

FLOYD COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY (FCHS)
P.O. Box 862
Floyd, VA. 24091

FOSTER CARE PROVIDER APPLICATION and GUIDELINES

Foster Care Application

The foster care provider must fill out a foster care application and be approved by the Foster Committee after a standard reference check that includes, but is not limited to the applicant's current veterinarian, and a home inspection. After approval, a Foster Provider Contract is to be signed by the foster care applicant and a **FCHS** Foster Committee member. The foster care application and contract must be renewed every two years, beginning January 1, 2009.. A foster care provider should try to attend at least one meeting of the **FCHS** per quarter (four meetings per year) in order to stay current on events.

Limitations on Number of Foster Animals

There will be no more than four foster dogs at any given time in a foster home. Exceptions may be litters of puppies, or when more than two animals have been removed from a home together due to the owner's illness, death, or other circumstances. Foster dogs will be dogs rescued from a municipal pound or owner surrendered. At present our organization is limited to fostering cats and dogs. The Foster Committee will evaluate large animals, farm animals, birds and exotics on an individual basis.

Selection of Foster Animals

The selection of a foster care dog is left to the discretion of the pound liaison or of a Foster Committee member, and must be acceptable to the foster care provider. An owner surrendered dog may be accepted with the approval of the Foster Committee. If puppies are owner surrendered, it is usually on the condition that the owner agrees to spay the mother dog. The selection of a foster care cat or kitten must be approved by the Foster Cat liaison or another member of the Foster Committee. No obviously ill or injured animal should be accepted into foster care. If an animal has a history of aggression, or during fostering becomes aggressive toward people or other animals, it will be assessed by other members of the **FCHS** before being deemed not adoptable. The Foster Committee will then decide the animal's future and take full financial responsibility for their actions, including euthanasia costs. The foster care provider is required to disclose all behavioral issues with potential adopters.

Medical Expenses Covered by the Floyd County Humane Society

The foster animal will receive basic medical care at the expense of the **FCHS**. The basic care expenses are as follows:

- ◆ **Cats:** feline leukemia/FIV test; rabies vaccine; distemper combo vaccine
- ◆ **Kittens:** feline leukemia test; all vaccines listed when age appropriate
[Note: any cat or kitten testing positive for feline leukemia will not be accepted into foster care]
- ◆ **Dogs:** rabies; distemper combo (parvo, corona, leptos) vaccine; bordetella vaccine; heartworm test; heartworm preventative; deworming treatment (strongid and/or panacur)

- ◆ **Puppies:** age appropriate vaccines; deworming treatment
[Note: any dog or puppy testing positive for heartworms or parvo will not be accepted into foster care]

All animals will be spayed or neutered when age appropriate. All animals will receive treatment of internal and external parasites. Treatment of any medical problems detected during an exam or injuries incurred while in foster care, for amounts up to \$75, will be decided by the Foster Committee. Amounts in excess of \$150 will be voted on by membership.

Time Limits of Foster Animals for Financial Support

There will be no limit on the amount of time a foster animal is funded by the **FCHS**, however the foster care provider must make the animal available for all adoption events. The foster care provider is also responsible for keeping and updating the medical records, keeping an updated picture and information on the website, and publicizing the animal's availability. Any expenses during foster care that exceed routine care will be at the discretion of the Foster Committee, and if they exceed \$150, at the discretion of membership.

Quarantine Time for Foster Animals

Newly acquired foster animals should be kept in isolation from other animals for a period of 10 to 14 days. After the appropriate period of isolation has expired, the foster animal is to be integrated into the foster family and socialized with family members.

Required Information on Foster Care Provider's Personal Animals

Pets presently living at foster care provider's house with medical or behavioral conditions that may interfere with fostering, such as a transmittable disease or aggression, must be made known to Foster Committee prior to placement of a foster animal. Failure to disclose this information may result in termination of the foster care contract.

Placement of Foster Animals

The foster care provider, with the approval of the Foster Committee, is responsible for placement of the foster animal. This includes following up on references, contacting a current veterinarian, performing a home check (for dogs) and periodic rechecks. An applicant who is renting his/her home must have the approval of the landlord in writing, before adopting an animal. A student wishing to adopt an animal must have approval of a family member who will assume responsibility for the animal if the student can no longer keep the animal. The foster care provider may take the animal back from its new home if the Foster Committee deems the animal's new living situation unacceptable. The animal will then go back into a foster situation for assessment unless the animal is deemed not adoptable because of aggression, or destructive or behavioral problems.

