



Animal Care Sanctuary

*353 Sanctuary Hill Lane
East Smithfield, PA 18817
570-596-2200*



Foster Program Adult Cat Edition

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Animal Care Sanctuary Thanks You!

Thank you for opening your home and your heart to animals in need. Whether you foster a kitten(s) who needs a safe place to grow, a mama in need of a relaxing and calm place to raise her kittens, or an adult cat who needs a little extra TLC, you make it possible for us to provide the very best care for all our residents at Animal Care Sanctuary (ACS). Your involvement also allows us to have the space to rescue more cats in need of a placement. Fostering can be rewarding, messy, adorable, stinky, and sometimes a heartbreaking job. We certainly could not provide the level of care we do without valuable foster homes like yours and we are here to support you through all of it.

Greetings, Foster Parents!

Thank you for participating in the Animal Care Sanctuary (ACS) Foster Care Program. We appreciate your willingness to open your heart and home to homeless animals. Your dedication allows our organization to rescue animals we would otherwise have to turn away due to limited space in our shelter.

The guiding mission of the Foster Care Program is to give individualized care where needed, to help socialize and build confidence in cats and kittens, and to help prepare animals for adoption.

Specific goals of the program include:

- Providing a safe, healthy, nurturing, environment for cats.
- Socializing shy or timid cats and kittens.
- Giving our long-term or high stress residents time away from the shelter and in a home setting.
- Allowing cats/kittens to recover from injury, trauma, or birth in a relaxing, uplifting environment.

Overview of Key Responsibilities and Policies: To continue establishing a successful foster program, we ask that you follow our general policy guidelines in addition to the contractual expectations throughout the entire foster term. Please keep the following in mind while ensuring the responsibility of each foster home is to provide a safe interim placement for dogs to grow and explore their new environment:

1. Always keep cats inside. The only time a cat should go outside is if they are harness trained and they've been given the green light to explore outside by your adoption's counselor. When the cat is outside, they must always be wearing their harness and connected to a leash that you're holding. Under no circumstance should the cat be outside unsupervised or roaming independently. A secured outdoor enclosure is also okay if the cat is supervised while in the enclosure.
2. Cats should always be in a secure carrier when leaving the house. Please refrain from using cardboard boxes or holding the cat in your arms for transport.
3. Please keep doors/windows closed, unless covered with a screen that is securely in place. If you don't have a screen, the window should be open no more than 1 inch with a support in place so the window cannot be opened any further. A frightened cat can escape through the smallest of openings.
4. Administer any treatments the cat may need during their foster term with you. Please also bring the cat back for exams, vaccines, and treatments as needed. Documentation of administered preventatives & treatments can be submitted through your foster portal in ShelterLuv and any appointments will be communicated with you as soon as they are scheduled.
5. Before bringing a foster into your home, if you have any resident animals, we suggest you first talk with your vet to ensure they are strong, healthy, and up to date on their vaccines. By doing this, you will decrease the chances of your animals and the foster animal(s) potentially coming down with an illness or inducing unnecessary stress. Unfortunately, we cannot provide medical care for your personal pet because of our foster cat and if your vet recommends against you bringing a foster into your home, we strongly suggest adhering to those suggestions.

6. If you need to leave town unexpectedly during your foster term, please contact the Adoptions Counselor at 570-596-2200 ext. 302 or email adoptions@animalcaresanctuary.org/adoption counselor's direct email. We can plan for the cat to either come back to ACS or enter a different foster home while you are away.

ShelterLuv Foster Portal (Fosterluv): You're an official Foster Parent at Animal Care Sanctuary! We've added an attribute to your account on the ShelterLuv database that says, "Willing Foster". You should have received an email from yourfriends@shelterluv.com with the Subject, "Please Set Your Animal Care Sanctuary Foster Profile".

Please click on the "Click Here" and follow the prompts: https://www.shelterluv.com/public_foster_profile/ACSP/

Save the above link for easy access either on your phone or computer. In Fosterluv you can: Provide daily updates, write biographies, complete the animal's scheduled treatments/preventatives, view medical records, upload photos, and update your contact information, plus more!

