

## Frequently Asked Questions (Continued)

### Can I change my foster dog or cats name?

Your foster may already know her name. To avoid confusing your foster, the staff, and potential adopters please keep the same name.

### Can I adopt my foster?

Yes! As long as you meet our adoption requirements, our foster volunteers have first choice to adopt their foster pets. Please remember that a part of being a **Foster Family** is learning to let go while knowing that you have helped an animal find their forever home. By letting go you open your home to another animal in need.

### What will be expected of me as a Foster Parent?

When you foster a dog or cat you agree to take them into your home and provide them with the love, care and attention they need:

You must be at least 21 years old; Your pets must be current on vaccinations; Be able to provide quiet area in your home where your foster can be separated from your other pets and allows you easy access; Free time in your day, everyday, to spend with your foster; We provide medical care for your foster, however we ask you to supply the daily needs for your foster such as food, water, toys, and litter for litterboxes.

As a **Foster Family** please place your trust in our staff to know what is best for your foster.

### How do I get started?

We hope this brochure answered your questions, but, if you still have questions please don't hesitate to reach out to our knowledgeable staff. When you know you are ready to become a Foster Parent, we have forms for you to complete and you are on your way. Congratulations!

## Poem to My Foster

I am the bridge between what was and what can be.

I am the pathway to a new life.

I am made of mush, because my heart melted when I saw you, matted, sore, limping, depressed, lonely, unwanted, afraid to love.

For one little time you are mine. I will feed you with my own hand.

I will love you with my whole heart. I will make you whole.

I am made of steel because when the time comes when you are well, and sleek, when your eyes shine, and your tail wags with joy then comes the hard part.

I will let you go – not without a tear, but without a regret for you are safe forever – A new foster needs me now!

By Diane Morgan

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Volunteer Foster Family for the Washington Area Humane Society.

WAHS is a Humane Shelter, Funded by Private Contributors  
PO Box 66 Eighty Four, PA 15330



# Washington Area Humane Society



## Becoming a Foster Family:

Fostering a dog, cat, puppy or kitten in need can be one of the most rewarding experiences you may have



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P.O. Box 66  
Eighty Four, PA 15330  
724.222.PETS (7387)  
info@washingtonpashelter.org  
www.washingtonpashelter.org



## Our Mission

The Washington Area Humane Society's mission is to provide shelter, safety and food for the orphaned and abused animals of Washington County with the goal of placing them in loving homes. Provide public education about the humane care and treatment of animals. Provide affordable veterinary outpatient services including spaying or neutering. Investigate and resolve abuse cases in the best interests of the animal and community.

So, exactly how does the Washington Area Humane Society carry out its mission and take care of all the furry beings that travel through its doors?

### Foster Families

One way to help the special dogs and cats that enter our facility is through an elite, caring group of volunteers, our **Foster Families**. The Washington Area Humane Society depends on this group of volunteers to provide temporary care or hospice care to the animals we take in.

### Why do we need Foster Families?

There are many reasons why dogs, cats, kittens and puppies are placed in foster homes, but we never foster to make room at our facility. Reasons our dogs and cats are placed into foster care are endless, but to give you an idea: a puppy or kitten is too young to be adopted and needs a temporary home until they are old enough to find their new, forever family; she may be pregnant or just had puppies or kittens and she need your safe home to care for her babies first 9-weeks of life; they may be recovering from surgery, an illness, or an injury and they need a safe, quiet environment to recuperate; a dog or cat is showing signs of stress in the shelter environment and needs a break; a dog or cat has come to us from a situation where they had limited, if any, human contact and your love and



## Our Mission, Valuable Volunteer Foster Families

care can provide them with much needed socialization skills; or they've been seized by our Humane Society Police Officer and need a place to stay while the courts make decisions. Older cats and dogs often stay at our facility for extended periods of time because their age is regrettably considered a disability to some potential adopters. These seniors are in need of a calm, loving environment until they find their forever home. Lastly, a dog or cat may have a terminal illness, hospice care will provide them the chance to enjoy the rest of their time with a loving family.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Are foster animals contagious? Are my current pets at risk?

Exposing your pet to another animal is always a health risk, whether they are in off-leash areas, in a veterinarian's waiting room, visiting friends and relatives, or taken to a pet friendly store. Keeping your pets current on vaccines and providing them with a healthy diet and lifestyle makes the risk minimal.

#### Are purchases made for foster care tax-deductible?

Purchases made for your foster pet may be tax-deductible. Check with your tax adviser/accountant for more information.

#### What if my foster needs medical care?

The Washington Area Humane Society will give you guidelines for providing medical care for your foster. The Washington Area Humane Society must be notified of your fosters illness/injury before you provide medication, or outside veterinarian care. Always check with staff before taking your foster to the veterinarian. In case of emergencies call staff for approval. Without proper approval the Washington Area Humane Society may not pay for or reimburse for medical expenses.

#### Do I have to pay for my foster's food?

If food and cat litter is available the Washington Area Humane Society can provide you with these items.



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## Please support our Mission

We hope that you will consider helping the Washington Area Humane Society carry out its mission. If you would like to help, please consider a gift of:

\$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Washington Area Humane Society, or you may choose to pay by credit card as follows. Please mail this completed form along with your donation to: Washington Area Humane Society, P.O. Box 66, Eighty Four, PA 15330

Please charge my credit card for my one-time gift of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

3-Digit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like, please provide us with your email address:

\_\_\_\_\_

~Thank you for your continued support!~



The Washington Area Humane Society is a 501 (c)(3) humane shelter funded solely by private contributions. The official registration and financial information of the Washington Area Humane Society may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.