



Fostering Manual 2026: A Guide to Caring for Dogs, Puppies, Cats, and Kittens

Welcome to the Bideawee Foster Team!

Thank you for considering opening your home and heart to animals in need. Fostering is a crucial part of giving dogs, puppies, cats, and kittens a second chance at finding a loving forever home. In this booklet, we'll cover the essentials of fostering, focusing on the needs of the foster pets and the responsibilities of those who are fostering them.

What is Fostering?

Fostering is a temporary arrangement where you provide a safe, loving environment for animals until they find their permanent home. Animals in need of fostering might include:

- Puppies or kittens who are too young for adoption (under 8 weeks old)
- Senior pets who require extra care
- Animals recovering from illnesses/injuries/surgeries
- Pregnant/nursing animals needing a quiet place to give birth and nurse their babies
- Shy animals who need socialization to build their confidence
- Animals who are too stressed in the shelter environment
- Animals who require behavioral help/training
- Animals who have been in the shelter for over 2 weeks and need a nice vacation from the shelter

As a foster caregiver, you are helping animals thrive outside the shelter environment, providing them with the stability, care, and love they need to prepare for adoption.

Understanding the Responsibility

Each animal has unique needs and personalities. Bringing a dog, puppy, cat, or kitten into your home means taking on the responsibility of meeting their physical and emotional needs.

- **Companionship:** Animals, like people, need companionship. They benefit from positive interactions and consistent routines. Your presence helps them feel safe and secure.
- **Routine:** Dogs and cats do best with a predictable routine that includes feeding, playtime, and rest.
- **Medical Care:** Fosters are responsible for **giving 2 weeks notice for medication refills, keeping up with medical appointments and re-checks, and/or** special diets an animal may need.
- **Communication:** Fosters are required to digitally fill out a weekly survey about their foster animal(s) in addition to sending regular updates about your foster's progress to

help us determine the best placement for them. Regularly sending updated photos and videos **and adding them to our database** helps to advertise them to adopters in the best light. Sharing their quirks and personality can also help match them with a suitable adoptive home.

If You Have Pets

All pets in your home, especially if they are the same species as your foster, should be healthy with up to date routine vaccinations. All pets should be free of parasites, and cats should have tested negative for Feline Leukemia Virus (FELV) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) if your foster is negative. Contagious Diseases in Foster Pets and Risk to Existing Household Pets. It is always a health risk to expose your animal to other animals or humans to animals. It is always recommended that you keep your pets separate from the foster animals whenever possible to minimize the risk of spreading anything to your pets, but if the foster parent's resident pet(s) are current on vaccinations, maintain a healthy diet and lifestyle, and are not elderly or very young, the health risks are minimal. Any known potentially contagious diseases will be identified and communicated to the foster parent prior to the animal's placement in your home, which would require separation. Please see our "Common Diseases" section for more in-depth descriptions of common illnesses and how they could affect other animals and/or humans.

Where Should Your Foster Pet Stay While in Your Home?

Cats/Kittens Indoors only! Do not let your foster felines outdoors. Keep them in a cattery separated from any resident animals.

Dogs Indoors! Keep your canine companion in an exercise pen (x-pen) or crate while in your home. When outdoors, dogs should be kept on TWO leashes at all times, one leash secured on a harness and one to the collar. *THIS IS FOR SAFETY PURPOSES AND WE REQUIRE ALL FOSTERS TO FOLLOW THIS PROTOCOL* unless in a securely fenced-in area that you are sure the dog cannot jump, climb, squeeze under or escape from. If you have a fenced in yard, only allow your foster dog in your yard while supervised as you are responsible for the health, safety and well-being of your foster pet.

Puppies

Indoors ONLY under 5 months old (not completely vaccinated)! Puppies need intense socialization while being left in your care. They should NOT be isolated in your home with limited contact. Puppies should never be walked outside on a leash or introduced to other dogs because they are not fully vaccinated. They should be carried around your neighborhood to be introduced to sights and sounds and always supervised by a responsible adult.

Creating a Loving Environment

Fostering is about providing a bridge between a difficult past and a hopeful future. Here are some tips for making your foster pet feel at home:

- **Be Patient:** Adjusting to a new home can be stressful for animals, especially those coming from a shelter. Give them time to decompress and explore their surroundings at their own pace.
- **Links for decompression, bringing home new pets:** <https://www.bideawee.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/25Transitioning-Your-Cat-to-their-New-Home.pdf>
<https://www.bideawee.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/25Transitioning-Your-Dog-to-Their-New-Home.pdf>
- **Establish a Routine:** Animals thrive with predictability. A regular schedule for feeding, play, and quiet time can help your foster feel more secure.
- **Show Affection:** Every pet has a different comfort level with physical affection. Let them come to you when they're ready, and respect their boundaries.

How Fostering Saves Lives

By opening your home, you're not just helping the animal in your care; you're also creating space for other animals to receive the help they need. Fostering allows shelters to take in more animals, reduces overcrowding, and provides the opportunity for more personalized care.

FAQs About Fostering

1. Which animals qualify for the Foster Program?

A variety of animals qualify for our Foster Program, including:

- Animals recovering from injuries
- Animals being treated for illness
- Animals who are too young to go up for adoption (under 8 weeks old)
- Animals who are too stressed in the shelter environment
- Animals who require behavioral help/training
- Animals who have been in the shelter for over 2 weeks and need a nice vacation from the shelter

2. How long will I foster an animal?

The time commitment can vary from a few weeks to a few months, depending on the animal's needs.

3. What if I get attached?

It's natural to bond with your foster pets. While saying goodbye can be hard, knowing they're going to a loving home is a rewarding part of the process. Plus, continuing to foster other animals helps us to continue having the resources to rescue more! However, if you fall in love

and end up wanting to adopt, fosters get the first priority to adopt (as long as the animal doesn't already have a scheduled adoption appointment!)

3. Do I have to cover medical expenses?

Bideawee covers medical care, food, and other supplies. Your role is to provide love and a safe environment.

Thank You for Fostering!

Your willingness to help animals in need makes a world of difference. By fostering, you're offering a stepping stone to a brighter future for each dog, puppy, cat, or kitten that comes through your door. Thank you for your compassion and dedication to giving these living beings the care they deserve.

"Together, we can save lives, one foster home at a time."

3-3-3 RULE

The 3-3-3 Rule for shelter animals describes the stages of adjustment that a dog or cat typically goes through when transitioning into a new home, whether as an adopted pet or a foster. It helps new fosters or adopters understand what the animal might experience during the adjustment period. Here's what to expect:

1. 3 Days: Feeling Overwhelmed

- **Adjusting to New Surroundings:** During the first 3 days, the animal may feel scared, anxious, and overwhelmed by their new environment. They might hide, refuse to eat, or appear shut down.
- **Learning the Routine:** They are trying to understand what is safe and who they can trust. They might test boundaries or be uncertain about house rules.
- **Limited Behavior:** You may not see their true personality yet. Give them space and patience as they process the changes.

2. 3 Weeks: Settling In

- **Developing a Routine:** After about 3 weeks, the animal will start to feel more comfortable in their new home and begin to understand the routine, such as feeding times, bathroom breaks, and where they can sleep or rest.
- **Showing True Personality:** This is when you'll start to see more of their personality emerge as they become more comfortable and confident in their new environment.
- **Testing Boundaries:** They may also test boundaries as they learn what behaviors are expected of them in the household.

3. 3 Months: Feeling at Home

- **Building Trust and Forming Bonds:** By 3 months, the animal should feel fully comfortable and secure in their new home. They have likely formed a strong bond with their new family and feel part of the household.
- **Behavioral Adjustments:** Many behavioral issues, such as anxiety, should have improved as they feel more at ease. They'll understand what is expected of them and adapt to their new life.
- **Feeling Secure:** This is when you'll truly see the animal settle into their new environment, with a sense of belonging and security in their forever home or foster space.

The 3-3-3 Rule is just a general guide, as every animal adjusts differently. Being patient and consistent with routines, along with offering love and understanding, helps a foster or adopted pet feel safe and comfortable.

<https://www.bideawee.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/25Transitioning-Your-Dog-to-Their-New-Home.pdf>

THINGS TO AVOID WITH YOUR NEW FOSTER

When fostering a new pet, there are certain actions you should avoid unless specifically instructed by a foster manager, foster assistant, or Bideawee's staff. These guidelines help ensure the safety and well-being of both the animal and the household. Here's a list of what not to do:

1. **Do Not** Introduce to Other Pets Without Approval

- **No Direct Interactions:** Avoid introducing your foster pet to any other pets in the home until you receive approval or instructions from the foster team. This helps prevent stress or potential conflicts.
- **Keep Separate Spaces:** Maintain separate living spaces for your foster and resident pets until approved even if they seem friendly through doors or gates.

2. **Do Not** Give Over-the-Counter Medications

- **No Human Medications:** Never give human medications (e.g., pain relievers, allergy meds) to your foster pet without direct instructions from the staff, as many can be harmful or toxic.
- **Stick to Prescribed Treatments:** Only administer medications that are prescribed specifically for your foster animal, following the dosage and schedule provided. **Do not discontinue meds until approved by the medical team (even if symptoms or anxiety go away!)**

3. **Do Not** Change Their Diet

- **Stick to Provided Food:** Feed only the diet that has been approved or provided by Bideawee. Switching food abruptly can cause digestive issues or aggravate existing health conditions.
- **Avoid Treats Not Approved by the Team:** Avoid giving treats or human food unless you have confirmation that they are safe for your foster. Some common foods (like chocolate, grapes, or certain artificial sweeteners) are **toxic** to pets.

4. **Do Not** Take Them to Dog Parks or Public Places

- **Avoid High-Traffic Areas:** Until you have received approval, avoid taking your foster dog to dog parks, pet stores, or other high-traffic public places where they may be exposed to new environments, diseases, or interactions with unknown animals.
- **No Off-Leash Time:** Keep your foster dog on a leash at all times during walks, unless instructed otherwise. This helps maintain control and prevents them from running off or encountering unexpected dangers.

PUPPIES 5 MONTHS AND OLDER MUST HAVE A HARNESS AND LEASH WHEN GOING OUTSIDE. THEY MUST HAVE 2 LEASH ON ANYTIME THEY ARE OUTDOORS (LEASH CLIPPED ON THE COLLAR AND THE OTHER LEASH ON HARNESS)

5. **Do Not** Attempt Grooming or Bathing if Not Instructed

- **No Shaving or Haircuts:** Avoid giving your foster dog any haircuts, shaves, or trims unless directed by staff.
- **Be Careful with Baths:** Check with the foster manager before bathing your foster, especially if they have a medical condition or skin issue. Incorrect bathing products can cause irritation or worsen conditions.

6. **Do Not** Train with Harsh Methods

- **No Negative Reinforcement:** Avoid using punishment-based training methods, such as yelling, hitting, or using shock collars. These methods can create fear and anxiety in foster animals.
- **Focus on Positive Training:** Use positive reinforcement (like treats, praise, and affection) for training, and consult with the foster team if you encounter behavior challenges. <https://www.bideawee.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/25Positive-Reinforcement-Training-What-Is-It.pdf>

7. **Do Not** Neglect to Report Medical Concerns

- **Contact Staff for Any Health Changes:** If you notice any changes in your foster's appetite, behavior, energy level, or physical condition, reach out to the foster manager or foster assistant immediately instead of trying to treat it on your own.
- **Follow Emergency Protocols:** In case of an emergency, follow the instructions provided by the foster team rather than making independent decisions about medical care.

FOSTER MANAGER: GABBY SABRINA (SUN THROUGH THURS)
FOSTER ASSISTANT: JOSBELY (JO) ARIAS (FRI-SAT, MON-TUE)

Medical Records and Health Check Requirements

1. Provision of Medical Records

All fosters will receive complete and up-to-date medical records for every animal placed in their care. These records include, when applicable, vaccination history, previous treatments, diagnostic findings, prescribed medications, and any known medical or behavioral conditions.

- Medical records will be provided prior to or at the time of foster placement.
- Any updates to an animal's medical information will be communicated to the foster promptly.

2. Required Health Checks for Long-Term Foster Placements

In accordance with organizational policy and applicable animal welfare regulations, any animal remaining in a foster home for 30 days or more must receive a routine medical check and weight assessment at least once every six (6) months.

The required six-month health check ensures:

- Ongoing monitoring of overall physical health
- Early identification of medical or weight-related issues.

By following these guidelines, you'll help create a safe and positive environment for your foster pet. Please access these resources to learn more [Resources - Bideawee](#)

All things Kitten and Cats

Cats and Kittens: Their Needs

Cats and kittens may be more independent than dogs, but they still require attention, care, and love.

Basic Needs:

- **Play and Enrichment:** Cats enjoy interactive play and need toys to keep them stimulated. A cat tree or window perch allows them to express natural behaviors like climbing and watching their environment.
- **Litter Box Maintenance:** Clean the litter box daily. Cats are clean animals, and a dirty litter box can lead to accidents outside the box.
- **Space to Explore:** Cats often like having a space to call their own. Whether it's a cozy bed, a quiet corner, or a sunny windowsill, providing a safe space helps them feel **secure**.
- <https://www.bideawee.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/25Cat-Proofing-Your-Home.pdf>
- [Body Language Basics– Cats | Bideawee](#)
- [Shy and Fearful Cats: The Quick Guide | San Diego Humane Society](#)

Kittens: Special Considerations:

- **Socialization:** Kittens need to learn to trust humans and may require gentle handling to become friendly, adoptable cats.
- **Feeding and Weaning:** Young kittens may need to be bottle-fed or weaned onto solid food, which requires close monitoring. Follow specific instructions from the Foster Team.
- **Health Concerns:** Kittens are more susceptible to upper respiratory infections and other illnesses than adults. Keeping an eye on their health and reaching out to the Foster Team is crucial.

Preparing for your foster kittens

Your foster kittens should start out separated from all other animals in your household and kept in a small area, such as a spare room or bathroom, where they have access to their food, water and litter box. And because kittens under three weeks old cannot regulate their body temperature, this area should also be in a warm, draft-free area. It may be a good idea to consider an area that is easy to clean up in terms of spills and litter box accidents, which will happen since the kittens are learning. Please don't put the kittens in a garage or place that has outdoor access; those locations are not safe.

Supplies you'll need

The shelter provides supplies to its fosters. Here's what you'll need to care for your foster kittens:

- At least one bowl for dry food and one for water: If you have a large litter, you will need to provide more than one bowl each for water and food.
- A supply of kitten food
- New bottle for each bottle-fed litter and formula for bottle-feeding: Breeder's Edge/KMR or similar is preferred for bottle-feeding kittens.
- Litter box with low sides: More than one may be needed for larger litters.
- Non-clumping litter: Use pine pellets, paper litter or non-clumping clay litter.
- Heat source: Kittens can't keep themselves warm, so you have to provide a heat source
- A soft place to sleep: Old towels or blankets work well.
- A secure sleeping area: A cat carrier with the door removed or a box laid on its side works well.
- Toys: Use kitten-safe toys that are easy to sanitize and clean. Kittens can play with them when you're not home.
- Scratching post: Kittens need to learn to scratch on them rather than the furniture.

Kitten-proofing your home

Foster kittens are tiny and cute, but just like children, they are also very curious. They will try to get into everything to explore, so you will need to kitten-proof your home. Here are some tips:

Put away any small items that a kitten can swallow.

- Hide any breakable items, block electrical outlets and remove toxic plants
- If your kittens are staying in a bathroom, make sure that the toilet lid is closed at all times.
- Block off any spaces that the kittens could crawl into and hide in.
- When setting up your kitten room, be sure to place the litter boxes as far away from food and water as possible.

Scheduling appointments for your foster kittens

During the time that you foster kittens, you'll need to make some appointments — to pick up and drop off your kittens, take them in for vaccines and spay/neuter, and pick up supplies.

Types of appointment:

1. **Vaccines/Deworming:** Once kittens are 4 weeks old, they should come to the shelter every two weeks for vaccine boosters.
2. **Illness:** Due to incubation times of different illnesses, kittens may need to be seen for a medical appointment if they get sick or injured. Some examples of these are: Upper Respiratory Infections (URIs), diarrhea, worms, etc.
3. **Medication/Supply Pick-Up:** You may also need to set up an appointment when you are needing more foster supplies, food, medication refills, and returning your fosters.

KITTEN RESOURCES

Kitten Season 101

On-Demand Recording: <https://bit.ly/BFCIKSV>

Handout: <https://bit.ly/BFCIKSH>

Bottle-Feeding & Care of Orphaned Kittens

On-Demand Recording: <https://bit.ly/BFCIBFKV>

Handout: <https://bit.ly/BFCIBFKH>

Taming Feral Kittens for Adoption

On-Demand Recording: <https://bit.ly/BFCITFKV>

Handout: <https://bit.ly/BFCITFKH>

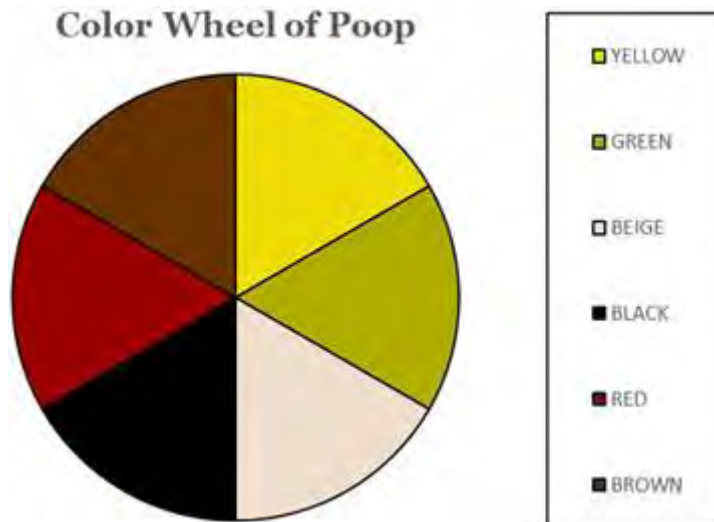
Caring for your foster kittens

General Care

Feeding

- **Slurrries:** Slurrries are simply wet kitten food mixed with kitten formula that can be made in varying consistencies as your kittens get used to solid food. Start introducing these at 4-5 weeks old which is when their teeth begin to show.

- Kittens may not automatically know how to eat this food, and you may need to put some into their mouth so they can start getting used to solid foods.
- Actively participate in their eating, so that you can make sure they are getting enough food to fill their bellies.
- **Wet Food:** Once kittens are successfully eating their slurries, they can go to wet kitten food, with no formula added.
 - Some kittens may understand wet food, without needing the transitional slurry, and that's fine too.
- **Dry Food:** Once kittens have teeth (4-5 weeks old), begin to offer dry food as well. Some kittens go straight from the bottle to crunching on kibble!



BROWN	Solid, formed stool is normal. If it is loose, it may be the sign of a parasite and require treatment.
YELLOW	Mustard-yellow stool is normal when being bottle fed, but if it is extra smelly it may be a sign of a parasite.
GREEN	Green stool may indicate infection and require an antibiotic.
BEIGE	Pale stool may indicate a lack of being able to absorb nutrients properly.
BLACK	Black, tar-like stool typically indicates upper GI bleeding. Kitten needs to be seen ASAP for diagnostics.
RED	Red stool can mean problems in the lower GI from an infection or something more serious. Kitten needs to be seen.

Bottle Babies

Kittens from birth to 4 weeks are considered neonates and need more extensive care than those who are older than 4 weeks and already weaned. Kittens are typically weaned around 5 weeks old when they begin to eat solely kitten food and are no longer taking a bottle or nursing from their mother.

Proper care of neonate kittens is vitally important to their health and wellbeing. Here are some guidelines to follow, as well as a discussion of proper techniques to ensure they are being provided with the best care possible.

Special Neonate Supplies

Below are some basic supplies you will need before you begin caring for neonatal kittens.

- Syringes
- Bottles
- Nipples
- Breeder's Edge/KMR Formula
- Small scale
- Heating pad/disc
- Crate
- Blankets

Nothing's better than Mom!

If you are lucky enough to have a mom along with your kittens, congratulations! She will make sure that her kittens are fed, cleaned, and kept safe. Kittens that can stay with their mamas at least 4 weeks have a better chance at survival as long as the mamas are well-cared for. As the mamas are providing food for their kittens, they require more food and they need to be fed kitten food, as it is higher in protein and nutrients.

So, when mom's around, what do you get to do? Plenty! While it is best to do minimal disturbing the first week or so, mom and babies do need to be checked on. You will need to make sure that mom is eating, drinking and eliminating regularly. You will want to check that all the babies are getting the chance to nurse and gaining weight. Kittens should be weighed every day. Sometimes, smaller kittens will miss out by being pushed out of the way and may need supplemental feeding, or alone time with mom to nurse.

As the kittens reach 4-5 weeks of age, weaning will begin. This is the stage where the kittens transition to kitten food and away from nursing. Once the kittens are eating on their own, Mom's job is done and she can be scheduled for spay and made available for adoption.

Feeding Bottle Babies

Bottle feeding is an acquired skill, so be patient and don't give up! Kittens have special needs and nutritional requirements and therefore require formula specific to kittens, i.e.

Breeder's Edge or KMR, in either powdered or liquid form. Once opened, you will need to keep the formula refrigerated. Formula that has been made should be tossed after 24 hours. When mixing formula, be sure to eliminate any clumps using a whisk or similar item to make it as smooth as possible. Formula should be a warm, comfortable temperature, but not too hot as to scald the kitten's throat so it's best to use warm water to heat it up rather than place the formula in the microwave. A mug full of hot water can act as a "bath" for a prepared formula bottle and heat it slowly.

Although each kitten is different, the chart below is a general guideline for making sure your kitten is eating enough each day based on age and weight. It also details how often your kitten should be feeding.

Kitten Weight and Feeding Chart

Age	Weight	Amt. per Feeding	Schedule
0-1 weeks	75-150 grams	2-6 ml	Every 2 hours
1-2 weeks	150-250 grams	6-10 ml	Every 2-3 hours
		10-14 ml	
2-3 weeks	250-350 grams		Every 3-4 hours
3-4 weeks	350-450 grams	14-18 ml	Every 4-5 hours

4-5 weeks	450-550 grams	18-22 ml; begin weaning	Every 5-6 hours
5-8 weeks	550-850 grams	Weaning; offer wet food	Every 6 hours

Weigh In

Weight gain is one of the most important indicators of health for kittens, so it is essential that fosters monitor their kittens' weight daily. While it only takes a few minutes a day,

its importance cannot be overstated. You are welcome to use your own system to track your kitten's weight, or use the sheet provided in this manual.

Weaning

Around 5 weeks of age is when kittens are ready to be weaned on to solid food. Most mama cats will start pushing kittens away from nursing and nurse less frequently when their kittens reach this age. You may also notice them starting to show interest in mama's food, and her trying to "get away from them" more often, enjoying her solo time. The kittens' teeth are starting to come in, and they are now able to chew and digest/absorb solid food.

If kittens are weaned too early, it can result in their bodies not being able to properly digest the food that is being offered and puts them at risk of vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss, and dehydration.

Managing Kitten Body Temperature

Kittens are unable to regulate their own body temperature at this young age so blankets and heat sources are essential. Kittens should never be placed directly on heating pads/discs. Instead, a blanket or towel should be placed between the kitten and heating source. Kittens should also have enough room in their area to move off the heating source. Kittens will move enough on their own to move on and off the heating source as needed. When kittens

are with their mothers, their mothers provide body heat to keep them warm, but when they are without their mother, they can become hypothermic quickly. Alternative heat sources are critical until kittens are 4 weeks of age. These include electric heating pads, microwavable heating discs, rice bags, single-use hand warmers, or incubators.

Below is a list of average body temperature based on kitten's age:

Age 0-2 weeks: 95-99° F

Age 2-4 weeks: 97-100° F

Age 4+ weeks: 99-101° F

Using the Bathroom

One thing to keep in mind with kittens 3 weeks of age and younger is that they are unable to use the bathroom on their own. If the kittens are with their mama, she takes

care of this by using her tongue to lick them and keep the kittens clean and comfortable. If the kittens are orphaned, they will need your help. Stimulating a kitten to use the bathroom is a necessity and should be done every few hours; especially before and after they have eaten from a bottle.

To stimulate the kitten to use the bathroom, use a cloth like a tissue, cotton ball, or gauze pad that will be soft and gentle on the delicate skin of a kitten's bottom. Simply hold the kitten steady with one hand, and gently rub the genital region with your cloth. Continue this stimulating motion until the kitten has finished and wipe with a moist cloth or baby wipe. Take care to wipe the surrounding skin clean as prolonged exposure to urine/feces can irritate their delicate skin.

Please carefully monitor the poop of the kittens in your care. Kittens can become dehydrated very quickly and this can lead to decline, or even death. Poop is an important indicator of a kitten's health.

Common Medical Illnesses and Health Issues

- **Diarrhea:** Diarrhea is quite common in kittens, and has many causes from food changes, viruses, and stress, to overfeeding, bacteria and parasites. It does need monitoring, as it can quickly lead to dehydration in kittens as they are so small.
 - If a kitten is still active with mild diarrhea that has not lasted more than 24 hours, that is generally nothing to be concerned about.
 - Severe diarrhea that lasts over 24 hours, where the kitten may be lethargic or just not acting “right,” needs medication or a visit with the foster coordinator or medical staff.
- **Parasites:** Parasites live in the intestines of kittens and other animals, and are commonly found in stool or vomit. Dewormers can rid them of these parasites, and are given every 2 weeks after the kitten is over 1 pound.
- **Vomiting:** Vomiting is not uncommon in kittens and is usually not serious. However, if a kitten is vomiting continuously it does need to be seen right away by the foster coordinator or medical staff.
- **Eye Discharge:** Some discharge or crustiness in the corner of the eye is normal. If there is drainage from the eye, green or yellow discharge, or swollen eyes, that is an indicator of an infection and will need to be treated with medication. Contact the foster coordinator.
- **Ear Mites:** Ear mites are a parasite that live in the ear canal of cats and kittens. If you notice continuous scratching, head shaking or brown discharge in your kitten’s ears, that could be a sign of ear mites. They are contagious and need to be treated ASAP. Ear mites are treated with the same medication used for fleas and ticks, so as long as monthly appointments are made for flea treatment, this should not be an issue.

Criteria for emergencies

What constitutes a medical emergency in a kitten? A good rule of thumb is any situation in which you would call 911 for a person. Here are some specific symptoms that could indicate an emergency:

- Not breathing or labored breathing

- Symptoms of parvovirus: bloody diarrhea, vomiting, weakness, high fever (above 103.5 degrees)
- Signs of extreme dehydration: dry mucous membranes, weakness, vomiting, tenting of the skin (when the skin is pulled up, it stays there)
- Abnormal lethargy or unable to stand
- Unconsciousness or unable to wake up
 - Cold to the touch
 - Broken bones
 - Any trauma: hit by a car, dropped, stepped on
 - A large wound or profuse bleeding that doesn't stop when pressure is applied

If your foster pet displays any of these symptoms, please follow the emergency protocol. If the animal is vomiting or has diarrhea, but is still active, eating and drinking, you can probably wait until the next day to get help.

Pregnancy, Neonatal and Kitten Care for Fosters

Expectant mothers are sent to foster with kitten food. It is usually safe to let her eat as much as she wants, as she needs the extra nutrition to support her pregnancy and prepare for nursing. Milk should start appearing in the mammary glands about a week before delivery.

Most mothers, even first-timers, can take care of themselves and their offspring quite well. A whelping box or nesting area (a litter box lined with old sheets or towels is perfect) should be readied about a week before her expected delivery date. The bed should be warm (we provide a safe heating element), and you can throw a sheet over the cattery to give mom some privacy while she delivers.

For the most part, you will leave mom and babies alone while observing for signs of trouble. There are warning signs during labor and delivery that indicate the need to consult a veterinarian. Watch for excessive restlessness and frequent unproductive straining, or depression and inactivity. Note that cats can deliver perfectly normal kittens 24 hours or more hours apart, resting, eating and even nursing in between kittens. The most important thing is to look at is the condition of the mother. If she is depressed, sick, in pain, agitated, or straining unproductively for more than a couple of hours, please call us.

If you are concerned or uncertain about the situation, contact the Foster Care Management Team so that we can advise you correctly during this very delicate time.

Young Kitten Care

A kitten's survival depends on getting enough nutrition, water, and warmth. If you hear crying, think hunger, thirst, cold, or all three. The mother's colostrum, the first milk produced, is vitally important to the newborn's cardiovascular system and defense against disease. So-called "Fading Puppy or Kitten Syndrome" where the newborn fades and dies despite adequate care, is usually either due to a genetic defect or not getting enough colostrum early enough to get the full benefit. Colostrum is rich in antibodies against various infections, but kittens can only absorb the antibodies and get the full benefit for a short period after birth. For this reason, it is very important that newborns nurse as soon as possible after birth. If they do not find a nipple, put their mouth close to one and hold them until they nurse.

Continued healthy-nursing behavior is crucial for kitten survival. In order to tell if the kittens are nursing, put on gloves and gently pick up each kitten and feel for a round belly full of milk. A flat or concave belly indicates that the kitten may not be nursing. This check should be performed once or twice a day. Don't forget to wear your surgical gloves. Also, confirm visually that each kitten is actually LATCHING to mom to ensure they're nursing. A gram scale works great to log each kitten's weight in your foster notebook. Healthy kittens should gain a little weight each day.

Signs That Kittens Are Not Doing Well

Kittens should eat or sleep 90% of the time during the first two weeks. If they are crying during or after eating, they are usually becoming ill or are not getting adequate milk. A newborn kitten is very susceptible to infections and can die within 24 hours. If excessive crying occurs, the mother and entire litter should be examined by a veterinarian, so please call us immediately.

Supplement Feeding Bottle Babies

When adequate nursing isn't possible, supplemental feeding one to three times per day is recommended and should be performed on any litter with more than five kittens. We will supply you with liquid or powdered KMR for supplemental feeding. The KMR's temperature can be tested on your forearm and should be about the same as one's skin. The KMR can lists directions concerning feeding amounts. If the kittens are still nursing from their mother, the amounts recommended will be excessive. Generally, 1/3 to 1/2 of the listed amount should be the daily goal. Supplemental feeding may be continued until the kittens are old enough to eat kitten food. Do NOT hold them on their backs like a human baby OR squeeze the bottle while feeding as they can aspirate on the milk, choke, and catch pneumonia.

If the mother does not produce milk or her milk becomes infected, the kittens will also cry. If this occurs, the entire litter could die within 24 to 48 hours. Total replacement feeding, using the KMR, or adopting the kittens to another nursing mother is usually necessary. If replacement feeding is chosen, the amounts of milk listed on the product should be fed. Kittens less than two weeks of age should be fed every 3 to 4 hours. Kittens 2 to 4 weeks old do well with feedings every 4 to 6 hours. Don't feel like you have to wake them up to feed—if they're full enough to sleep peacefully, let them rest until they wake up hungry.

Orphaned Kittens

If you are fostering orphaned kittens, or mom is unable to care for her babies, it is necessary to

stimulate kittens of less than two weeks old to urinate and defecate in addition to bottle feeding KMR. The voiding reflex is normally initiated by the mother licking the kitten's ano-genital region. The fosterer must therefore imitate this by gently massaging the kitten's ano-genital area with a moist cotton ball. This should be done after each feeding, and each kitten should pass urine and have a bowel movement at least once a day.

Please note that some kittens (up to 1 out of 4 in the first week alone) will die no matter how well you take care of them. Be assured that if you tried to give them whatever you knew or thought they needed, you should not blame yourself if this happens. In the unfortunate case of a kitten passing away contact the Foster Care Management Team as soon as possible. If you are unsuccessful at reaching us, please place the body in a bag and keep it in a freezer until you have time to drop the body off at the Bideawee Adoption Center's medical office

[Daily Routine for First-Time Kitten Foster Parents](#)

Fostering a kitten for the first time involves a daily routine that includes feeding, cleaning, and monitoring your foster kitten's health and well-being. Here's a detailed guide to help you get started:

Part 1: Caring for your foster kitten

Feeding:

- Feed the kittens wet food- three times a day, morning, noon, and evening. 3oz can size half per kitten 3x times a day.
- Make sure they have a bowl of dry food and water available to them all day.
- Clean and remove dirty food dishes after each meal.
- Monitoring: Keep an eye on their appetites to ensure they're eating well, whether they are eating less or refuse food entirely

Litter Box/Cleaning:

- Scoop the litter box at least twice a day.
- Litter Type- you will either be given clay or pellet litter depending on what the kitten uses/needs. **Non-clumping is MOST important!**
- Make sure to keep the litter box clean and do at least once a week deep cleaning ****Super important if super messy or has parasite– that it is clean more frequently**** – wash it with mild soap and warm water. Refill fresh litter.
- Use cat attract if they are having issue with the litter box

Clean litter box=healthy kitten

Health Monitoring:

- Give your kittens a daily check-up to spot any signs of illness or changes in behavior.
- Inspect their bodies and fur for abnormalities. Any missing patches of fur??

- Pay close attention to their eyes, mouth, and ears: Any eye or nasal discharge?? any sneezing or coughing?
- Monitor their energy levels for any noticeable shifts.

Monitoring Urination & Stool:

Urine: Monitor for normal frequency and quantity. Watch for any signs of straining, blood, or urinating outside the box, which could indicate health issues.

Stool: Look for consistency in your kitten's stool. Healthy stool should be firm but not too hard. Loose stools, diarrhea, or constipation may indicate dietary or health issues.

Behavior: If the kitten suddenly stops using the litter box, it may signal stress, a dirty box, or a medical problem.

If you notice anything unusual (changes in eating, drinking, litter box habits, or behavior) message the foster phone line 347-474-9114

Part Two: Caring for Your Kittens

Safe space: Provide a quiet space in a small room, this can either be your bathroom or room. You want to be able to know where they are and also helps them get to know you and the area better

Playtime and Stimulation:

- Engage kittens in one to two play sessions daily with interactive toys (more if possible!).
- Avoid encouraging play with your hands.
- Do not leave interactive toys unattended with the kittens.
- Provide safe toys like ping pong balls for solo play at all times.
- Occasionally change their environment by adding new elements, such as cardboard boxes, or rearranging the room.

Socialization:

- Spend at least two to three 20-minute sessions daily socializing with the kittens.
- For undersocialized kittens, increase this to three to four sessions.
- Encourage affectionate behaviors during your interactions.
- If possible, introduce them to new people a few times a week.

Handling and Gentlying:

- Medium and long-haired kittens benefit from brief daily brushing sessions.

- Gently handle their paws to prepare them for nail trims.
- Gradually get them used to being picked up and handled.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY: Please call foster phone line and leave a message **347-474-9114**

First-Time Foster Cat Routine

Fostering a cat for the first time involves a daily routine that includes feeding, cleaning, and monitoring your foster cat's health and well-being. Here's a detailed guide to help you get started:

1. Feeding Routine (2x a day)

- **Type of Food:** Follow the feeding instructions— This will typically include wet food, dry food, or a combination. Cats in shelter are usually eating science diet unless instructed otherwise
- **Meal Times:**
Morning: Offer half of the daily food portion in the morning, typically around 7-8 AM
Evening: Offer the other half in the evening, around 5-6 PM.
- **Water:** Fresh water should always be available. Refill the water bowl daily and ensure it's clean.
- **Monitoring:** Keep an eye on your foster cat's eating habits. Note if they're eating less or more than usual, or if they refuse food entirely.

2. Litter Box Management

Setup:

Place the litter box in a quiet, easily accessible location. Avoid high-traffic areas or placing it near food and water bowls.

Cleaning Routine:

Daily Scooping: Scoop the litter box at least twice a day (morning and evening) to remove solid waste and urine clumps. This helps control odors and keeps the cat comfortable.

Weekly Deep Cleaning: Empty the litter box once a week and wash it with mild, unscented soap and warm water. Refill with fresh litter.

****Super important if super messy or has parasite– that it is clean more frequently****

Litter Type: Use the litter the cat is familiar with, and ensure you have enough for regular refills.

Monitoring Urination & Stool:

Urine: Monitor for normal frequency and quantity. Watch for any signs of straining, blood, or urinating outside the box, which could indicate health issues.

Stool: Look for consistency in your cat's stool. Healthy stool should be firm but not too hard. Loose stools, diarrhea, or constipation may indicate dietary or health issues.

Behavior: If the cat suddenly stops using the litter box, it may signal stress, a dirty box, or a medical problem.

3. General Cleaning & Grooming

Daily Tidying:

Bedding: Check and shake out bedding daily, removing any hair or debris. Replace or wash as needed.

Toys & Play Areas: Clean up toys and ensure the play area is free of hazards.

Weekly Cleaning:

- **Bedding & Soft Surfaces:** Wash the cat's bedding, blankets, and any soft toys weekly.
- **Scratching Posts:** Wipe down scratching posts to remove loose fur and dust.
- **Grooming:** Depending on your foster cat's needs, brushing can be done once or twice a week, especially for long-haired cats. This prevents matting and reduces shedding.

4. Health Monitoring

- **Behavior:** Observe your foster cat's behavior daily. Changes in activity level, grooming habits, or social interactions can indicate stress or health issues.
- **Eyes, Ears, Nose:** Keep an eye out for any discharge, redness, or swelling in the eyes, ears, or nose. Any sneezing?? Any coughing? These could be signs of infection.

If you notice anything unusual (changes in eating, drinking, litter box habits, or behavior), message the foster phone line **347-474-9114**

5. Socialization & Enrichment

Daily Interaction: Spend time with your foster cat every day, even if they are shy. Gentle petting, talking, or just being in the same room helps them adjust.

Play: Engage in interactive play sessions to stimulate your foster cat mentally and physically. Wand toys, laser pointers, and balls are good options.

Safe Space: Provide a quiet and safe space, like a room or a cozy corner, where your foster cat can retreat to when they need downtime.

By following this routine, you'll help ensure your foster cat is comfortable, healthy, and ready for a future forever home

Cattitudes

Cat Body Language Decoded

The Telltale Tail

Cats convey a range of emotions with their tails.



Overjoyed



Friendly



Angry



Scared



Agitated



Content

Ears, Eyes, and Whiskers

Look to these to tell you how your cat really feels.



Relaxed



Attentive



Agitated



Frightened

General Handling Principles (All Animals)

- **Move calmly and predictably.** Sudden movements or loud voices can frighten animals and trigger defensive behavior.
- **Approach at their level.** Avoid looming over an animal; crouch or sit nearby and allow them to initiate contact when possible.
- **Use positive reinforcement.** Treats, praise, and gentle touch help create positive associations.
- **Respect body language.** Stop immediately if the animal shows signs of stress (growling, hissing, tail tucked, ears back, stiff body).
- **Never use force.** No scruffing (except in emergencies), alpha-rolling, tail pulling, muzzle grabbing, or punitive corrections.
- **Ensure safety first.** When unsure, use barriers, leashes, carriers, or towels to minimize risk to both the animal and handler.

Handling Cats

Approaching a Cat

- Begin by speaking softly and blinking slowly.
- Offer your hand to sniff from a few inches away; avoid reaching over the cat.
- Let the cat choose contact—many prefer head or cheek rubs first.

Picking Up & Carrying

- Only lift a cat if they are comfortable being handled.
- Support the chest with one hand and hindquarters with the other; hold close to your body.
- Avoid scruffing unless required for medical safety and performed by trained personnel.

Using Carriers

- Place carriers in living spaces to normalize their presence.
- Encourage cats inside with treats or toys—avoid forcing them in.
- For fearful cats, use the “towel burrito” method if needed (gentle wrapping for safe transfer).

Special Considerations

- **Shy/feral-leaning cats:** Do not attempt to pick up; rely on slow, non-contact bonding (food, play, scent swapping).
- **Overstimulation signs:** Tail flicking, skin rippling, sudden stop in purring, ear flattening—end petting immediately.
- **Multi-cat foster homes:** Provide multiple escape routes, vertical spaces, and separate resources.

[Humane Handling of Cats: How To Do 4 Safe & Effective Holds | ASPCApro](#)

Common Diseases in Foster Kittens/Cats

1. Upper Respiratory Infections (URI)

- **What It Is:** A contagious viral or bacterial infection causing sneezing, nasal discharge, watery eyes, and lethargy.
- **Risk:** Contagious to other cats, especially unvaccinated ones. Does not affect humans.

2. Feline Panleukopenia (FPV)

- **What It Is:** A severe and highly contagious viral disease caused by the feline parvovirus. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, fever, and dehydration.
- **Risk:** Can spread to unvaccinated cats through contact with bodily fluids or contaminated objects. Does not affect humans.

3. Ringworm

- **What It Is:** A fungal infection of the skin, hair, and nails, causing circular patches of hair loss and scaly skin.

- **Risk:** Contagious to other animals and humans through direct contact or contaminated surfaces.

4. Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV)

- **What It Is:** A viral infection that weakens the immune system and can lead to cancer or other illnesses. Spread through saliva, urine, or shared bowls.
- **Risk:** Can infect cats; no risk to humans.

5. Feline Calicivirus (FCV)

- **What It Is:** A viral infection causing respiratory symptoms, oral ulcers, and joint pain
- **Risk:** Contagious to other cats; no risk to humans.

6. Feline Herpesvirus (FHV-1)

- **What It Is:** A viral infection causing eye ulcers, sneezing, nasal discharge, and congestion.
- **Risk:** contagious to other cats; no risk to humans.

7. Giardia

- **What It Is:** A parasitic infection of the intestines causing diarrhea, weight loss, and dehydration.
- **Risk:** Can spread to other cats and humans through contaminated water or feces.

8. Coccidia

- **What It Is:** A parasite that infects the intestines, causing diarrhea, weight loss, and dehydration.
- **Risk:** Contagious to other cats through fecal contamination; generally not a risk to healthy humans but can affect immunocompromised individuals.