We would like to receive updates weekly if possible but understand if it isn't. No worries, we can also reach out to you directly as well. Please see below for more information on where you can share photos and videos of your foster animal!

Supplies and Expenses: ACS will provide you with food, toys, crates, and any other supplies you may need to successfully foster. However, we greatly appreciate any help you can provide in supplying items for your foster cat. Below are the essential supplies you will need during your foster term.

- Stainless steel or ceramic bowls – one for food, and at least one for water. All animals should have their very own food bowl. Water bowls can be shared.
- Hill's Science Diet Adult Dry cat food - it is best to keep your foster cat(s) on the same food we feed at the shelter to not cause digestive upset. In addition, if the cat is on a special diet, they must remain on that special diet throughout their stay with you and should be restricted from eating residents' food.
- Litterbox and litter
- Scratching posts or trays, variety is always good
- Harness/leash if the cat is harness trained or if you'd like to harness train the cat
- A bed or blankets
- A crate large enough for the cat to be able to stand up and turn around in
- Treats and toys

ACS covers all medical care expenses for foster cats if performed at ACS on-site veterinary clinic, or at other veterinary clinics approved in advance with records of the visit(s) being submitted to the ACS vet team and staff.

If your foster animal needs to go to the vet, please call our clinic at 570-596-2270 or email your Adoption Counselor at 570-596-2200 ext. 302 or adoptions@animalcaresanctuary.org/direct email. Please note, seeking veterinary care for your foster cat at a clinic other than ACS is not permitted without explicit ACS staff approval.

Items to keep track of

- Food
- Food/water bowls
- Litter
- Litter box
- Toys
- Scratchers/scratch trees

Expenses you incur during your term as foster parent, that are not pre-approved by ACS whether for supplies or medical care, cannot be reimbursed. These expenses, however, may be considered a tax-deductible donation. Keep all receipts to track using the in-kind donation form provided by ACS.

Always consult a tax professional to determine whether your foster expenses are tax-deductible.

Cat Proofing Your Home: Cat-proofing your home is much the same as childproofing it; hiding or removing cords, removing small items that cats can choke on, chew on, etc.... Even if the cat has previously lived in a home, we don't know how they will respond to a new home like yours. Your foster cat will most likely need a "safe room" they can have to themselves for the first week or so upon their arrival. A bathroom is a good example. Wherever the space may be for your foster cat, scan the room and remove access to items the cat may potentially hurt themselves with. Cats love to bat items around, they like to chew, and can squeeze into the tiniest of spaces!

Some Specific Examples of Cat-Proofing Your Home:

- Keep toilet lid closed
- Cover trash cans and place them inside a closet or space the cat can't get to
- Store people and pet food in a place out of the cat's reach
- Ensure all plants are out of reach from the cat, many house plants are toxic to pets
- Keep medications and self-care products in a secure location not accessible by the cat
- Make sure any small animals like hamsters, fish, etc. are out of reach and secure in their enclosures
- Secure cords for cellphones and other electronics, knickknacks, and other valuables from your foster cat. Don't leave buttons, string, toothpicks, or anything small enough for your foster cat to ingest laying around. They may eat these objects and it could be harmful.

Bringing Your Foster Cat Home: According to your application and the conversations we have with you prior to bringing your foster cat home we will work together to select a foster cat that meets your lifestyle and requirements most. You can make an appointment to come and meet some of the potential cats we have in mind. Please remember that there are some cats that are in more of a need of foster than others, and we will most likely give you a selection of those cats. However, essentially, we are open to all cats going into foster homes! If you have a specific cat in mind, we can certainly discuss them as an option.

Most of our animals are being fed a regular Hill's Science Diet kibble. We start cats on adult food when they turn 6 months old and feed them once a day. This will be provided for your foster cat. If the cat requires a special diet, that diet will also be provided for them. The daily feeding amount varies with the weight and metabolism levels of each cat. When you pick your cat(s) up, we will give the specifics on what and how much to feed.

You must provide a clean, safe environment for your foster cat(s). ACS recommends that you always start your cat in a non-carpeted, easy to disinfect room, in the unlikely event that your cat has a contagious illness. If you end up with a contagious illness in a carpeted room, you will either need to remove the carpet or not use that room eliminate the access to that room from other animals depending on the situation.

As mentioned above, your foster cat should first start their stay with you in a "safe room" like a bathroom. This room should be closed off to other animals and should have a door that can close. This room should be quiet and equipped with the cats' litter box, food and water bowls, a comfortable place to sleep, toys, and safe from hazardous items. Some cats are more confident than others and some need a little more time. We recommend at least a week in the safe room, but your foster cat may tell you something different. Cats are good at telling you if they are comfortable or not, however, if you're just not sure, just call!

Socializing Your Foster Cats: First and foremost, we ask that you treat your foster cat(s) with the same love and care that you give to your own companion animals. Daily attention (at least one full hour a day) from you and other family members or friends makes them more people-oriented, and more adoptable. This includes petting, playing, cuddling, grooming, training, enrichment, etc...

By spending time with your foster cat(s) on a regular basis, you will not only increase their chances of being adopted more quickly, but you will also be able to determine their likes and dislikes – this helps us place them in homes with families that best meet their needs. Once your foster cat seems to be comfortable and coming out of their shell, socializing them with the rest of the house, people, and animals may begin!

Please monitor your foster cat(s) for behavioral concerns, such as inappropriate urination or separation anxiety. If problems arise, contact your Adoption Counselor to discuss behavior modification strategies. ACS is not responsible for damage that might occur to yourself, others in your household, or your personal property because of feline behavior problems while in foster care. We can, however, offer support and resources to work through the issues and are happy to do so!

Cat to Cat Introductions: It's important to keep new and resident cats separate at first so they can adjust to the presence of each other in a safe and controlled way. Having your foster cat in their safe room will provide this separation.

As your foster cat begins to feel comfortable in their safe room, swap a couple of items between your resident cats and the foster cat(s). Things like blankets and toys. Offer treats with the items as positive association with the scents from each other. You can also encourage interaction through the door by placing each cat's food on opposite sides of the door. Your resident cat will smell and hear the new cat and vice versa through the door. Give the cats treats near the door so they associate each other's presence with good things.

Once the cats are used to each other's scents, you may allow them to interact in limited and supervised ways. One way could be by keeping the foster cat in their safe room and allowing the other cat to sniff them with the door cracked. You can also let the two cats see each other with the foster cat in a crate and your resident cat out and about. Treats, treats, treats! Keep interactions brief at first and try them out as many times as it takes until you start seeing positive and calm behaviors with both cats. Never force interactions.

When the cats are displaying calm body language, you may allow them to meet without barriers. The first few barrier free interactions, should be supervised. It's also important to ensure the meeting space is safe for all cats and each of them has a place to escape to if they begin to feel uncomfortable.

During the initial meetings, expect some hissing and possible tussling. Hissing is a normal reaction and is a good form of communication between the cats. If tussling happens, break it up, and don't yell at or punish any of the cats for this behavior. It is a normal reaction and should subside over time. If you need to, repeat the above guidelines, and please remember to be patient!

Cat to Dog Introductions: Cats and dogs' body language varies between the two species and can lead to mixed signals between each other. Be prepared to take introductions very slowly. As with introducing the foster cat to your resident cat, keep the foster cat in their safe room upon their arrival to your home with their litter box, food, water, toys, etc. This acclimation time can take 1–2 weeks or more with a dog in the house. Be patient!

Swap an item of the cats with an item of the dogs for each of them to sniff and explore. Don't forget treats! You can also feed your foster cat and dog at the same time with each of them on the other side of a closed door. Anytime your dog shows interest in the foster cats' safe room, call your dog to you and offer them a reward such as a treat. This is good practice for getting your dog's attention while they are aware a new cat is in the home before they see the cat face to face.

Once you see your foster cat become more comfortable in their safe room, it might be time for the cat and dog to meet face to face. However, before your dog lays eyes on the cat, take them on a walk, exercise their brain with a training session, or have them use their nose for some scent work. Play with the cat before they meet the dog as well. This will help expend any energy before they see each other.

With your dog on a leash and preferably sitting, have the cat in their crate and walk your dog casually near the crate. If the crate can be elevated on a table, that's best. Have treats ready for positive reinforcement of good behavior and if your dog starts displaying undesirable behaviors such as pawing, barking, or whining, at the crate, prey like behaviors, or especially aggression, walk your dog away and retry a few hours later or even the next day. Keep swapping items

throughout the day! You'll know it's safe to introduce the dog to the cat without being in their crate, when your dog is able to look away from your cat and respond to you. Your dog should be able to see the cat and remain calm without fixating on them and vice versa.

When you're ready to introduce the cat and dog without a barrier, have your dog on a leash and make sure the cat has the option to hide or climb if they want to. Barrier free introductions need to be done slowly and they should always be supervised. Keep checking in with your dog and getting their attention. There shouldn't be any intense focus from with the dog or cat. Keep the visits short at first and gradually make them longer. Reward both the cat and dog for calm behavior. Call your adoptions counselor if you have any questions or concerns about the introductions.

Cat to Child Introductions: Sometimes we know the cat's history, however often we don't. Regardless, every cat is different, and every child is different. This may be some of our cats' first-time meeting children and we don't know how they will respond. We understand having a new cat in the home is super exciting and children may want to snuggle up right away. You can have your kids sit with the cat in their safe room with you so they can each become acclimated to each other. No one should ever crowd, get in the face of, chase, run towards, near or around the foster cat. Please teach your children how to act responsibly and respectfully around your foster cat.

Other Specific Examples of What Not to Do:

- Do not bother the cat when they are sleeping or eating. Bothering the cat could potentially result in a bite or scratch.
- Never tease the cat, pull on their fur or skin, swat at, poke, or agitate in any other way.
- If the cat is confident, and the cat allows an adult to pick them up, the children can try to pick them up with the supervision of the adult. Please be mindful that improperly holding a cat can be scary for them and they will try to get away using their nails. Always support the back end of the cat.
- Never force the cat to interact with anybody they don't want to interact with. The cat should be allowed to choose when and how they interact with others.
- Always make sure your kids don't leave any doors open to where the cat isn't supposed to go. Outside, into cabinets, closets, etc....

If Cat Gets Loose: If your foster cat manages to get outside, don't panic, and follow these steps to get the cat back inside. Start by calling your Adoptions Counselor at 570-596-2200 ext. 302 as soon as possible after the escape so we can help where needed. If it's after hours, call the emergency contact provided in this manual and on your emergency protocol. Please don't hesitate to call, the sooner action is taken, the greater the chances will be of reunification.

Begin your search close to the area where they escaped from. It's okay if you don't know where exactly they got out. Either way, you want to start by looking thoroughly in every possible hiding spot nearest to your home. Remember, cats can squeeze into the tiniest of spaces – don't underestimate their ability. Bring a flashlight with you regardless of if it's day or nighttime, as cats eyes reflect light, making it much more obvious spotting the cat. Some specific places to look:

- Bushes and shrubs
- Under and inside of foundations like your home, sheds, garages, decks, etc....
- Drainpipes or storm drains
- Every small space, nook, and cranny
- Up trees

Check multiple times throughout the day and night in the same spots repeatedly. It could be the cat is moving from one hiding place to another, and you just happen to be missing them. They are most likely hunkered down. When a cat is scared, their instinct is to hide, stay put, and keep quiet. Let your neighbors know your foster cat escaped and ask them to help you keep an eye out. Show them pictures of the cat. And let them know the cat is microchipped and registered to Animal Care Sanctuary.

ACS also has traps available to help lure the cat back. Please reach out to borrow one.

Setting food (the stronger the smell, the better – wet food, tuna, etc.), water, litterbox, anything with the cats' or your scent on it, near your home may also help keep the cat nearby or even get them inside. If you have a trail cam or something similar, we encourage you to have that running near the area of where you set the lures. We can also help determine if a trap is necessary.

Do not give up and remain calm. We are here to help you in all situations, especially ones like these. An ACS team member can come out to help look for the cat, we can post flyers, and spread the word via social media. You can also do these things. The most important thing to do is to not give up or wait for the cat to come back to you. You need to actively keep looking as often as you can. Keep trying to lure them back. Change it up if you need to. Enlarge your search, talk to your neighbors, look in their yards, call ACS, send emails, post to your community's social media page, hang flyers, etc. Together, we can get the cat back safe and sound.

The Litter Box and Related: Most of our cats are litter box trained, however, a new environment might upset this behavior and you may need to reacclimate your foster cat to their litter box again. For the most part though, a cat doesn't need to be taught what to do with the litter box; the only thing you need to do is provide an acceptable, accessible, litter box! ACS can provide you with a litter box and litter for the duration of your foster term.

The litter box should be kept in an area that is convenient and private for your cat, such as a closet or bathroom. Most people choose an out-of-sight area like a basement or laundry room to prevent odor and scattered litter throughout the house. Keep in mind, areas like a basement may be undesirable if your cat cannot navigate stairs, does not remember where the box is because it is in a remote place, if it takes too long for the cat to get to the box, or if the cat is startled when using the box because a dryer, furnace, or appliance next to the box kicks on while the cat is using it.

Generally, cats tend to prefer fine particle litter as opposed to pellet and crystal-type ones. Additionally, most cats prefer unscented litters since their sense of smell is much more acute than that of us humans and even some dogs! Fast and hard clumping, odor absorbent, low dust, low tracking, and unscented are all good qualities of a litter. At ACS, we do use wood pellets for financial and quantity purposes. We can determine if it makes sense to transition your foster cat to clay or something similar depending on the length of your foster term.

Multi-Cat Households & Litter: To prevent litter box problems in the multi-cat household, the general rule is to have one litter box for each cat plus one. Again, we can and will provide you with as many litter boxes as you need to ensure all cats are comfortable and confident with the arrangements! Place the boxes in different areas of the house, if you can, so no cat can guard the boxes and prevent others from using it. If you have a multi-level house, ideally, there should be at least one litterbox on each level of the home.

Cleaning the Litter Box: Litter boxes should be scooped daily to keep the litter clean and the box appealing to your cat. For multi-cat households, it's recommended to scoop litter boxes multiple times a day. Litter boxes should typically be dumped and washed out once a month. No need for cleaning chemicals to wash the box, soap and water is sufficient.

Solving Litter Box Problems: If your foster cat or resident cat is having litter box problems – you're not alone! Don't forget that you can always call your adoptions counselor or send them an email for guidance. Additionally, the internet is also full of information and suggestions on what to do. A good resource is <https://www.catbehaviorsolutions.org/>.

When a cat is placed in a new environment, or if a new cat comes into a resident cat's home, it can be stressful for both. Sometimes, when a cat is stressed or unhappy, they will let you know by eliminating outside of their litterbox. If you notice this happening soon after you bring the foster cat home, please call, or email your adoption counselor for guidance. And just a reminder, this is another good reason to have a safe room set up for your foster cat and their initial introduction into your home.



Cats will also misuse litter boxes as their way of telling you they aren't feeling well. This will typically happen "out of nowhere". If you notice your resident cat or foster cat suddenly discontinue using their litter box, there might be an underlying medical issue. Urinary tract infections (UTI) or crystals in the urine are common medical reasons for inappropriate elimination. Both of which can make urination very painful. Cats often associate this pain with the litter box and begin to avoid it. If left untreated, a urinary tract infection or blockage from crystals can cause permanent damage or be fatal so do not delay in seeking medical attention!

Please call our clinic at 570-596-2200 or your adoptions counselor to set up an appointment for either your foster or resident cat. Unfortunately, we cannot financially support your resident cat's medical care, however our clinic is low cost and available to all members of the community. ACS foster animals seen at ACS community clinic will be free of charge to you.

If you have multiple cats in the home that would include your foster cat, you can set litter boxes up to offer a variety between wood pellets and whatever litter you already use at home. This will give the cats the opportunity to choose which litter they prefer once your foster cat is free roaming the house and have graduated their safe room. Sometimes a cat will eliminate outside of their litterbox because they simply don't care for the litter provided.