Advertisement of Foster Animals

Advertisement and promotion of the foster animal will be shared between the Foster Committee and the foster care provider. Animals will be listed on the **FCHS** website and the foster care provider will be notified and required to make the animal available for appropriate society events, including, but not limited to PetSmart adoption days. Cats being housed at PetSmart should not stay there for longer than two and one-half weeks,

and if a cat seems particularly stressed by being there, the cat should be pulled immediately.

The following are the steps taken in pulling a dog from the Floyd Pound

- Foster volunteer takes pictures of dogs at Floyd County Pound
- Foster volunteer determines whether dog is adoptable, then gathers information on the dog (breed, sex, age, and euthanasia or release date). No obviously ill animal will be taken into foster care. An injured dog will be considered on a case by case basis. The dog is pulled from the pound.
- For dog/puppy ready for foster care, give Capstar for fleas and leave the animal in a carrier or kennel for 90 minutes. Take to foster care provider, and put Frontline Flea and Tick on dog/puppy as soon as possible.
- Foster care provider begins an "Animal Intake and Tracking Sheet" on the dog/puppy and contacts records coordinator* for input into **FCHS** records. For **FCHS** records, the records coordinator will require the date the dog was pulled from the pound, dog breed, coloring, sex, age, weight, and name if chosen. The records coordinator will begin an Animal Custody Record and provide the foster care provider with a sequential case number for the dog/puppy.
- Within 72 hours for puppies, and following the quarantine period for adult dogs, the foster care provider emails pictures and a write-up on the dog to be posted on the **FCHS** webpage, and to the transport coordinator*.
- If puppy is under 4 months of age, begin age appropriate vaccines and deworming treatment.
- If dog/puppy is at least 4 months of age, dog/puppy is taken to vet for rabies vaccine and brief exam. Weigh the dog. Begin age appropriate vaccines and deworming treatment.
- If dog/puppy is at least 7 months of age, a heartworm test is the first test performed at the vet. If the test is positive, the dog is not considered adoptable, and is returned to the pound. If the test is negative, the dog is to receive a rabies vaccine and brief exam. Weigh the dog. Begin age appropriate vaccines and deworming treatment. .
- Foster care provider contacts spay/neuter coordinator within 72 hours to schedule surgery for the dog/puppy. A puppy must be over 2 months of age and weigh more than 2 pounds for spay/neuter.
- After the ten to fourteen day quarantine, the dog/puppy is ready for adoption or transport.

A summary of foster care for a dog/puppy:

- In the first week the dog/puppy gets Capstar for fleas; receives Frontline Flea and Tick treatment; begins age appropriate vaccines and deworming treatment; goes to vet for rabies vaccine if at least 4 months of age, and receives brief exam; goes to vet for heartworm test if at least 7 months of age, and receives brief exam; is scheduled for spay/neuter; receives bordetella vaccine (must be treated for bordetella 5 days prior to attending any adoption event).
- After 10 to 14 days: ready for adoption or transport.

The following are the steps taken in accepting a foster cat

- The selection of a foster care cat or kitten must be approved by the cat foster liaison or another member of the Foster Committee.
- Cat/kitten should be treated for fleas immediately, if necessary.
- Make an appointment to test for Feline Leukemia/FIV as soon as possible.
Exceptions: If a cat has recently been fighting with other cats, it is advisable to wait at least one month before testing for FeLV/FIV because if the cat has just contracted the disease, the test will not be positive right away. Whenever a cat has been bitten by another animal, rabies must be considered as well. A cat with bites should be vaccinated against rabies immediately, and depending on the nature of the wounds, the vet may recommend a quarantine period.
Very young kittens should not be tested. At a minimum of 9 weeks, take one kitten to be tested as a representative of the group of kittens.
- Week 1: treat for parasites – ear mites, intestinal worms, etc. and for infections, such as eye infections.
- Week 2: If cat/kitten is healthy, begin distemper combo vaccinations. These vaccines must be administered 5 days prior to any adoption event.
- Foster care provider contacts cat foster liaison to schedule spay/neuter and rabies vaccine.
- Take photos of cat/kitten to be posted on **FCHS** webpage.

Housing requirements for foster cats:

- Foster cats must be provided with a house of some kind, comfortable bedding, a litterbox of appropriate size cleaned at least once a day, clean water, regular feedings, and appropriate and entertaining toys.
- Cats under quarantine should be kept in such a way that other cats cannot come within 5 feet of them, or come into contact with bedding and/or litter boxes. If housed in cages during quarantine, adult cats must have at least 8 cubic feet of space and kittens must have enough space for bedding, litter boxes, and food dishes. Care should be taken to wash your hands after handling the cats during the quarantine period.
- Cats (not under quarantine) kept in cages must have at least 12 cubic feet per adult cat and an additional 6 cubic feet per roommate. A litter of kittens must have 2.5 cubic feet of space. These are minimum requirements, and cats should be given more room when possible. Younger cats need vertical space for climbing, where older cats may need more floor space.
- Cats that are friendly with each other may be housed together, however aggressive or fearful cats should be housed separately.