7. Intestinal Parasites

- **What It Is:** Worms such as roundworms, hookworms, and tapeworms that cause diarrhea, weight loss, and a bloated stomach in kittens.
- **Risk:** Can spread to other pets and, in rare cases, humans (e.g., roundworms and hookworms).

All things Puppies and Dogs

Dogs and Puppies: Their Needs

Dogs and puppies can bring immense joy and companionship. However, they also have specific needs that foster caregivers should be prepared to meet.

Basic Needs:

- **Exercise:** Dogs, especially high-energy breeds and puppies, need regular physical exercise and mental stimulation to keep them happy and healthy. Walks, playtime, and training sessions are all essential. **REMINDER: PUPPIES CANNOT WALK OUTSIDE OR TOUCH PUBLIC GROUNDS UNTIL 5 MONTHS OLD DUE TO INCOMPLETE VACCINES. THIS INCLUDES A PRIVATE YARD UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE BY THE FOSTER TEAM.**
- **Training:** Fosters should work on basic training with their foster dogs. This can include leash training, housebreaking, and simple commands like “sit” and “stay.”
- **Safe Space:** A dog needs a safe, secure environment where they can rest and feel protected, especially if they are recovering from a stressful shelter experience or a health issue.
- [Body Language Basics– Dogs | Bideawee](#)
- **Dog proofing** the home: [Dog-Proofing Your Home](#)

Puppies: Special Considerations

- **Socialization:** Young puppies need exposure to different environments, people, and other pets (**if approved by the Foster Team**) to become well-adjusted adults. Ensure this is done in a safe, controlled manner by using the introduction guides here: <https://www.bideawee.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/25Introducing-Dogs-to-Other-Dogs.pdf>
- **Health and Vaccination:** Puppies are more vulnerable to illnesses and may not be fully vaccinated. They should be kept away from unvaccinated dogs and public areas where they could be exposed to disease. ***PUPPIES UNDER 5 MONTHS MUST STAY INDOORS UNLESS BEING CARRIED OUTDOORS OR INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE BY THE FOSTER TEAM***
- **Patience:** Puppies can be a handful! Housebreaking and teething can require extra patience, as they are still learning what behaviors are acceptable
- Check out these resources about potty training and using positive reinforcement:
 - [Potty Training your New Pup](#)
 - [Positive Reinforcement Training: What is it?](#)

Mother Dogs And Nursing Litters: Special Considerations

Pregnant dogs require special care throughout their gestation period, which typically lasts about 63 days. During this time, they need proper nutrition, a calm environment, and regular veterinary checkups to ensure both the mother and her developing puppies stay healthy. As the due date approaches, the mother dog will begin nesting behavior and look for a safe, comfortable space to give birth.

A **whelping box** is essential. It provides a clean, warm, secure area for the dog to deliver and care for her puppies. The box helps prevent newborns from wandering, keeps them protected, and gives the mother a quiet space where she feels safe.

Newborn puppies are fragile—they cannot see, hear, or regulate their body temperature for the first couple of weeks. They rely entirely on their mother for warmth, nutrition, and stimulation to help them eliminate waste. Caregivers must keep the environment warm, dry, and clean, monitor the puppies' growth, and ensure the mother is healthy and producing enough milk.

Overall, proper preparation, including a well-designed whelping box and attentive care, is key to supporting both the mother dog and her newborn puppies through this critical period.

Clean bedding and fresh water should always be provided, and fresh food should be kept handy at all times. Feeding the mother dog requires extra nutrition for adequate milk production. Feed her puppy food, both wet and dry, to ensure that she is getting the appropriate nutrients. Be sure all of the puppies are nursing and steadily gaining weight. Keep an especially close eye on the runt, which is normally the last one born. Newborns depend solely on mothers' milk as they receive valuable antibodies from it. When the puppies are three weeks old, begin offering puppy food. Be sure to offer at a time when the puppies would be hungry and if necessary, separate them from the mom so she will not eat it all. By four weeks of age they should be eating some mushy meals. By six weeks of age they should be entirely weaned, no longer in need of mothers' milk and eating a diet solely of puppy food.

NOTE: Contact the Foster Care Management Team if there are ANY signs that mom or puppies are not feeling well.

Socializing

Be aware that mom may be protective of her puppies; however, most mother dogs would allow calm gentle approach by adults and pick up or handling of the puppies. Puppies need as much human contact as they can get; handle them as softly and as much as you can like humane babies. This is a very important time in their lives to receive as much socialization as possible.

Orphaned-Puppy Care (Zero to Three Weeks of Age)

Orphaned puppies should be set up in small living quarters with a small crate with bedding where they can be kept consistently warm, roughly 80-90 degrees. Heating pads are dangerous

and should be used with supervision with lots of bedding between the puppies and the pad to avoid burns. Keep the heating pad on the lowest setting.

Feeding

- Puppy milk replacement (KMR) should be mixed and fed according to the package instructions.
- At the beginning, feeding is needed every three hours.
- By three weeks old, feeding every four to five hours with a night break of about eight hours should work well.
- Do not hold the dogs on their back or allow them to suckle too fast.
- The puppies should be tilted forward and slightly up as if they were nursing on their mother.
- Feed them until the puppy's tummy feels tight and full.
- After each feeding you must stimulate for bowel movement and bladder use just as the mother would. Use a clean warm damp washcloth or cotton ball. Gently massage their genital area in a circular motion, and do not stop until they have finished eliminating.

As your puppy grows and becomes more mobile, weaning time approaches. Weaning can be started at three weeks of age by offering formula in a low dish or pie plate with or without canned food mixed into it. Supplement with bottle feeding as needed until the pups are lapping consistently from a dish. By four or five weeks no more bottle feeding is needed and hard kibble can slowly be introduced during each feeding. By the seven- to eight-week mark, the puppies should be eating dry kibble heartily. Growing puppies should be handled every day, and gentle grooming can be started at four to five weeks old. As they become more and more aware of their environment they should be exposed to as much stimuli as possible such as vacuums, young children, other adults, neighborhood sounds, and other friendly, healthy animals. Keep in mind that overstimulation can cause stress, so monitor the puppy for signs of discomfort and lethargy. By week eight your puppy should be ready for training. Our behavior staff can show you how to teach a dog to sit, stay, come and fetch, among other commands, as well as leash training. Feel free to teach your pup as many manners as you can because it will aid in his or her adoption process

Puppy Routine Guidelines for First-Time Fosters

Since the puppies you are fostering are not fully vaccinated, they must remain indoors to avoid exposure to harmful diseases. Here are some key guidelines to help you establish a good routine for your foster puppy:

Puppy Foster Care Guidelines

1. Safety and Environment

- **Indoors Only:** Keep the puppy indoors, as they are vulnerable to diseases and need a secure, controlled environment
- **No Outdoor Walks:** Puppies should not be walked outside or exposed to outdoor areas until they are at least 5 months old and fully vaccinated unless it is instructed otherwise.
- **Safe Space Setup:** Prepare a designated area with bedding, toys, and water where the puppy can rest and feel secure.

2. Health and Hygiene

- **Vaccination and Vet Care:** Puppies are not fully protected from diseases until they've completed their vaccine series. Follow all scheduled vet appointments and vaccination timelines provided by the foster team. You must let us know in advance if you cannot make it to the appointment.
- **Hygiene Practices:** Wash your hands after handling the puppy and keep their area clean. Clean floors, toys, and bedding regularly, especially if other pets are in the home.
- **Preventative Care:** Keep an eye on the puppy for signs of illness (coughing, runny nose, lethargy). Contact us if you notice any unusual symptoms.

PLEASE CALL AND MESSAGE FOSTER PHONE FOR ANY EMERGENCIES 347-474-9114

Monitor for any diarrhea, blood in stool, liquid stool, or anything that may seem unusual

3. Feeding and Nutrition

Follow Feeding Guidelines: Feed the puppy according to the recommended feeding schedule. Puppies need 3 meals per day. Morning, noon, and evening. Do not feed other brands of food unless instructed otherwise.

- **Fresh Water Access:** Ensure the puppy has access to fresh water at all times.

4. Socialization and Enrichment

- **Socialize Safely:** Puppies need exposure to new experiences, sounds, and people, but this should be done indoors and gradually. Avoid interactions with other dogs or animals unless the foster team approves or if they are an animal in your home.

- **Positive Reinforcement:** Use gentle, positive reinforcement techniques like treats and praise to encourage desired behavior and build trust.
- **Provide Mental Stimulation:** Puppies are curious and need mental stimulation. Offer a variety of toys, like chew toys, balls, and puzzles, to keep them engaged and help prevent destructive behavior.

5. House Training/ Daily Cleaning

- **Indoor Potty Area:** Set up an indoor potty area with puppy pads. Remember that puppies may need frequent bathroom breaks, often every 1–2 hours.
- **Accidents Are Normal:** Expect accidents, as house training takes time. Clean up messes to remove odors and discourage repeat accidents..
- Shake their linens and clean the area they spend time in.

CLEAN SPACE= HEALTHY PUPPY

6. Handling and Boundaries

- **Gentle Handling:** Be patient and gentle when handling the puppy. They're still learning about the world and may be fearful at first.
- **Set Boundaries:** Puppies need consistency. Use a calm tone and simple commands to teach them boundaries, like “no” and “gentle.”
- **Supervised Play:** Always supervise the puppy, especially around household items they might chew on (cords, shoes, etc.). Provide chew toys to redirect this behavior.

7. Routine and Sleep

- **Establish a Routine:** Puppies thrive on routine, so try to keep feeding, playtime, and potty breaks on a regular schedule.
- **Rest Periods:** Puppies need a lot of sleep for healthy growth. Let them rest in a quiet, comfortable spot without too much disturbance.

8. Monitoring Health

- Watch for any signs of illness, especially since young puppies are vulnerable. Signs may include vomiting, diarrhea, sneezing, coughing, or lethargy.
- Eyes, ears, and nose— make sure there is no constant eye discharge, nasal discharge, constant head shaking, excessive ear scratching, and excessive ear wax
- If you're fostering puppies recovering from something like kennel cough, make sure to follow any medical care instructions closely

If you notice anything unusual (changes in eating, drinking, bathroom inconsistency or behavior), message the foster phone line 347-474-9114

9. Communication and Updates

- **Weekly Updates:** Keep in touch and provide updates on the puppy's progress, health, and behavior. You must complete weekly foster check-ins surveys that will be sent via text through surveymonkey
- **Report Health or Behavior Concerns:** If the puppy shows signs of illness or concerning behavior, please message our foster number **347-474-9114** for guidance.

10. Preparing for Adoption

- **Basic Training:** Teaching basic commands (like "sit" and "come") can help the puppy's transition to a forever home. Use short, positive sessions to introduce commands.
- **Photos and Personality Notes:** Take photos and give us updates on their personality so we can find the perfect home for them!

By following this routine and giving the puppies consistent care, you'll help them grow into well-adjusted dogs ready for their future homes!

- Reading dog's body language: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=siy0eog48ys>
- How to Greet a Dog Safely: [How to Greet a Dog Safely: Do's and Don'ts](#)
- [Listening to Your Dog's Body Language](#)(opens in a new tab) (2-hour video presentation by Laura Sharkey, KPA CTP)
- [Dogs Living in a Human World – What Could Go Wrong?](#)(opens in a new tab) (1-hour video presentation by Juliana DeWillems, KPA CTP, CBCC-KA, CPDT-KA)

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY: Please call foster phone line and leave a message **347-474-9114**

[Adult Dog Guidelines](#)

Adult dogs often come from a variety of backgrounds and may be adjusting to new routines, environments, or recovering from stress, trauma, or illness. A consistent, loving routine helps them decompress and prepare for adoption. Please follow the guidelines below to ensure a safe, healthy, and positive foster experience.

1. Safety and Environment

- **Secure Indoors:** Keep the foster dog indoors when unsupervised. They should have a secure, quiet space (like a crate, playpen, or gated room) where they can feel safe.
- **Supervised Outdoor Time:** Only take them outside for potty breaks and approved walks. Use a leash and harness at all times unless you're in a secure, fenced area.

- **Dog-Proofing:** Remove hazards like cords, household cleaners, or accessible human food. Block off rooms as needed.

2. Health and Hygiene

- **Vet Visits & Meds:** Keep all vet appointments as scheduled. Let us know immediately if you're unable to attend. Follow all medication instructions carefully.
- **Clean Environment:** Wash dog bedding weekly and clean food/water bowls daily. Vacuum hair and sanitize surfaces regularly.
- **Monitor Symptoms:** Watch for signs of illness: vomiting, diarrhea, coughing, nasal discharge, limping, appetite loss, or unusual behavior.

3. Feeding and Nutrition

- **Feed as Directed:** Adult dogs are usually fed twice a day—morning and evening. Only use the food provided or approved by the rescue.
- **Treats in Moderation:** You may offer dog-safe treats (especially for training), but avoid table scraps or unfamiliar foods.
- **Fresh Water:** Ensure access to clean, fresh water at all times.

4. Socialization and Enrichment

- **Safe Socializing:** Introduce new experiences slowly. Use positive reinforcement during interactions with new people, sounds, or indoor environments.
- **No Dog Parks or Off-Leash Areas:** Unless specifically approved, do not take your foster to public areas with unknown dogs.
- **Mental Stimulation:** Offer enrichment toys like KONGs, puzzle feeders, or safe chew toys to prevent boredom.
- **Training Time:** Short daily training sessions using positive reinforcement help build confidence and teach basic manners.

5. Potty Breaks & Daily Cleaning

- **Potty Routine:** Take the dog out for bathroom breaks regularly—typically every 4–8 hours for most adult dogs.
- **Expect Adjustments:** Some adult dogs may need time to adjust to a new potty routine or learn house rules.
- **Clean Messes Promptly:** Use pet-safe cleaners to remove odors and prevent re-marking.
- **Tidy Living Space:** Shake out bedding, wipe down crates, and sweep/vacuum hair and debris daily.

6. Handling and Boundaries

- **Gentle, Calm Handling:** Go slow—especially at first. Some adult dogs may be fearful or reactive due to past trauma
- **Avoid Overcrowding:** Don't overwhelm the dog with too many people or stimuli. Allow them to decompress and approach at their own pace.
- **Supervise Closely:** Keep an eye on interactions with children, other pets, and during playtime to ensure safety.

7. Routine and Sleep

- **Consistent Schedule:** Adult dogs thrive on predictability. Keep walks, meals, and rest times on a regular routine.
- **Rest Time:** Most dogs sleep 12–14 hours a day. Allow downtime in a quiet spot, especially after walks or training
- **Bed Setup:** Provide a comfortable, clean space for sleeping—ideally in a low-traffic area of your home.

DOGGIE LANGUAGE

starring Boogie the Boston Terrier



ALERT



SUSPICIOUS



ANXIOUS



THREATENED



ANGRY



"PEACE!"
look away/head turn



STRESSED
yawn



STRESSED
nose lick



"PEACE!"
sniff ground



"RESPECT!"
turn & walk away



"NEED SPACE"
whale eye



STALKING



STRESSED
scratching



STRESS RELEASE
shake off



RELAXED
soft ears, blinky eyes



"RESPECT!"
offer his back



FRIENDLY & POLITE
curved body



FRIENDLY



"PRETTY PLEASE"
round puppy face



"I'M YOUR LOVEBUG"
belly-rub pose



"HELLO I LOVE YOU!"
greeting stretch



"I'M FRIENDLY!"
play bow



"READY!"
prey bow



"YOU WILL FEED ME"



CURIOUS
head tilt



HAPPY
(or hot)



OVERJOYED
wiggly



"MMMMM...."



"I LOVE YOU,
DON'T STOP"

General Handling Principles (All Animals)

- **Move calmly and predictably.** Sudden movements or loud voices can frighten animals and trigger defensive behavior.
- **Approach at their level.** Avoid looming over an animal; crouch or sit nearby and allow them to initiate contact when possible.
- **Use positive reinforcement.** Treats, praise, and gentle touch help create positive associations.
- **Respect body language.** Stop immediately if the animal shows signs of stress (growling, hissing, tail tucked, ears back, stiff body).
- **Never use force.** No scruffing (except in emergencies), alpha-rolling, tail pulling, muzzle grabbing, or punitive corrections.
- **Ensure safety first.** When unsure, use barriers, leashes, carriers, or towels to minimize risk to both the animal and handler.

Handling Dogs

Approaching a Dog

- Allow the dog to come to you; do not reach over their head.
- Turn your body slightly sideways (less threatening stance).
- Offer a closed fist or open palm to sniff before petting.

Lifting & Physical Handling

- **Small dogs:** Support chest and hindquarters; hold close to your body.
- **Medium/large dogs:** Encourage them into position using treats; avoid lifting unless medically necessary.
- **Post-surgery or medical cases:** Follow veterinarian instructions; use harnesses or slings as directed.

Leashing & Walking

- Use a well-fitted harness; avoid pulling or jerking the leash.
- For fearful dogs, clip leash indoors before going outside.
- During walks, maintain safe distance from unknown dogs or triggers.

Special Considerations

- **Fearful dogs:** Move slowly, avoid direct eye contact, and allow escape routes.
- **High-energy dogs:** Provide enrichment before handling (sniffing games, chew items).
- **Resource-guarding:** Never forcibly remove food, toys, or chews; do gradual trade-up training if needed.

[Simple Behavior & Handling Tips for Shy or Fearful Dogs](#)

Common Diseases in Foster Puppies/Dogs

1. Kennel Cough (Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease Complex)

- **What It Is:** A highly contagious respiratory infection causing coughing, nasal discharge, and lethargy.
- **Risk:** Contagious to unvaccinated dogs; no risk to humans.

2. Canine Parvovirus (Parvo)

- **What It Is:** A severe viral infection causing vomiting, bloody diarrhea, fever, and dehydration.
- **Risk:** Deadly for unvaccinated puppies and highly contagious. Does not affect humans.

3. Distemper

- **What It Is:** A viral disease causing respiratory, gastrointestinal, and neurological symptoms.
- **Risk:** Highly contagious to unvaccinated dogs; no risk to humans.

4. Giardia

- **What It Is:** A parasitic infection of the intestines causing diarrhea and dehydration.

- **Risk:** Can spread to other pets and humans through contaminated water or feces.

5. Coccidia

- **What It Is:** A parasite that infects the intestines, causing diarrhea, weight loss, and dehydration.
- **Risk:** Contagious to other dogs through fecal contamination.

Prevention Tips

- Quarantine new fosters from resident pets for at least 10-14 days.
- Vaccinate resident pets.
- Practice Hygiene: Wash hands, clean surfaces, and avoid sharing pet supplies.
- Use Preventatives: Treat for fleas, ticks, and worms as recommended.

What are infectious diseases and what are zoonotic diseases?

Infectious diseases in the shelter can spread from animal to animal

Zoonotic diseases can spread from animal to animal as well, **but can ALSO spread to humans**

Common Zoonotic Diseases and Parasites

Ear Mites

Species: Dogs and Cats- *possible, but highly unlikely for humans to catch*

What it is: Tiny external parasites (*Otodectes cynotis*) that live in the ear canal and feed on skin debris.

Signs: Scratching at ears, head shaking, dark crumbly ear discharge (resembles coffee grounds), ear redness.

Impact: Can cause severe itching, ear infections, and scabbing around the head and neck. Very contagious between animals.

Prevention/Treatment: Topical medications such as *Tresaderm*, *Selarid*, or *Revolution* are commonly used. Clean ears before treatment and treat all in-contact animals to prevent reinfestation.



Special Note: In shelters, cats with ear mites often receive *Tresaderm* ear drops, which also help with secondary infections and inflammation.

Lice

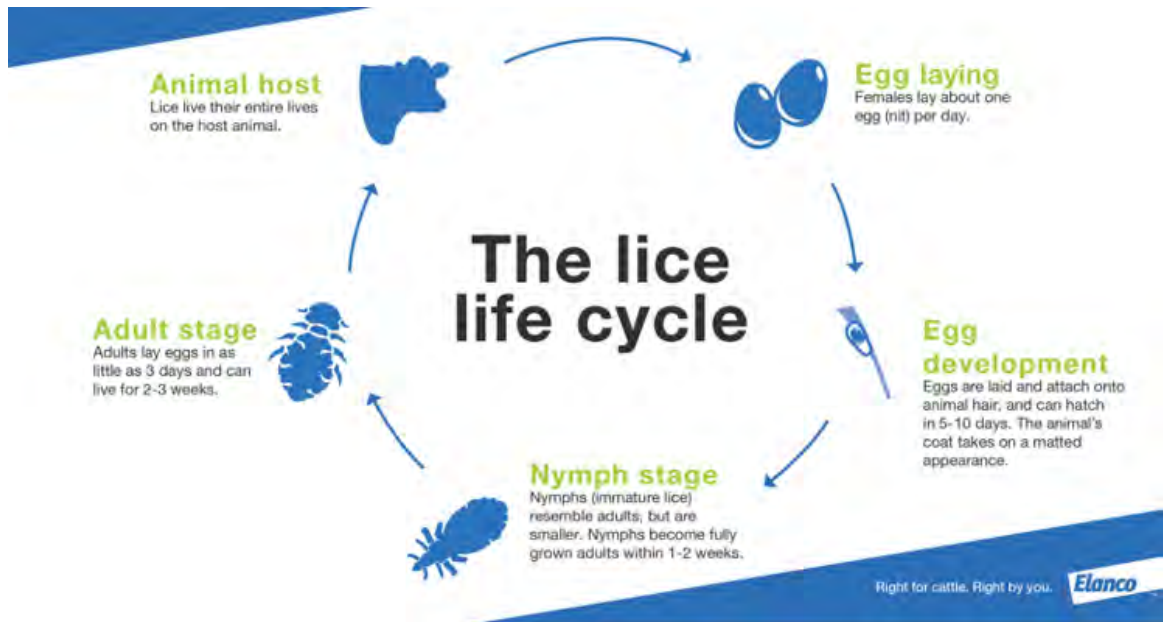
Species: **Dogs and Cats** (species-specific; not zoonotic)

What it is: Small, wingless insects that live on the animal's coat, feeding on skin debris or blood.

Signs: Itching, dull or scruffy coat, hair loss, visible tiny white eggs (nits) on hair shafts.

Impact: Causes discomfort and can lead to skin infections; spread by close contact but not to humans.

Prevention/Treatment: Topical flea preventatives such as Selarid or Provecta eliminate lice. Bedding and grooming tools must be cleaned or replaced.



Fleas

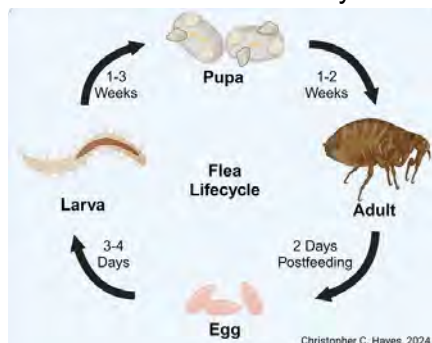
Species: Dogs and Cats; fleas can bite humans but humans are not their preferred host

What it is: Small, jumping external parasites (most commonly *Ctenocephalides felis*) that feed on blood and lay eggs in the environment.

Signs: Scratching, biting at skin, hair loss, “flea dirt” (black specks of digested blood), visible fleas, pale gums in severe infestations (especially puppies/kittens).

Impact: Causes itching, skin irritation, and can lead to flea allergy dermatitis. Heavy infestations can cause anemia in young or sick animals. Fleas can also transmit tapeworms.

Prevention/Treatment: Topical or oral preventatives such as Selarid, Provecta, or Capstar (for quick kill). Treat all animals in the household and clean bedding, floors, and soft surfaces since most of the flea life cycle occurs in the environment.



Ringworm

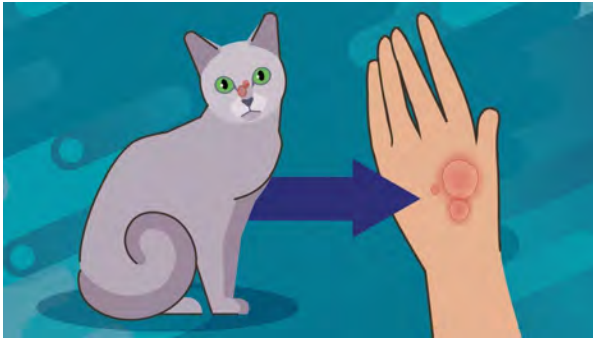
Species: Dogs and Cats; Humans can catch from contact with spores

What it is: A fungal infection of the skin, **not an actual worm**.

Signs: Circular hair loss, scaly skin, sometimes itchy patches.

Impact: Zoonotic (can spread to humans); slow to treat but not life-threatening.

Prevention/Treatment: Lime sulfur dips, oral antifungals, and cleaning contaminated areas.



Roundworms

Species: Dogs and Cats; Humans can catch most commonly by accidentally ingesting microscopic eggs found in contaminated soil, food, or water. Infections also occur from contact with the feces of infected animals and accidental ingestion after contact

What it is: Intestinal worms transmitted via feces or nursing mothers.

Signs: Pot-bellied appearance, diarrhea, visible worms in stool.

Impact: Can cause poor growth and intestinal blockage; zoonotic.

Prevention/Treatment: Routine deworming with medications like pyrantel.

Hookworms

Species: Dogs and Cats; Certain species of hookworms that primarily infect animals like dogs and cats can cause infections in humans. In this case, they typically migrate in the skin, causing a rash called "ground itch" or cutaneous larva migrans (CLM)

What it is: Blood-feeding intestinal worms.

Signs: Pale gums, weakness, diarrhea, weight loss.

Impact: Can cause anemia, especially in young animals.

Prevention/Treatment: Dewormers like fenbendazole or pyrantel; maintain clean environments.

Tapeworms

Species: Dogs and Cats; Humans can get it by ingesting contaminated food, water, or things from surfaces with tapeworm eggs

What it is: Flat intestinal worms transmitted by fleas or eating infected prey.

Signs: Worm segments near anus or in stool, mild digestive upset.

Impact: Usually mild but indicate a flea problem.

Prevention/Treatment: Dewormers like praziquantel and strict flea control.

Coccidia

Species: Dogs and Cats; Human coccidiosis is caused primarily by *Toxoplasma gondii*, which often is transmitted to humans by infected cats or dogs and results in an illness known as toxoplasmosis. Infection, however, only occasionally causes a flu-like illness; exceptions are immunocompromised individuals, who may experience severe illness, and pregnant

women, in whom congenital toxoplasmosis may affect the developing fetus. In addition to cats and dogs, certain fishes, amphibians, and reptiles also harbor *Toxoplasma*. Infection in humans typically is by ingestion of *T. gondii* oocysts.

What it is: Microscopic intestinal parasites.

Signs: Loose stool or diarrhea, especially in young animals.

Impact: Can cause dehydration and weight loss in severe cases.

Prevention/Treatment: Treated with ponazuril; maintain good sanitation.

Giardia

Species: Dogs and Cats; Animals and humans both get giardiasis, and they can both pass it on to others through their poop. The *Giardia* cyst lives within microscopic traces of poop within your environment that are too small to see. These traces can linger on surfaces, in bodies of water and on people's hands if they don't wash them well enough after using the bathroom. They can also transfer to people's food and drinking water. *Giardia* infection happens when you accidentally ingest the microscopic parasite during the cyst stage of its life cycle. The *Giardia* cyst is sort of like an egg that can survive in the wild until it finds a body (host) to hatch in. After you swallow it, the cyst settles and "hatches" in your small intestine. The parasite feeds off your nutrients and multiplies. After this, it changes back into a cyst and passes out in your poop.

What it is: Protozoan parasite causing intestinal upset.

Signs: Soft or greasy stool, sometimes with mucus, weight loss.

Impact: Zoonotic potential; can be stubborn to eliminate.

Prevention/Treatment: Metronidazole or fenbendazole; frequent bathing and cleaning help prevent reinfection.

Understanding these risks allows fosters to protect both their resident pets and themselves able to use the services of local 24-hour veterinary emergency clinics.

Sanitation Guidelines for Healthy and Sick Animals

Maintaining a clean environment protects both animals and people from disease. The following guidelines outline best practices for sanitation in foster homes.

1. General Sanitation Principles (All Homes)

- **Wash hands** before and after handling any animal, food, litter, bedding, or waste.
- **Clean daily** and **disinfect regularly** using pet-safe disinfectants following label instructions.
- **Use separate supplies** for each foster group whenever possible (bowls, litter boxes, brushes, toys).
- **Prevent cross-contamination:**
 - Do not share cleaning cloths, mops, or scoops between spaces housing different animals.
 - Perform tasks for healthy animals *before* tasks for sick or quarantined animals.
 - **Store cleaning chemicals** locked away from animals and children.
 - **Maintain good ventilation** in animal areas to reduce airborne pathogens.

2. Sanitation for Healthy Animals

Daily Tasks

- Clean bowls, fresh water, and replace food dishes.
- Spot-clean litter boxes and outdoor potty areas.
- Remove visible dirt, hair, and debris from floors, crates, and bedding areas.
- Launder bedding at least once per week or when soiled.
- Rinse toys and allow them to fully dry.

Weekly/As Needed

- Disinfect bowls, litter boxes, crates, and carriers.
- Deep-clean floors and high-touch surfaces (doorknobs, gates, pen latches).

- Wash blankets, bedding, pet clothing, and soft toys with hot water.

Best Practices

- Keep animals' living areas dry to prevent mold, bacterial growth, and odors.
- Immediately clean up urine, feces, or vomit using an enzymatic cleaner followed by disinfectant.

3. Sanitation for Sick, Exposed, or Quarantined Animals

Animals with contagious conditions (respiratory illness, parasites, GI issues, ringworm, etc.) require stricter sanitation. Follow your rescue's disease-specific instructions when provided.

Isolation Setup

- House sick animals in a **separate room** with a door. Use separate supplies: bowls, toys, litter boxes, cleaning tools, bedding.
- Keep laundry from sick animals washed **separately** from household items.
- Limit traffic in and out of the room to essential caretakers only.

Enhanced Daily Cleaning

- Wear protective gear as needed (gloves, gown, washable clothing).
- Clean and disinfect all surfaces daily, including door handles and light switches.
- Scoop litter boxes or clean potty pads last to avoid contaminating other items.
- Remove waste in sealed bags and take directly outside.
- Change bedding daily if dealing with diarrhea, vomiting, or respiratory discharge.

Disinfection

- Use a vet-approved disinfectant effective against the relevant pathogens (e.g., parvovirus, panleukopenia, ringworm).

- Follow proper **contact time** (the amount of time the surface must remain wet to kill pathogens).
- Disinfect:
 - Floors
 - Crates/carriers
 - Litter boxes
 - Food/water bowls
 - Door frames/handles
 - High-touch surfaces
- Allow surfaces to fully dry before animals reenter the space.

Handling Sick Animals

- Care for healthy animals **first**, then sick animals.
- Change clothing or wash exposed skin after handling, if necessary.
- Do not allow sick animals to roam common areas.
- If a zoonotic disease (transmissible to humans) is suspected, follow coordinator instructions immediately.

Waste Management

- Pick up feces promptly—indoors and outdoors.
- Use disposable gloves when cleaning vomit, diarrhea, or blood.
- Dispose of waste in tied bags and place in outdoor bins.
- Clean and disinfect the area after waste removal.
- For litter boxes:

- Scoop at least once daily.
- Fully dump, wash, and disinfect weekly (or more often for sick cats).

