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Foster Home Application

Thank you for considering fostering! Fostering is one of the most important aspects of rescue as it allows us to take in homeless animals and give them a second chance at a forever home. During fostering the animal is brought back to health, fully vet checked, brought up to date on vaccinations, treated for fleas and worms, and spayed or neutered as required. The foster family will help in the process of making the animal more adoptable by socializing it with the family and family pets. The foster family is also a key link in getting to know the animal better and letting us know what the most suitable placement might be for the animal.

Cat Care Initiative (CCI) - Foster Care Program Overview

Importance: The foster care program is vital to saving lives. Taking cats or kittens into foster care gives them an opportunity to be socialized. Without foster homes we cannot rescue as many pets.

Time involved: This will depend on the needs of each animal. Some foster pets are young or have health issues so it is important to understand the needs of each foster pet and how much time you have available. We can match you up with the appropriate foster pets depending on your time. Time required also depends on the number of animals fostered.

Qualifications: Most important is love and concern for pets. Time and desire to socialize pets. Willingness to provide food, water and medication, if necessary. Provide a clean living environment and daily care.

Expense: CCI will provide medical care and medications, food, litter, and supplies as previously arranged. Unused food, litter, and medications must be returned with the animal upon request.

If you are interested in being a foster volunteer after reading this information, please fill out the attached foster care contract.

Things to Consider About Foster Care for Cats and Kittens

Thank you for your interest in joining our team of Foster Parents! If you have never had the opportunity to foster before, you are now being given the chance to experience all the joys of parenting without the lifetime of responsibility. We want this experience to be a positive and

rewarding one for you. You will be giving your foster cats a chance to adapt to a normal, warm, and loving foster home environment while it waits for a permanent one.

Please know that if not for caring people like you, hundreds of beautiful cats and kittens will be euthanized or die living as strays where they are susceptible to many unhealthy and unsafe conditions. While there are many positive reasons to open your home to a homeless animal there are numerous practical factors to be considered as well. Prior to making this commitment, please consider the following questions.

Will you be able to spend quality time with the foster animal(s)? Socialization can be as important as feeding them and keeping them clean.

Are you willing to work with our vet care system? Please understand that only CCI veterinarians can treat our foster cats/kittens at selected facilities. Some procedures are done for a substantial savings to our organization. Additionally, all medications must come from our sources only. If you choose to go to a vet outside our system without our prior consent (other than life-threatening emergencies) or get medications from outside our system, then any cost incurred will be the foster's responsibility.

Do you feel comfortable explaining to friends that these animals are not yours to adopt out and that they must go through the regular adoption process at CCI?

Will you be able to return the cat or kitten(s) when CCI requests it? While fosters are welcome to apply to adopt, legally the animals belong to CCI and must be brought in to the store when requested.

Can you commit to spend the entire foster period with the animal? If something unexpected happens and you need to have someone else care for your fosters, please return them to CCI.

As with anything else that involves change, there may be an adjustment period for you and your foster cat/kitten. Please be patient—many of our animals have come from rough situations and are frightened. Many times, their only way to communicate their fears is what we humans refer to as abnormal or deviant behaviour. Some will hide, while others may exhibit any number of signals: inappropriate urination/defecation, growling, hissing, snapping (also called fear biting), cowering in corners, etc.

Foster Program Explanation

Our goal at Cat Care Initiative is to reduce the number of feral/stray/unwanted cats in our area while attempting to give a second chance to adoptable cats/kittens. And to educate regarding the importance of responsible cat ownership (including spay/neuter).

We need foster homes for socialized and unsocialized cats/kittens. Some may need to be socialized, recuperate from illness, others may just be too young to adopt. Fostering could be for a week or a month.

How We Adopt

- Through our CCI storefront.
- Donated newspaper “Pet of the Week” ads in Community Newspaper.
- We put out fliers in stores, restaurants, etc.
- We depend on word of mouth from our volunteers and supporters.
- We post our adoptables on our website and Facebook page.
- We run mobile adoptions at pet food stores and other available sites.

Foster Home Information for Cats/Kittens

If fosters have any medical problems or need assistance with food/litter/meds, it is necessary to contact CCI as soon as possible. Please try to contact us before the situation becomes an emergency/after hours event. If the situation is an emergency and it is after hours please take cat to a veterinarian.

When you bring your foster cat or kitten home for the first time, try to confine him/her in a small room (bathrooms are ideal) that can be shut off from the rest of your family and pets. Put out water, food and a litterbox for your foster. In addition, consider leaving the carrier out, with the carrier door open for the cat or kitten to crawl into until he/she feels secure enough to explore the room on his/her own. Be sure to remove toilet paper and clear things off of the bathroom counters, and any other surfaces the cat or kitten could jump onto and accidentally knock over. Talk very softly to him/her anytime you are in the same room. Try to avoid sudden loud noises. Avoid eye contact or slow blink if you meet their eyes. Depending on his/her previous circumstances, he/she may be ready to explore and let you gently pet him/her shortly after his/her arrival, or it may take several hours, days or weeks before he/she trusts you. This is okay. When the cat or kitten decides to go to the next level of friendship, he/she will let you know. Many times, this occurs as soon as he/she realizes you are the food giver!

CCI will tell you everything we know about your foster pet with regard to his/her behaviour, general health, eating preferences, etc. Please keep in mind that although he/she may appear healthy, we often do not know if he/she has been exposed to any diseases, infections or parasites, other than what we have already treated him/her for. This is why it is a good idea to isolate him/her from your other pets for about two weeks.

Wash your hands before and after handling him/her. A few things, like ringworm (a fungal infection, similar to athlete’s foot) are contagious to humans. It often appears as a circular rash on you, and is easily treated if you are sensitive to the infection.

We will work with you! We want to do a great job helping cats without overextending our resources or overusing/stressing our fosters.

Thanks for all you do!

Foster Application

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Please List Two (2) Character Witnesses

Name	Phone Number/Email	Relationship

Your Veterinarian: Name _____ Phone _____

The following information will assist us in matching kittens with special considerations into the right foster homes.

In my home currently, on either a full-time or part-time basis, I have the following:

Cat(s) How many?____ Dog(s) How many?____ Child(ren) How many?____

My cats are up to date on yearly vaccinations, including FVRCP and rabies: Yes No N/A

My cats are spayed/neutered: Yes No

What types of animals are you able to foster?

I'm home and available to foster young kittens who need to be bottle-fed: Yes No

I can take a nursing mother cat and kittens: Yes No

I'm interested in socializing feral or semi-feral kittens: Yes No

I'm able to provide medical care such as administering daily medications: Yes No

I have transportation and can get cats or kittens to vet appointments: Yes No

I will have a room dedicated/space made available for kittens who need extra time to feel safe and gain social skills or regain health where they will be away from other pets and/or children: Yes No

Office Use

Approval: Yes No

Signature of Board Member _____

Notes: