



Join Our Foster Program!

Help us provide temporary homes for animals in need in our community



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Animals featured in this document have either spent time in our foster program or in our Centres.

Our Foster Program

Our Foster Program provides temporary homes to animals in need in our community. Many of the animals in our care need the extra time, attention and love that foster homes can provide before they find their new homes. When Covid-19 hit, we were met with an opportunity to expand our foster program and offer foster homes to most of the animals in our care. We saw firsthand just how much our foster parents helped our animals become adoption ready, while also allowing the animals the opportunity for extra enrichment and affection while they waited.

Many of the animals placed in foster homes are too young, need medical attention, or need to learn new skills and behaviours that will help them find their forever homes. Our Foster Parents are dedicated, caring and loving individuals who open their homes to these animals in need. They are patient with their new animals to ensure they feel comfortable and safe, and when the times comes, they wish them well in their new families.



Why you would make a great foster parent!

Do you want to make a difference in an animal's life? Would you like to help an animal in your Community get adopted and find their forever homes? Becoming a Foster Parent with us can do all these things and more! We understand that not everybody is in a position to adopt, and that's okay. Many of us were students too, so we understand the uncertainty and the financial strain that come with University life. Fostering offers the opportunity to imagine how your life could look if you choose to bring an animal into your home, down the line, and it can provide you with a learning experience in the meantime. All foster costs are covered (including transportation!), so there is no need to stress about the financial obligations.

There are so many different types of foster opportunities available, so you don't need to be concerned that you will be overwhelmed with a high-maintenance foster when you don't have the time or energy for one. You will be asked your preferences and matched accordingly, so if you would prefer to have a friendly low-maintenance cat to keep you company while you study, just say the word! Animals have been shown to help relieve stress and anxiety, and think of how rewarding it will feel to know that your temporary study-buddy will find a loving home when the time comes.

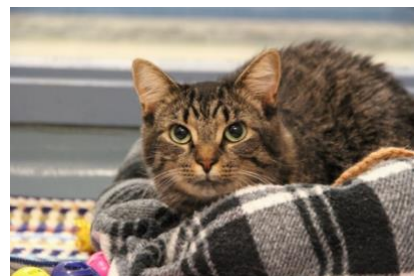
Fosters will provide endless support by curling up on your laptop, playing with your pens or keeping your projects warm by lying on them. As a foster parent, you really get to know the personality of your foster animals which can help them get matched with their perfect home. Our Centres, as much as we make them comfortable, cozy and welcoming, can sometimes be overwhelming and stressful to the animals in our care. Foster homes are a safe, warm and loving environment where animals can show off their true personalities.

Being a foster parent is rewarding and memorable. The animals in need in our Centres can't wait to meet their new foster families, we hope that will be you!



Requirements

- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Foster Parents based out of our KW Centre must reside in Waterloo Region
- If you currently have a pet(s) you must show proof of spay/neuter, current vaccines, and if you have a dog(s), a current license tag(s)
 - This is to ensure your animal at home is safe and do not get sick when the new foster comes into the home
 - Vaccines necessary to foster include:
 - Bordetella and Rabies
- A dedicated area for fosters
 - A separate room or dedicated space allows your foster to slowly explore their new environment while having a safe space to go to.
 - If you have another pet in the home, your foster will need to be in a separate space or room while left alone to ensure safe interactions between your foster and your pet
- Two character references
 - This can be in the form of letters or contact information
 - This would be someone who can speak to your ability to care for and/or your previous experience with animals.
- If renting, landlord's consent for animals in the home must be provided
- All members of the household must be supportive of having a foster in the home
- Transportation to and from appointments
 - Our Centre Staff will work with you to make arrangements for transportation should you not have access to a vehicle
- A working email address
 - The Foster Coordinator completes check ins and initial callouts for foster homes via email.



Application Process

Our Applications can be found on our Website. We have four separate applications; Feline, Canine, Small Animal and Reptile.

<https://kwsphumane.ca/how-to-help/foster>

Step 1 - Please complete the foster application form, including references and landlord letter (if applicable) and pet vaccine records (if applicable)

Step 2 - Our team will review your application

Step 3 - Follow up interview

Step 4 - References will be checked



What to Expect from our Foster Program

Once you have completed the onboarding process, our Foster Coordinator will reach out to you directly to introduce themselves, find out your preferences for foster animals and provide training/orientation materials.

Depending on your time commitment, you could choose to foster young orphaned kittens, adult cats, small animals such as rabbits and guinea pigs, young puppies, adult dogs, reptiles or a combination of these. Some fosters are long term such as orphaned kittens, while some may only be for a few days. The Foster Coordinator will keep this information, and when an animal that meets your lifestyle is available for foster, they will reach out to ask if you are interested.

The Humane Society provides all necessary supplies, so you don't need to spend a dime. When you take a foster home, you will be responsible for monitoring their behaviour and supervising them, ensuring that they have access to their supplies, and of course providing love. If you ever have questions or concerns with your foster, you will have phone and e-mail contacts to check in with at the shelter.

Some animals will need to come back to the shelter for vet appointments, including vaccinations, you would be responsible for keeping these appointments (timing can be flexible to accommodate your schedule) and transporting the animal to and from the shelter. Don't worry if you don't have a vehicle, or access to one, our staff will work with you to help get your foster in for their appointment.

If ever there is an emergency with your foster, the animal can be brought back to the shelter or brought to our afterhours Emergency Vet Clinic. If there is ever a personal emergency, or you feel that the foster is not a good fit, you can of course bring them back to the shelter and a new foster home will be found.

The Humane Society staff will let you know when your foster is ready to find their forever home, and you can then open your heart and home to the next animal in need.