5. Laundry Guidelines

- Wash animal bedding, towels, and soft toys in **hot water** with detergent.
- Add a disinfectant or bleach (if safe for materials) for sick-animal laundry.
- Dry items thoroughly at high heat.
- Do not mix laundry from sick and healthy animals.
- Use washable, easily sanitized materials whenever possible.

6. Personal Hygiene & Household Precautions

- Keep food preparation areas separate from animal cleaning areas.
- Wash hands thoroughly after any cleaning tasks or animal contact.
- Keep young children, elderly individuals, and immunocompromised people away from sick animals.
- Do not share personal items (blankets, clothing, beds) with animals in quarantine.

Fostering animals is rewarding, but it's important to be aware of common diseases that can affect foster animals and pose risks to resident pets or humans. Any sick animal that is contagious must be separated from the resident animal.

[Adoptions - Medical Handouts - All Documents](#)

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

Contact the Foster Care Management Team immediately if you suspect your foster animal is having a veterinary emergency.

If your emergency is during Bideawee hours of operation, you will be instructed to come to Bideawee's Animal Hospital. If you have an emergency medical concern outside of BAW's hours of operation, call the emergency phone number provided on the Emergency Contacts portion of this manual, so they can offer advice for temporary care or instruct you to go to an emergency hospital. Bideawee will cover the cost of the emergency visit. If you cannot get ahold of anyone after calling the number, and it is a true emergency you should bring your foster to one of the emergency hospitals on the list in this Foster Manual.

Below are examples of emergencies and non-emergencies. Please note that if you bring an animal to an emergency hospital without Bideawee's prior knowledge for a NON-emergency, Bideawee WILL NOT cover the expense.

Emergencies Situations: Contact Foster Care Management Team Immediately:

- Failure to eat or drink for more than 24 hours
- Show signs of severe lethargy or behaving uncharacteristically
- Gasping for air
- Erratic breathing
- Accidental injury
- Unable to stand or walk
- **Seizures**

A seizure is any sudden and uncontrolled movement of the animal's body caused by abnormal brain activity. Seizures can range from very mild to quite severe. Some of the signs of a seizure can include collapse, involuntary movement also known as a convulsion(the body moving in an exaggerated way while animal is on its side or upright)The pet may urinate or defecate. There is often a period of confusion and a dazed appearance following a seizure.

What to do:

Stay calm. Keep noise at a minimum. Turn off the tv or music, lowering or turning off bright lights can help. Any loud noise or activity can make the seizures worse. Stay beside the pet and prevent them from hitting their head. Do not reach in their mouth- animals are not in danger of swallowing their tongue and you may be bitten.

IF SEIZURE ACTIVITY LASTS LONGER THAN 3-5 MINUTES IT CAN CAUSE SEVERE SIDE EFFECTS.SEEK EMERGENCY CARE IF THE SEIZURES PERSIST.

After a seizure, the pet is normally confused or dazed, sit with them and speak calmly. After they are fully awake, they can be offered food and water.

Non-Emergencies: Contact the Foster Care Management Team During Normal Business Hours:

- Diarrhea when the animal is first brought home even if there is some blood in it
- One-time vomiting
- Sneezing or coughing
- Scratching
- Not eating or drinking in the first 12 hours.

Poisonous/ Toxic Materials:

If you think your pet may have eaten a potentially poisonous substance, contact the Foster Team immediately or call: Animal Poison Control Center 888-426-4435 Call for expert toxicology advice. A consultation fee may apply. This is not a complete list- if you are concerned your pet may have eaten something dangerous, contact the Foster Team right away:

Chocolate

Xylitol (often found in sugar-free gum)

Macadamia nuts

Grapes and raisins

Onions

Garlic

Alcohol

Caffeinated drinks

Raw yeast dough

Raw or undercooked meat

Paint

Glue

Cleaning Chemicals

Rodenticides, Insecticides

Products designed to kill rodents are particularly dangerous to pets, who may be tempted to eat the tasty bricks, granules, or pellets left out for mice and rats. Rodenticides kill rodents by causing internal bleeding, high calcium levels, brain swelling, or toxic gas production. Never put rat bait out where your pet can find it and keep your pet confined to your yard to prevent him from eating your neighbors' rodenticides. Ant baits, bug sprays, and foggers can be poisonous to your pet. Read labels to ensure proper use of these products and prevent pets from exposure during and after use. Store all insecticides on high shelves out of a pet's reach.

Plants toxic to pets

Plants found in flower beds, vegetable gardens, and indoor planters and arrangements can be toxic to pets. Cats, who particularly like to munch on greenery, are sensitive to many plant types, but dogs also can be at risk. A complete list of toxic and nontoxic plants can be found on ASPCA's website, but the most common toxic plants include:

Autumn crocus

Azalea

Cyclamen

Daffodils

Dieffenbachia

Hyacinth

Kalanchoe

Lily of the valley

Lilies

Oleander

Sago palm

Tulips

EMERGENCY CONTACTS & HOSPITALS

Please contact the Foster Management team with any concerns or questions. Included below is

a list of emergency contact information.

Foster Program Management Team: Contact first with all questions/concerns:

fostercare@bideawee.org

Foster Phone Number: Fosters can text and call. Please use this number for emergencies. *We can only respond to EMERGENCIES after business hours* 347-474-9114

Medical team contacts (can be cc'd on emergency emails):

Leticia Lopez - Manhattan - leticia.lopez@bideawee.org

Amy Steares - Westhampton - amy.steaes@bideawee.org

Laura Rosa - Wantagh - laura.rosa@bideawee.org

EMERGENCY HOSPITALS:

If your emergency is during Bideawee hours of operation, you will be instructed to come to Bideawee's Animal Hospital. If you have an emergency medical concern outside of BAW's hours of operation, call the emergency phone number provided on the Emergency Contacts portion of this manual, so we can offer advice for temporary care or instruct you to go to an emergency hospital. Bideawee will cover the cost of the emergency visit. If you cannot get ahold of anyone after calling the number, and it is a true emergency you should bring your foster to one of the emergency hospitals on following list. You will alert the staff that you have a Bideawee foster pet and that billing should go on Bideawee's account.

Please Note:

The Animal Clinics listed below are not affiliated with Bideawee nor are we recommending that you use them for your personal pets. We are, however, asking that if you are fostering a Bideawee animal and one of your fosters has a medical emergency after Bideawee has closed please contact one of the above clinics closest to your residence for medical assistance. This service is only applicable if you believe your Bideawee foster is in a life-threatening situation. Please try and contact the Bideawee Foster Care Management Team first so that we can guide you in critical situations.

24 HOUR ANIMAL HOSPITALS & CLINICS – EMERGENCY ONLY

Manhattan:

Schwarzman Animal Medical Center (AMC)

Manhattan: 510 East 62nd St

212-838-7053

Blue Pearl

Manhattan: 410 West 55th St

212-767-0099

Brooklyn:

Veterinary Emergency & Referral Group (VERG)

Brooklyn: 196 4th Ave

718-522-9400

Blue Pearl

Brooklyn: 718-596-0099

Animal Kind Veterinary Hospital

Brooklyn: 365 7th Ave

718-832-3899

Queens:

Elmhurst Animal Emergency Hospital

Queens: 87-06 Queens Blvd

718-426-4444

Blue Pearl

Queens: 107-28 71st Road

718-263-0099

Staten Island:

Veterinary Emergency Center *NOT 24 hours

Staten Island: 1293 Clove Road

718-720-4211

Yonkers:

Animal Specialty Center

Yonkers: 9 Odell Plaza 914-457-4000

Long Island

Plainview:

Long Island Veterinarian Specialists

167 South Service Road

516-501-1700

Riverhead:

East End Veterinary Emergency & Specialty

Center

67 Commerce Drive

631-369-4513

Bohemia:

Atlantic Coast Veterinary Specialists

3250 Veterans Memorial Hwy

631-285-7780

West Islip:

VMCLI

75 Sunrise Hwy North Service Rd

631-587-0800

Commack:

Veterinary Emergency Group

6240 Jericho Turnpike

631-462-6044

FOSTER RECEIPT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Bideawee typically cannot reimburse fosters because we provide supplies, but there are instances where our team will approve reimbursement (ex- picking up a special medication for a foster pet, purchasing a special food or chicken if we ask you to try that for your foster pet, etc).

Reimbursement requests are considered on a case by case basis.

If approved:

1. For every receipt, please be sure to indicate your first and last name & the animal's name on the back of the receipt.
2. (Supply purchases require prior authorization from Foster Manager)

For supply purchases, please be sure to include an itemized receipt along with any other proof of purchase, such as a credit card receipt.

3. Please submit receipts in a timely manner within one month of a purchase, etc. or it cannot be reimbursed. Receipts can be photographed and emailed in to make it easier for you to have a copy of your own. Please note it will take 2 to 3 weeks to receive your check once your receipt has been approved for reimbursement. (Please keep a copy of the receipt for your personal records.)

4. And finally, if you have moved to a new address, please inform the Foster Team as soon as possible so that your information is updated into our database.

Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation while providing care for animals in need.

FOSPICE CARE

A very important extension of the Foster Care Program is what we like to call Fospice Care. This is part foster, part hospice. The Bideawee Adoption Center sometimes receives animals who are not medically healthy enough for adoption, but still have the right to live out their golden years in a loving home with proper medical care and treatment. For these pets Bideawee supports their enjoying life until it's time they cross the rainbow bridge. Bideawee provides all supplies, medical care, and makes all medical decisions in the interest of the quality of life of the fospice animal.

Which Animals Qualify for Fospice Care?

Elderly Cats and Dogs

- Arthritis
- Chronic Skeletal Condition
- Chronic Muscle Condition

Terminally Ill Cats and Dogs

- Cancer
- Heart Failure
- Kidney Disease

Each and every animal that has been identified as needing Fospice Care has been examined by a DVM. It has been determined that the pet is not in any pain and its quality of life is stable and good. Each individual Fospice Care case will have its entire medical care tailored to support, treat and care for its individual needs

Animal Cruelty

Unfortunately, people who work with animals will likely come across a case of an animal who has been treated cruelty at a point in their lives. It is extremely important to understand what animal cruelty is, what it looks like, and how to report it should you come across it.

[youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=F5CYKZaTfpo&embeds_referring_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.fillout.com%2F&embeds_referring_origin=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.fillout.com&source_ve_path=Mjq2NjY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=F5CYKZaTfpo&embeds_referring_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.fillout.com%2F&embeds_referring_origin=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.fillout.com&source_ve_path=Mjq2NjY)

By signing this, I confirm that I have read and watched the videos outlined here and understand the information provided and what is required of me as a volunteer.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____