



Best Friends
ANIMAL SOCIETY

Los Angeles Foster Program

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does fostering a pet entail exactly?

We look to our fosters to provide daily basic care for their foster pet (food+water, exercise, socialization, basic training, etc.)

But you have a facility, why do you need foster families?

Fostering is a great way to help us rescue more animals from LA Animal Services. Even though we have a permanent facility, we still have a great need for foster parents for animals that are not quite ready for adoption due to medical, behavior, or because they are underage (kittens/puppies). We have many animals in need including: pregnant or nursing dogs and cats, senior pets, bonded pairs, animals recovering from surgery, small-medium-large dogs, kittens, puppies, and more.

How long is the foster commitment?

We have a variety of needs for our foster families, and will take whatever time you can give. If fostering underage puppies and kittens, it could be as little as a few weeks when they are old enough/weigh enough to be returned to the adoption center for spay/neuter and be placed up for adoption. In other cases, it could be a short-term foster scenario to give one of our adoptable resident dogs/cats a break from the adoption center, or a longer-term foster situation for animals that aren't good candidates for housing at the adoption center. If it doesn't work out, or if you are needing to leave town temporarily or long-term, let us know and the animals are always welcomed to return to our Pet Adoption Center whenever needed.

Will I get to choose which animal I foster?

Yes, definitely. In fact, if you already have one in mind, please list them on the application. If you aren't sure on a specific dog/cat, we will review your application and find one that is a good match for your needs and lifestyle.

What am I responsible for financially?

Best Friends can and will provide any items/supplies that you will need to be a foster parent. However, if you choose to provide any/all items yourself, that is fine too. We will also cover all medical needs and ensure that all of our animals are healthy, vaccinated, and spayed/neutered prior to adoption. In case of an emergency, we will also provide emergency medical care (please see the foster manual for more information).

If I have other animals, can I be a foster parent?

YES! Most of our animals in need are great with other animals. In fact, we will work with you and your situation/lifestyle to find the perfect fit. Don't have any animals? That's fine too!

If I have children, can I be a foster parent?

Yes! Same with other animals, we will review all applications and find the best fit for your household and for our animals.

I cannot be a foster, because I will become too attached.

We hear this frequently, and completely understand. However, we also know that the reward our foster families receive from their experiences in fostering greatly outweighs any sadness that could occur upon your foster pet being adopted. And, we're here to help you along the way!

How will the animal find a forever home, if I am fostering them?

We will continue to market your adoptable pet through all the avenues that our other adoptables receive (i.e.: our website, facebook page, twitter accounts, petfinder.com, and others)

Can I adopt my foster pet?

We call it foster failure. It happens, and it's okay. You may fall head over heels in love with your foster dog, and decide you cannot part ways with him/her. You will have the opportunity to adopt your foster dog should you choose to do so. However, all fosters are required to go through the same adoption process as anyone else, including filling out an application and paying the adoption donation.

Ready to foster?

Email us at fosterLA@bestfriends.org to get started!