



Foster Care Policies and Procedures

Thank you for your willingness to become a Foster Volunteer. The purpose of the foster program is to place animals in temporary homes in an effort to increase their adoptability. As a foster home, you will become part of a growing list of families whom we contact when the need for foster care arises. Before deciding if you are willing and able to dedicate your time and energy to a foster animal, please review the policies and procedures below.

- ♥Foster placement is at the sole discretion of Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter.
- ♥The foster family must complete the Foster Application and sign the applicable Foster Care Agreement(s).
- ♥You must be willing to complete (or have already completed) the SCCAS Volunteer Orientation.
- ♥You must be willing to provide the animal(s) with proper care, including food, water, shelter, grooming, training, veterinary care and medication, if necessary. As needed, foster homes must be willing to seek medical treatment for their foster animals in accordance with instructions provided by SCCAS staff. **Foster homes that seek medical treatment for foster animals without pre-approval from SCCAS supervisory staff will be responsible for all expenses incurred.**
- ♥If extensive or significant medical treatment is required for an animal, the SCCAS may request the return of the animal(s) and euthanasia may be necessary.
- ♥Fostering an animal may improve an animal's chance to be adopted. **It does not guarantee that an animal will be adopted.**
- ♥Because we cannot hold animals in need of foster for extended periods, you will be asked to make your decision to foster quickly.
- ♥If you are called upon and you are not able to foster, know that you may say "no" and still be considered active in the program for future foster care.
- ♥Generally, only one litter may be fostered at any given time.
- ♥As age appropriate and within reason based on age, physical size, and maternal care status, kittens must test negative for feline leukemia and puppies must test negative for parvovirus before being placed in a foster home.
- ♥Animals of different species may be fostered at the same time to a single foster home when feasible and within reason.
- ♥Unaltered (fertile) animals of the same species, unvaccinated cats and dogs, and/or unlicensed dogs in the foster home may be grounds for refusal of foster placement.
- ♥Status calls and/or emails by the Foster Coordinator may be made/sent regularly to assess the progress of each fostered animal.
- ♥As we have a limited supply of animal carriers (crates), the foster family may need to provide a carrier for the fostered animal(s).
- ♥Foster families that show an unreasonable tendency to routinely and frequently adopt animals they foster may be denied foster animals in the future.
- ♥Your foster animals are under the protection of the SCCAS. Foster homes are certainly welcome and encouraged to alert the shelter to prospective adopters but under no circumstances are foster families to place their foster animals in other homes or make any promises to possible adopters. Any potential adopters identified through our foster homes must go through the regular SCCAS adoption process to insure that animals are placed in responsible, committed and loving homes.

Your contribution of time and energy requires a special kind of commitment. We thank you on behalf of the animals.