Any time a cat eliminates outside the box, clean the soiled area promptly and thoroughly with a product like Anti Icky Poo, vinegar, or an enzyme solution cleaner. We can also provide you with Rescue/Accel (what we use to clean and disinfect with at ACS). Generally, fixing the above potential issues will stop the inappropriate elimination. In the case that it doesn't, make the area where they have been eliminating aversive by covering it with an upside-down carpet runner or aluminum foil, placing citrus-scented cotton balls over the area, or by blocking access. You may have to reintroduce the cat(s) back to the litter box by using positive reinforcement strategies. Please call your adoption counselor or email them directly for guidance.

Do not yell at or strike any cat if they do not use the litter box. Litter box problems are almost always temporary and reversible, but a cat can develop litter box aversion if it associates elimination with punishment. Animals don't understand punishment after the fact, even if it's only a second later.

Medical Records: When you pick up your foster cat, you should receive copies of their medical records. These records give you an approximate date of birth, weight at time of intake, what medical services have been done, and what things your cat still needs to have done, such as preventative care, vaccines, deworming, etc., and when these things are due. The medical records will also provide your foster cat's microchip number that is registered to Animal Care Sanctuary. Your Adoption Counselor will coordinate appointments with you to make sure this gets done on time. Please document any treatments/preventatives within your foster portal.

Vaccines: FVRCP – Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, and Panleukopenia (URI and Distemper) is given upon intake with a booster 3 weeks later. Rabies is given at 12 weeks of age by a vet, and then annually. All cats 12 weeks and older will already be vaccinated for Rabies before going into your care.

We will let you know when your foster cat is due for their next vaccines. Thank you for bringing them in for these.

Vaccine reactions can include, but are not limited to: Limping, Not eating or drinking the normal amounts for 1-2 days, Lethargy, Pain at the sight of injection, Unwillingness to play, Low-grade fever. If any of these symptoms do not improve 48 hours after the injection, please contact the adoptions counselor. A more serious reaction happens instantaneously and includes severe vomiting, diarrhea, facial swelling, and difficulty breathing. The kitten(s) will need to be seen by a vet immediately.

If you see these symptoms and they do not improve by 48 hours after the injection, please contact the ACS Clinic at 570-596-2270. If a more serious reaction happens instantaneously and includes severe vomiting, diarrhea, facial swelling, and difficulty breathing, the dog will need to be seen by a vet immediately. Call our clinic or any of the emergency contact numbers below.

570-596-2200 (ACS main line, available 7:30 – 6:00 Monday – Saturday, 7:30 – 4:00 Sunday)
Email adoptions@animalcaresanctuary.org

Treatments – All treatments are provided by ACS

Deworming: Should be given if worms/parasites are present in feces or around the anus of the cat. We will need to determine the kind of worms/parasites to administer the proper treatment. If you notice worms/parasites, please call the Adoption Counselor at 570-596-2200 ext. 302 or email adoptions@animalcaresanctuary.org/direct email. Please let us know if the cat received this treatment through your foster portal.

Revolution: Treats fleas, ticks, ear mites, and round worms. This is a topical treatment that is administered on the back of the neck. We will let you know at the time of foster pick up when the foster cat is due for their next revolution. Please let us know when the cat received this treatment through your foster portal.

On the cat's medical history paperwork sent home with you, the next doses of treatments will be highlighted showing the date they are due.

Health Concerns: The following is a list of common medical issues you may encounter as a foster parent with your cat. This information is not meant to be extensive, just to give you an idea of what common ailments you may come across. Please refer to the Foster Emergency Protocol for additional details.

If your foster cat displays any of the following symptoms, please email the Adoptions Counselor at adoptions@animalcaresanctuary.org/direct email.

- Broken/bleeding nails
- Adverse reaction to medication
- Incidence of aggression
- Limping
- Noticeable hair loss
- Dirty/Stinky ears
- Watery/Gunky Eyes
- Normal/Congested Cough
- Normal/Congested Sneezing
- Nasal or Ocular Discharge (Note Color)
- Straining to Eliminate/Blood in Urine
- Worms in feces
- Open surgical site/Picking at sutures
- 1 or multiple incidences of vomiting
- 1 or multiple incidents of diarrhea
- Low appetite for multiple meals
- Wound (open/exposed)
- Itchiness/Skin irritation

The following situations we consider to be an emergency, please contact:

