animals I can foster?

Our priority is that the animals receive the best care possible and are introduced to a loving environment where they can grow and become accustomed to new situations. Each situation is evaluated and we determine how many animals it is practical to have in your care. We don't want to overburden our foster families and also want to be sure all animals are receiving the care and love they deserve. Waynesville limits the number of animals at a private residence to four.

Why do you do home checks?

Home checks are essential to determine the animal will be living in a safe environment. For example, if the dog you are looking to foster is an escape artist, we want to ensure your yard has tall fences, gates are locked and there is no way to dig out. Another example is if you are fostering a cat, we check to see all windows have secure screens so there is no fear of kitty getting away out into the world where its chances of survival are significantly reduced. Along with these things there are plenty more most people wouldn't be aware of that could pose a dangerous threat to your new pet. Visits to potential foster homes would be made by appointment.

Can a foster parent adopt the animal he or she is fostering?

If during the course of your fostering all has gone well and no incidents have occurred, of course! In fact we hope that you fall in love with the animal while fostering him or her and that you have created a bond that will last.

Are you ready to start fostering?

Print and fill out the application below and mail it to:

PCHS
PO Box 4032
Waynesville, MO 65583

Pulaski County Humane Society



ANIMAL FOSTER APPLICATION

Questionnaire is to be filled out completely before fostering is granted.

Name: _____

Address: _____

(No P.O. Boxes)

Home Phone #: _____ Work # _____ Cell #: _____

(At least two phone numbers required)

Email Address: _____

Are you willing to foster a canine, feline, or both: Canine ___ Feline ___ Both ___

Do you prefer male or female: M ___ F ___ Age Preference: _____

Breed preference or type of breed you are unwilling to foster: _____

Describe experience you have had with the breed(s) you are willing to foster: _____

Describe what you know about the breeds(s), including positive traits and challenges:

Are you prepared to deal with discrimination from others about certain breeds? Is so, how: _____

You agree that the foster animal will not be used for illegal activities: Y / N

You agree the foster animal will be kept mainly as a house pet: Y / N

You agree the foster animal will not be used for medical or any other experimental purpose: Y / N

You agree to not use the foster animal for breeding: Y / N

Do you own or rent your home: Own ___ Rent ___

If renting, what are the rules about pets (i.e., size, number of pets allowed, etc.): _____

Provide the landlord's name and phone number: Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Type of home: _____ Do you have any of the following: Dog House ___ Dog Pen ___

Leash ___ Chain ___ Crate ___ Fenced Yard ___ Type of Fence _____

Do you have Breed Specific Legislation (BSL) in your city/town or county? If so, please describe the restrictions or ordinance: _____

Tell us about the members in your household (i.e. age, sex, relationship to you, etc.): _____

What other pets do you own (i.e. breed, type, age, sex): _____

Are your current pets spayed or neutered and up-to-date on their inoculations? If no, please tell us why: _____

Please tell us about the experience you have had with other pets you've owned and fostered:

What traits do you find unacceptable in a pet: _____

What steps do you take to correct unwanted behavior: _____

Where are your pets kept while you are not at home: _____

Where will you keep your foster animal when you are not at home: _____

How many hours per day will your pet(s) and foster animal be left alone: _____

Where do you keep your pets at night: _____

Where will you keep your foster pet at night: _____

What arrangements will be made when you are away on business or on vacation: _____

Will these same arrangements be made for your foster pet? If no, please describe the different arrangements: _____

What activities will you do with your foster pet for fun and/or exercise: _____

If you want to foster a canine, what restrictions do you place on children's interactions with your current dog(s) or will you place on your foster animal: _____

Please submit the name and phone number of your current veterinarian or, if you do not currently have pets, your past veterinarian: Name: _____
Phone #: _____

Please submit the name, address and phone number of another person that can attest to your character (i.e. friend, coworker employer, clergy person): Name: _____
Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

Please tell us anything else about you that we have not covered in this application that you feel we should know: _____

How/where did you become aware of Pulaski County Humane Society: _____