

## ***BECOMING A Saint Francis Animal Welfare Group FOSTER HOME***

***If you would be interested in fostering an animal, please read on.***

SFAWG(Saint Francis Animal Welfare Group) places cats/kittens in foster homes until space becomes available at PetsMart. Dogs remain in foster homes until a forever home can be found for them. Our expectation of a foster home is that it provides adequate care to the animals it fosters. Dogs require fencing and cats must be confined indoors during their stay. SFAWG will provide necessary food, veterinary care, and in the case of cats/kittens, litter. **All animals being fostered remain the property of SFAWG; any adoptions of fostered animals must go through us.** Fostering requires the type of person who can take home a needy animal to care for, bond with, and then return to SFAWG.

All foster parents **must**:

- Fill out an application;
- Initial and sign a contract;
- Be willing to have a home inspection;
- Prove that owned pets are sterilized, vaccinated, and well cared for;
- Be willing to transport to veterinary appointments and adoption locations.

### **WAYS TO BECOME A SUCCESSFUL FOSTER PARENT**

**Give your foster animal lots of attention and affection.** The animal may have lived a difficult life before coming to your home; your love and attention will help to heal the animal's physical and psychological wounds.

**Learn as much as you can about pet care.** Before you bring your foster animal home, learn as much as you can about caring for that animal. Read about feeding, grooming and training. Study the warning signs that may indicate the animal needs veterinary attention. SFAWG can provide guidelines for these warning signs. Ask for a foster manual.

**Make your home pet friendly.** Before you bring your foster animal home, make sure you "pet proof" your home. For example, remove poisonous plants and protect furnishings. Keep the animal's room warm and comfortable. Also, take steps to prevent the animal from escaping.

**Keep your pets up-to-date on their vaccinations.** All animals should be current on the vaccinations that protect them from diseases. Before you bring home a foster animal, consult with your veterinarian to make sure your own animals have received the preventive treatment they need.

**Keep foster animals away from your own pets.** At least upon arrival, even though your pets are vaccinated against many diseases, it's a good idea to keep the foster animal away from your pets as an added precaution, if it is possible.

**Recognize your limits.** Fostering requires a great deal of time and energy - both emotional and physical. Don't over extend yourself by fostering animals too frequently; you may burn yourself out.

**Remember the foster animal belongs to SFAWG.** If you decide to adopt an animal that you foster, you must go through SFAWG's normal adoption process. If a friend or relative wants to adopt the animal you are fostering, that person must go through SFAWG's adoption process - not yours.

**Enjoy being a foster parent.** Although fostering takes a great deal of time and commitment, it can be an incredibly rewarding experience. You are temporarily providing a needy animal with a loving home environment and helping that animal become more suitable for adoption into a responsible, forever home.

**Letting your foster go.** Will you be emotionally prepared to let your foster animal go? For some, this is the hardest thing to do. It's easy to become very attached to your foster animal. The first few times, letting go can be emotionally draining, but it does get easier. Just remember these animals are much more likely to find a loving, forever home because of your efforts.

**IF YOU FEEL YOU ARE READY TO BECOME A FOSTER PARENT,  
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING FOSTER PARENT  
APPLICATION.**

# FOSTER PARENT APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers:    Home: \_\_\_\_\_  
                                  Work: \_\_\_\_\_  
                                  Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
                                  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
                                  Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us about you and the animals, if any, currently living with you:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have children? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, what ages? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What animals are you interested in fostering? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What kind of facilities do you have in which to foster? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Could you foster very young, bottle feeding puppies/kittens? \_\_\_\_\_

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What is your experience (if any) in fostering in the past? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why do you want to become a SFAWG foster?

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