570-596-2200 (ACS main line, available 7:30 – 6:00 Monday – Saturday, 7:30 – 4:00 Sunday)

Email adoptions@animalcaresanctuary.org

- Lost animal
- Animal bite (broken skin)
- Profuse bleeding
- Unresponsive
- Ingestion of something toxic/Foreign object
- Extreme lethargy/Laying lateral
- Heavy/Labored breathing
- Continuous vomiting/Diarrhea
- Can't stand/Walk
- Severe injury
- Aggressive behavior/feeling unsafe

Please have the following specifics ready to give when reporting any of the above:

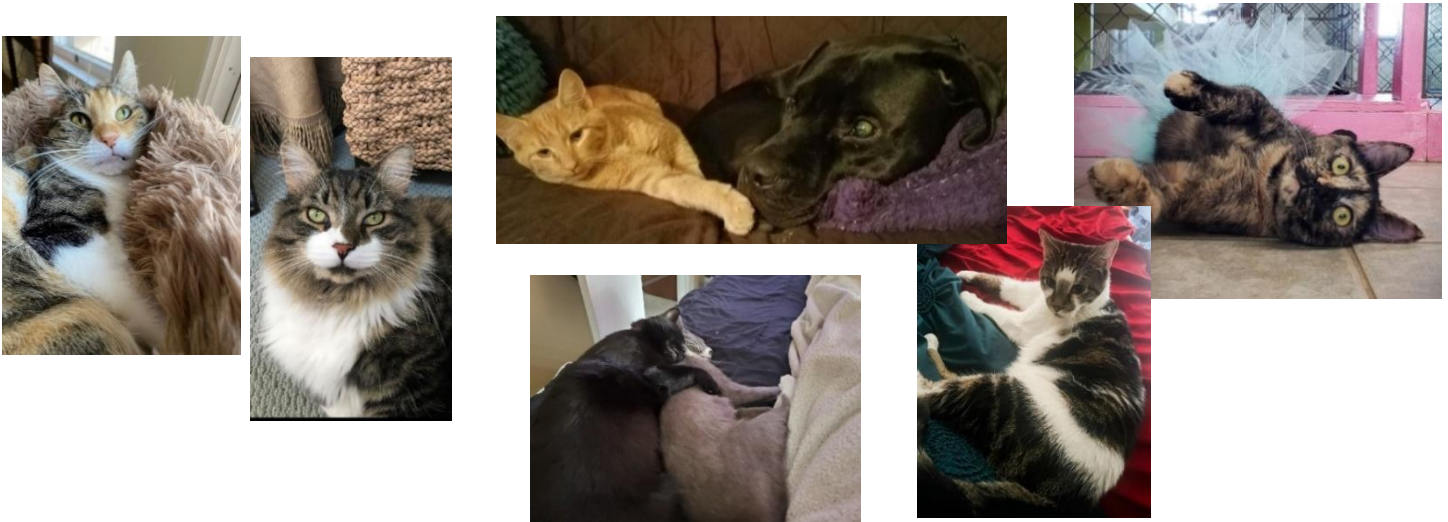
- Energy level
- Eating frequency
- Drinking frequency
- Defecation Frequency
- Urination Frequency
- Start date of symptoms
- Anything else unusual
- Current medications (if applicable)
- Interaction with other animals (if applicable)
- What was happening before the incident, how it happened, and who witnessed it
- Include Picture (if applicable)

ACS covers all approved medical expenses for the cats and kittens in the shelter's foster program. General medical care for ACS foster cats is provided at the discretion of the veterinarians and veterinary technicians at ACS on-site clinic. Once a foster cat or kitten is in your care, you are responsible for transporting them to the shelter clinic for necessary medical care. Always use a secure carrier, designed specifically for companion animals, when transporting cats. Should foster cats require services from a full-service veterinary practice, ACS will arrange appointments with approved veterinarians in the East Smithfield area. Foster parents must not medicate or treat any foster cat in their care without prior approval from ACS staff.

