

Borrow A Buddy and Foster Guide Book



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CONTACT NAMES AND NUMBERS

Please call Hurst Animal Services Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. or Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with questions, concerns, or to schedule a Foster Animal veterinary check-up for sick animals.

Shelter: 817-788-7216

Dispatch: 817-788-7180 (for after hours)

Email: animalservices@hursttx.gov

Emergency Protocol and Contact Information

On occasion, Foster Animals have medical emergencies that happen outside of the normal hours of operation. In the case of an after-hours medical emergency, please contact the Hurst Police Department at 817-788-7180. Dispatch will contact the On-Call Animal Services Officer.

Thank you for opening your heart and home to one of our shelter's animals. You are giving young, injured, sick, abused, and under socialized animals a chance to grow or heal. You are also helping them get ready to find adoptive homes. Your work not only helps the animal you will have in your care, but it opens up more room in our shelter to help many more animals.

HOW BORROW A BUDDY AND FOSTERING WORKS

- 1) You must first become an approved Volunteer In Action (VIA) through the City of Hurst and the Hurst Police Department. You must be a minimum of 18 years of age. The application requires a short interview, a background check, and you must be finger printed.
- 2) Once you are an established VIA, you must attend a four hour orientation that will describe our programs in detail, give you guidelines that must be followed, explain our expectations, and provides you the opportunity to address any questions or concerns you may have.
- 3) If you rent your home, you must provide a written letter of approval to be a Foster Caregiver from your landlord.
- 4) Once you become a Hurst Animal Services VIA/Foster Caregiver, you will receive periodic emails from Hurst Animal Services that give detailed descriptions of those animals needing foster homes.
- 5) When you see an animal that would be a good match for your household and lifestyle, you simply respond to the email letting us know so the necessary arrangements can be made. In the email, include the **date and time you would like to pick up the animal** and **what supplies you will need**.
- 6) Hurst Animal Services will respond and let you know an appointment has been made and the Shelter Staff will be expecting you.
- 7) You will pick up the animal at the shelter, along with any supplies you may need. You will also sign a release, taking responsibility for the animal while he is in your care.
- 8) All veterinary care for your Foster Animal should be done by a veterinarian at our veterinarian partner. **Our organization will not reimburse you for any costs incurred during appointments not scheduled by Hurst Animal Services Staff.**
- 9) *****Any illness contracted by owned pets is the responsibility of Foster Caregivers and their own personal veterinarians. All Foster Animals are screened against certain contagious illnesses, and the shelter's recommendation is to keep owned animals separated from Foster Animals for a pre-established period of time to avoid contamination of owned pets*****

How is Borrow A Buddy Different from Fostering?

Borrow A Buddy is essentially the same as Fostering. The main difference is Borrow A Buddy is a temporary arrangement designed to give dogs a break from the shelter for a few days. The requirements to participate in Borrow A Buddy are the same as being a Foster Caregiver, but the commitment is much more short term and is meant simply to let the dogs who have been at the shelter for an extended period of time have a few days away from the shelter.

Items Recommended for Fostering

The number of Foster Animals our organization is able to support is limited by the annual resources available to the program. Foster Caregivers are encouraged to donate supplies for their own Foster Animals in order to maximize the number of animals fostered by our organization each year. Some supplies are available to give or loan to Foster Caregivers who require them in order to foster. The following is a list of supplies recommended for the care of your Foster Animal. Please ask if there is anything you need.

- Food and water bowl
- Dog or Cat Food – always provided by the shelter
- Crate (for cats, get a large dog crate to accommodate the litter box, bed, and food)
- Baby gates or exercise pens when available - supply is limited
- Bedding (a clean, old blanket or towel, or a dog bed that is washable)
- Toys
- Collar (stays on the dog at all times) and leash
- Training treats when available
- Disposable litter boxes and litter
- Newspaper
- Medications

Wish List Items

These are supplies you may find useful while you are fostering. They are always in demand for the program. Purchasing your own is recommended.

