



# ***Thank you for your interest in fostering a cat for League City Pets Alive!***

Foster caregivers are crucial to the success of our lifesaving mission. We have cats and kittens in all stages of life that need foster care:

- Kittens whose immature immune systems who need scheduled vaccinations to prevent becoming sick, and care until they are old enough and meet all the requirements to be placed for adoption at the condos.
- Kittens with a feral or adoptable mother to nurse.
- Kittens without a mother who need to be bottle-fed.
- Cats who are being treated for a curable disease.
- Cats that need to learn socialization skills in order to become more adoptable.

The key to maintaining our NO KILL status is to consistently provide the community with adoptable cats that are clean, healthy, well-socialized, and well-behaved. This could not be accomplished without our wonderful fosters and volunteers. Please read the following information carefully. If you think you'd make a good foster mom or dad, please fill out a Foster Application! See last page for details.

## **Important Considerations**

### **Do you have enough time to spend with your foster?**

Foster animals, especially the young ones, need to spend as much quality time with people as possible. It's important for their socialization and development and it increases their chance of being adopted.

### **Do you have room in your home to physically separate the foster animal(s) from your own?**

Animals in close proximity will exchange germs and parasites. A cat could possibly spread disease to your animals and vice versa. Your duty as a foster caregiver is to keep the animals separated, until it is determined there is no risk to either animal. This is especially important when fostering young animals since their undeveloped immune systems make them more susceptible to the germs and parasites that may be residing unnoticed on your older animal. Young kittens especially should be confined to their own room and never come in contact with your animals or any places where your animals have been. A room with a non-carpeted floor is recommended for disinfecting purposes. To further prevent the spread of disease, we require that your animals be current on all vaccinations. Though not advised, older animals can be introduced to one another after a one-week quarantine period.

### **Can you foster a less-than-perfect animal?**

We hand-pick our animals from shelters or the community, selecting those that are the most adoptable (friendly, healthy, attractive, no behavioral issues), but

some have never even lived in a house. All they've known is life on the streets or in a shelter. They generally need time to adjust to the new environment, as well as a lot of love and attention, a little peace and quiet, and perhaps some behavioral guidance. Your efforts will pay off when your foster cat finds its forever home.

### **Are you aware of the clean-up and potential for damage to your home?**

Kittens are new to this earth and need time to learn how to play or act on their normal instincts without being destructive. For example, kittens need to be redirected if they scratch furniture, climb drapes, etc). Older cats may have never learned or forgotten how to live in a home due to stress, anxiety, loneliness, or boredom. Whatever the reason, destruction can and does happen. Cats have been known to swing from the drapes, soil carpets, scratch or chew on furniture, eat plants, and send pretty things crashing to the floor. We recommend carefully animal-proofing your home and providing the cat with alternate ways to relieve their stress or need for excitement.

### **Can you love a foster and let it go?**

It's important that foster parents love their animals, but even more important that they are able to let them go. It's normal to become attached, just remember that your job is to provide your fosters with love and attention and prepare them for their forever homes. So, be ready for tears and heartache the day your first foster finds a home, but be happy for your little friend and glad that

you now have the opportunity to open your heart and home to another animal that needs you.

## **Fostering FAQ's**

### **What if I want to be a foster parent, but I'm not sure I know enough about cats?**

Some previous experience with cats is required, and some knowledge of cat behavior is preferred, but we can train you on the basics. We will help you with the basic supplies you need, how to set up the cat's room, nutrition, and behavior management. We will also give you contact information for our experienced volunteers who can answer your questions and offer suggestions for dealing with any problems.

### **Am I responsible for finding the cat a home?**

No. As soon as it meets the qualifications for adoption, we will set it up in one of the adoption condos in one of our partner pet supply stores. In 2023, 301 LCPA cats were adopted from our 6 stores. In fact, you can continue to care for the cat there, if interested. Send an email requesting information on volunteering at the stores (called the Kitty Condo Krewe) to [info@LeagueCityPetsAlive.org](mailto:info@LeagueCityPetsAlive.org). Please state that you are a current foster.

### **How long will I have the foster animal? I'm worried I'll get stuck with an animal no one wants to adopt.**

There's no general length of time a cat is in foster care. It depends on various factors. A kitten may be with you 1-2 months until it's old enough to show for adoption, and then they usually get adopted fairly quickly. An older cat that needs socialization may take several months. If an animal is with you longer than expected, we can find another foster. Either way, we don't want you to feel stuck. We will discuss your time expectations with you before you foster.

