



## **Cat Foster Parent Guidelines**

Thank you for opening your heart and home to a homeless cat or kitten! You are changing the world one cat at a time. We hope you enjoy your foster experience.

Please read these guidelines carefully and keep for future reference.

### **What You Can Expect From**

#### **Us:**

We will assign you a Foster Coordinator.

Ask your Foster Coordinator any and all questions you may have. Don't be shy! Your Foster Coordinator will communicate with you regularly to get updates and photos of your foster cat. They can help teach you how to give medications, if applicable.

In addition to personal support, your Foster Coordinator will supply you with:

- Litter Box
- Litter
- Cat Food
- Food Dishes
- Bedding
- Toys
- Scratching Post

If you would like to supply these items on your own, that is always appreciated. Ask us for recommendations on food and litter before you purchase, because we want all of our cats to be on the same food and litter. Contact your Foster Coordinator when you need more supplies.

Note: Expenses related to fostering a cat may be tax deductible.

### **What We Expect From You:**

- Respond to your Foster Coordinator in a timely manner.
- Let us know right away if you are not available to foster for any reason. This includes any future travel plans.
- Transport your foster cat (e.g. to vet visits).
- Show your cat to potential adopters, if applicable. Adopter visits will be conducted via video chat, not at your home, to maintain social distancing.
- Keep your foster cat indoors at all times.



- Notify us if your foster cat goes missing or has health or behavior issues.
- Administer medication if necessary.
- Socialize your foster cat to help prepare them for their forever home.
- All foster cats should be quarantined from other animals in your house for 2 weeks, because there is a 10-14 day incubation period for diseases.
- Provide your foster cat with loving care.
- Provide your foster cat with clean water daily.
- Feed your foster cat twice daily, and make sure they are eating.

### **General Foster Guidance**

- Start your foster cat in a quiet room with food, water, a bed, and a litter box.
- Pre-check this room for holes and cracks that lead to cat-sized crawl spaces.
- Expect to let your new foster acclimate in this designated room for 2 weeks.
- Help your foster cat cope when people are visiting.
- Never leave small children unattended with a foster pet.
- Keep all medications and chemicals out of reach of your foster cat.
- Only approved Dancing Cat volunteers may remove your cat from your home.

### **Socializing**

Patience and compassion are key with a shy cat. Here are a few tips:

- Cats have very sensitive hearing. Loud noises terrify shy cats.
- Talk to your cat in a soothing voice. Keep the pitch and volume of your voice low,  
tell the cat what you're going to do, and use the cat's name often.
- Use food to make friends and influence a shy cat.
- Allow a shy cat to approach you. Hold your hand out in a relaxed position, palm down, and allow your cat to determine how close to get.
- Use a calming pheromone. We often use and can provide Feliway.
- Conclude interactions on a high note, with something your cat previously enjoyed.
- Never let your foster cat play with fingers or hands.



## **Health Monitoring:**

There is no such thing as too much communication when it comes to the health of our cats. Contact your Foster Coordinator immediately if you have concerns.

## **Emergency Symptoms to Watch for:**

- Extreme lethargy
- Swollen or broken limbs
- Streaming diarrhea
- Stool that is white, light yellow, dark black, mucousy, or has blood in it
- Excessive vomiting, vomiting blood, vomiting green or yellow bile
- Difficulty breathing or very shallow rapid breathing
- If you have reason to believe your foster cat has ingested something toxic
- Extreme dehydration: Dry, tacky gums. Skin at the nape of the cat's neck that remains tented for 5 seconds when pinched

## **Non-emergencies to watch for:**

- Cats who are not eating
- Lethargy
- Congestion or sneezing
- Coughing or wheezing
- Limping
- Peeing or pooping outside of the litter box
- Eyes that are red, inflamed, weepy, or have yellow discharge
- Vomiting undigested food with no other symptoms, and vomiting does not recur

## **Vet Visits:**

- You will not be required to cover any medical expenses.
- We ask that you transport your foster cat to and from vet visits.
- Do not approve particular treatments. Direct the vet office to:  
Jennifer Kaufman (669)221-0209 or Ann Chasson (650) 906-4876
- Scan and email any paperwork you receive to your Foster Coordinator
- Tell us if you are uncomfortable giving medications your cat is prescribed



### **Social Media:**

- Do not advertise any foster pet as being for sale on social media.
- Feel free to repost The Dancing Cat's media posts.
- Update us on your cat often. One update per week, minimum.
- Tell us about your cat's personality quirks and favorite pastimes.
- Take lots of photos! High-quality photos are important for our marketing efforts.
- Email your updates, photos, and videos to your Foster Coordinator.

### **Potential Adopters**

- If someone contacts you about adopting your foster cat: direct inquiries to [adoptions@thedancingcat.org](mailto:adoptions@thedancingcat.org)
- A Dancing Cat Volunteer may contact you to arrange a video chat meet-and-greet between you and your foster cat, another TDC volunteer, and a potential adopter.
- To maintain social distancing, you will not be asked to host potential adopters in your home at this time.
- Adopters are excited! Schedule these meetings as soon as possible.
- Dancing Cat adoption coordinators will ask for your input on adoptions. They have the final say, and are considering all applications; please don't promise potential adopters a guaranteed "yes."
- It is possible for you to deliver your foster to their new home, if you would like to.

If you are interested in adopting your foster cat, please contact your Foster Coordinator to discuss! We lovingly refer to these situations as "foster failures."

# Thank you for all you do!