A foster care provider agrees to the following:

- Provide strict attention to feeding, grooming, and general care of all animals.
- Maintain high standards of cleanliness and hygiene, including providing adequate shelter.
- Food may be provided by **FCHS**. Speak to a Foster Committee Member on how to acquire food. If the foster care provider needs to buy food, a receipt must be turned into the treasurer for reimbursement.

- Notify **FCHS** of the need for any emergency veterinary attention in excess of \$75 and gain consent to such treatment before it commences. The foster care provider will arrange for transporting the animal as necessary.
- Permit **FCHS** representative to do home visits at mutually convenient times.
- Permit prospective owners to visit the animal at your home if necessary.
- Release any foster animal to **FCHS** or directly to the new owner upon request.
- Report without delay any accident, illness, or escape of a foster animal to **FCHS**.

Penalties for Failing to Adhere to Foster Guidelines

Foster care providers are expected to adhere to the above mentioned guidelines. Failure to do so will cause the animal to be returned to the **FCHS** Foster Committee. If at any time the Foster Committee deems that the animal is in danger, the animal will be returned to the Foster Committee.

I, _____ have read, and fully understand the **FCHS’s Foster Care Provider Guidelines**. I acknowledge that I will follow these guidelines if I accept a foster animal from this organization. If I have any questions or problems, I will contact a member of the **FCHS Foster Committee** for help. I understand that if I do not follow the guidelines that were presented to me, I must reimburse the **FCHS** for all expenses on my foster animal(s) and will no longer be allowed to foster for the **FCHS**.

I realize that I am a volunteer and will receive no compensation for duties performed as a foster parent.

I certify that I have never been accused or convicted of animal cruelty, neglect, or abandonment.

Applicant’s Signature

Date

Witness to Signature

*Ask any **FCHS** officer for the names of the current records keeper and transport coordinator.

FOSTER CARE PROVIDER APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (home/work/cell): _____

Why do you wish to foster?

Do you understand that as a Foster Parent you are a volunteer, and receive no compensation for fostering this (these) animal(s)? Yes _____ No _____

Do you have any pets of your own? Yes _____ No _____
If so, what types of animals do you own?

Does anyone else in your household have any pets? Yes _____ No _____
If so, what types of animals?

Are all pets in your household spayed or neutered? Yes _____ No _____
If no, why not?

What types of animals do you think would fit in well with your home?

Would your foster pets be treated as members of your family? Yes _____ No _____

Do you understand and use crate training for dogs? Yes _____ No _____

How many hours of the day will the animal be on its own? _____ Where will you leave the animal when you are gone?

Are you willing to commit yourself to interviewing potential adopters, evaluating applications, calling references, and making home checks prior to adoption, as well as periodically after the adoption? Yes _____ No _____

Are you capable of teaching housebreaking and basic dog obedience to a foster dog?
Yes _____ No _____

Have you ever been involved in any other humane society or other type of animal rescue organization? Yes _____ No _____ If so, list the name of the organization, the dates you were involved with them, and what your duties were:

Have you ever been charged or convicted of animal cruelty, neglect, or abandonment?
Yes _____ No _____

List three references, other than family members, that we may check (name and phone number):

Are you okay with the **FCHS** inspecting your home prior to approving you as a foster parent?
Yes _____ No _____

The **Floyd County Humane Society (FCHS)** may limit the number of foster animals per foster home as they see fit. Foster animals are not to be placed into a home without approval of the Foster Committee. If at any time an animal is not working out in your home, you may return it to the **FCHS**, but we ask that you contact a member of the Foster Committee prior to doing so. If possible, the **FCHS** will place the animal into a different foster home or find a solution for whatever is occurring within your home, without having to remove the animal. The **Floyd County Humane Society**, its Board of Directors, and all other members or volunteers associated with the organization are not liable for any injuries to you or other persons living or visiting your home, damage to any personal property, or unnecessary veterinarian bills accrued while the animal is within your care.

By signing this document, you are verifying that you have read and agree to the above paragraphs.

Foster Care Provider Applicant

Date

Foster Committee Member

Date

Please send this form to:
Floyd County Humane Society
P.O. Box 862
Floyd, VA 24091

or send as an attached document to: floydhumane@gmail.com

or fax it to: **540-763-2012, attn: Lynn**