Advertising Fosters on Social Media: If you're on Facebook, we would love for you to post your foster cats as soon as possible to help find them a home. When posting on social media we ask that you keep all posts clean, upbeat and with clear pictures as well as a link for people to adopt at <https://animalcaresanctuary.org/adopt/>. We also ask that you do not use stop language when posting about your foster because that can often make it harder to find their forever home. Stop language is when you post that your foster must go to this type of home or can only have that type of family. Language like that tends to make people question if they would be the right fit for the foster animal and they tend to move on to the next adoptee with less needs.

Facebook Group: We have a Facebook group called "ACS Foster Today". It's a public group that anyone can join and share the content on their personal page. This page is intended for foster parents to post pictures and updates of their current foster fur babies to help find them their homes. We ask that you post very clear pictures and fun updates weekly at a minimum. This will help us reach a wider range of potential adopters to see your foster animal and how well they do in your home.

Picture Tips: Making high pitched sounds will often get the cats' attention, having a treat or toy in hand to get the cats' attention also captures a great photo! Cats being goofy, snuggling with other critters, or just being cute are all great ways to get their personality out there as well. Some great examples below:



If you're not on Facebook, please be sure to e-mail photos to the adoptions counselor's direct email or to adoptions@animalcaresanctuary.org so we are able to transfer them to our ShelterLuv database. And keep updating us on their personalities for us to write their biographies.

Adoption from Foster: The adoption process is very simple! Any interested adopter should start by filling out the adoption form on our website www.animalcaresanctuary.org/adopt/. From there, our adoption counselor will reach out and have a conversation with the potential adopter and ensure the cat is a good match for them and vice versa.

Once everyone is good to go, we'll connect you with the potential adopter and between the two of you, you can decide where the best meeting place can be. Please let your adoption counselor know the day and time of the meeting. During the meet and greet, if the adopter would like to take the cat home with them, we'll just have you go over the Adoption Contract and other paperwork prepared for you in the blue adoption bag.

The adoption counselor will also follow up with the adopter to ensure they understand the contract, medical history, and other paperwork included in the adoption process.

Once the paperwork is complete, the adoption counselor can text a link to the adopter's cell phone to finalize the adoption through our ShelterLuv database. It's that simple!

As always, we are more than happy to conduct all adoption processes on site if you prefer. Just let us know.

You can refer to the Adoption from Foster sheet sent to you in the welcome email for further information.

Adoption Fees

Kitten \$85 (6 months and under) + 2 Fur Deal (second adoption fee waived when adopting two kittens)

Adult Cats (over 6 months old) \$70

Senior Cats (over 7 years old) \$25

Some adoption fees have also been sponsored. We will let you know if your foster animal has been sponsored!

Bringing Your Foster Back to the Shelter:

- The Adoptions Counselor will coordinate with you when your fosters should come back to ACS or you can email adoptions@animalcaresanctuary.org/direct email of your adoption counselor or call 570-596-2200 ext. 302 to make an appointment for your cat to return to the shelter. This will ensure there is a communal space ready for their arrival.

- Bring in any medical records, old or new and other paperwork sent with you at the time of pick up.
- Please bring the completed Foster Home Report for your foster cat(s) – we will ask you additional questions once you arrive back at ACS. Please allow at least 30 minutes for this appointment upon returning to ACS with the cat.
- Please bring all supplies that you have borrowed from the shelter for the duration of your foster term.

Cleaning and Disinfecting During and After Foster Groups: Common diseases you might run into when fostering animals are viruses, bacteria, parasites, and fungi. Keeping the foster room and space thoroughly clean and disinfected is important to mitigate potential spread of diseases. Anything the fosters had contact with should be disinfected daily as well. A deep clean of foster spaces and items should be done when your fosters leave.

To further help decrease the chances of spreading infectious diseases during and after your foster terms, set up an isolation area for foster animals, practicing good hand hygiene before and after handling animals and objects, cleaning, and disinfecting items in the foster space.

Please refer to the Rescue Disinfection Protocol for Foster Care for details on proper disinfection. Found as an attachment in the welcome email as well as in your foster take home folder.

Emergency Contacts:

570-596-2200 (ACS main line, available 7:30 – 6:00 Monday – Sunday)

Feline Adoption Counselor direct line: 570-596-2200 ext. 302
adoptions@animalcaresanctuary.org