### **Do I get to choose which animals I foster?**

You will discuss with an LCPA representative your interests, experience, and home situation to determine what kitten(s) or cat would be the best match for you. When we find a cat that seems like a good match, we will offer you the opportunity to foster the animal. If you agree to the foster, you will pick up the animal and its supplies (medicine, medical records, etc) at an agreed upon place and time.

### **If I see a Facebook or NextDoor posting about a great cat, can I bring it home with me to foster for LCPA?**

No, sorry but you are not authorized to take a cat on our behalf. If you see an animal you'd like to foster, provide us with the information so we can investigate the animal

[LeagueCityPetsAlive.org](http://LeagueCityPetsAlive.org)

to see how adoptable it is and whether or not it would be a good match for you.

### **Can I foster an animal if I have small children?**

There is always a concern that a small child might harm an animal and vice versa, but that doesn't necessarily mean that you can't foster an animal. We can work with you to find options that would ensure the safety of both.

### **Do I have to provide everything for the animal?**

We don't have a big budget, but we will provide you with what we can, such as vaccinations, medications, and any donated food or supplies.

### **What if my foster gets sick?**

If you see any signs of illness, you must notify us immediately so we can decide the best course of action. For major illnesses, we will take the cat to a medical foster. For minor illnesses, we can authorize you to take the animal to the vet or treat it at home. If the treatment is authorized, your expenses will be paid for by LCPA. If you fail to get authorization, you will be responsible for any expenses incurred.

### **What if my friend or family member wants the animal and I know they'd be a good owner. Can I collect the money and give it to them?**

No. You do not own the animal and have no authority to adopt it out to anyone. If someone is interested in adopting your foster, they must fill out an adoption application and get approval through LCPA.

### **If I get an adorable foster animal, I know everyone's going to want to take it home and babysit for me. Is that ok?**

No. You are the only person authorized to have possession of your foster animal and we have not approved any residences other than your own. When we put our trust in you as a foster parent, we rely on you to be in control of every aspect of the animal's life, including where it goes, who it's around, and what other animals it comes in contact with.

### **What if I'm going on vacation or something happens and I can't foster anymore, or if I decide that fostering isn't for me?**

In the event you need to return your animal(s) (temporarily or permanently), please call Monica Millican at (713) 824-0690 as soon as possible so she can make arrangements to have your animal(s) stay with someone else. If you're having difficulty caring for your foster, please let us know before it becomes a burden to you. Taking care of animals requires a lot of your time and energy. There's no shame in admitting that it was more

than you were prepared for or that you can no longer manage it due to a change in circumstances. Our focus is on the animal and making sure it's in the best possible home. Instead of fostering, you could consider volunteering for the Kitty Condo Krewe.

**What if I fall in love with my foster and want to keep it for myself?**

You certainly wouldn't be the first or the last. Most of our animals are selected because they are so cute and lovable! We just hope the adoption doesn't mean we'll lose you as a foster parent. It takes a special kind of person to open their heart and home to an animal in need and invest the time and effort to turn a lonely stray into an awesome companion. We greatly appreciate how rare and wonderful that is.

- Previously fostered an animal and did not honor the foster agreement or refused to return an animal as requested.

**You will be asked to acknowledge that you have read and understand all of the above on the foster application.**

Complete the Foster Application at  
<https://btrr.im/oei59>

**Qualifications**

To become an approved foster caregiver, you must:

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Show proper identification.
- Provide a safe, loving, stable environment.
- Have sufficient room to house the animal.
- Have some knowledge of cat behavior.
- Have the cooperation of the other people in your home.
- Be able to nurse an injury or illness.
- Show proof that your landlord allows animals.
- Inform LCPA if you are fostering animals for another agency or group.
- Submit a LCPA Foster Application
- Be interviewed by an LCPA representative.
- Allow LCPA to inspect your home.
- Sign the Foster Agreement

You may be denied approval if you are not able to meet the above requirements or if you:

- Have house-mates who do not want animals.
- Have or recently had an animal with an infectious disease.
- Have a home that is not conducive to fostering an animal.
- Cannot properly care for the animal.
- Cannot properly confine/contain the animal.
- Have violated license, at-large, or nuisance provisions of municipal, county, or state code.
- Demonstrate acts of aggression or cruelty
- Have caused the death or injury of an animal through negligence.
- Have been suspected, investigated, or convicted for animal cruelty.