- **Unscented Baby Wipes** – Sometimes called “Natural” or “Hypo-Allergenic”, these wipes are best for cleaning the messy bottoms and faces of little puppies or kittens.
- **Puppy Potty Training Pads** – While few things are absolutely certain in life, one thing is puppies are messy! Potty Pads make cleaning up much easier and help train puppies to “go” in a certain area making them much more adoptable!
- **Esbilac Puppy Formula or KMR Kitten Formula** – Just like with adult dogs, it is important to keep puppies on a consistent diet. This is the brand of formula we choose to feed our bottle babies. We appreciate donations of any size available!
- **Bottle Kits** – Bottles and nipples should not be reused from litter to litter. In the spring and summer these kits are in very high demand! We use both the 2 ounce and 4 ounce bottle kits.
- **Digital Scale** – Puppies and kittens cannot be spayed or neutered until they are at least two pounds and two months of age. A small digital scale is very important for tracking the growth of the little ones!
- **Heating Pads**– Puppies and kittens cannot regulate their own heat, so it is important to keep them warm.
- **Exercise Pens of Any Size** – Foster Caregivers must be able to keep some Foster Animals safely away from their own personal pets if they are ill, recovering from surgery, or need to be isolated for any number of reasons. Crates are great for certain situations, but sometimes are too small. Exercise pens are wonderful for exercise and play time!
- **Enzymatic Cleaners** – Cleaners such as Simple Solution or Nature's Miracle are very useful in getting rid of any evidence of accidents from our tiniest of Foster Animals. We love that Foster Caregivers want to take these animals into their home, but we understand they would like to keep their home fresh and clean.
- **Disinfectants and Deodorizers** – Disinfectant and deodorizer are useful for any surface and any mess pets may make in your home.
- **Shaggy Bath Mats** – These are the perfect crate liners. They are easy to clean and are great for any size crate.

FIXIN' TO FOSTER

Preparing Your Home for Your Foster Animal

It is important to ensure your home and Foster Animal room are safe; animals can and will do the most unlikely things.

How to Dog Proof A Room

Walk into the room you plan to use to confine your Foster Dog and ask yourself:

- *Is there room for the crate (dog's safe place)?* A crate is not a place of punishment, but a safe haven for your Foster Dog. Be sure to put it in a quiet, low traffic part of the room. Put a bed, blankets, or a bath mat in the crate so it is a comfortable place for your Foster Dog to rest.
- *Is there quick access to the outside for bathroom breaks?* Potty pads are a good option if this is not possible. They can be placed in the room "just in case."
- *Is there anything that can be chewed, such as drapes, couch, rugs, shoes, etc.?* If there is anything of value within reach of the Foster Dog, move it. Chances are good it will be the first thing he will chew on.
- *Are there exposed electrical wires?* Use zip ties or duct tape to make them inaccessible for chewing.
- *Is there anywhere the Foster Dog can hide? Will you be able to get your Foster Dog out if hidden?* Block off areas where your Foster Dog can hide out of your reach. Feeling safe is important, but getting stuck behind furniture is not helpful to you or your Foster Dog.
- *Are there coffee tables with objects that can be knocked off by a wagging tail?* Removing knick-knacks and "nice things" from the room is always a good plan.
- *Are there plants in the room?* If so, check the list of toxic plants in this guidebook. Plants should be kept out of reach from Foster Animals. Even plants that are non-toxic can make your Foster Dog vomit after eating them.
- *How will I clean the floors?* Carpets are hard to keep clean with little ones or messy animals. An ideal space should have hard wood, laminate, tile, or concrete flooring. Putting a tarp down is always recommended, regardless of what type of floors you have.
- *Can the Foster Dog get into the cabinets or closets?* We keep many poisonous and dangerous items under the sink and valuable items in closets. 'Out of sight, out of mind' does not apply to animals! If there is a way in, they will find it.

How to Cat Proof A Room

Walk into the room that you plan to use to confine your Foster Cat and ask yourself:

- *Where will I keep the litter box so that the Foster Cat can access it and it will be easy to clean?* Keep the litter box away from the food and water bowls as they do not like to eat and potty in the same place. Can you blame them?
- *Is there anything that can be chewed, such as electrical cords?* Cats are curious and will chew on most anything. They can also jump five times their height, so putting things up is not really an option.
- *Is there anything that can be knocked off and broken, such as knick knacks or dishes?* To guarantee the safety of your treasured items, remove them from the room.
- *Are there plants in the room?* If so, check the list of toxic plants in this guidebook. Plants should be kept out of reach from Foster Animals. Even plants that are non-toxic can make your Foster Cat vomit after eating them.
- *Is there anything that can be ruined if it is scratched or climbed on?* Move or cover these items while your Foster Cat is in your home.
- *Is there anywhere the Foster Cat can hide? Will you be able to get the Foster Cat out if hidden?* Blocking off areas where your Foster Cat can hide out of your reach will save you and your Foster Cat a lot of stress in the long run.
- *Is the room peaceful and quiet?* Cats need human companionship, but they also need periods of peace and quiet.
- *How will I clean the floors?* Carpets are hard to keep clean with little ones or messy animals. An ideal space should have hard wood, laminate, tile, or concrete flooring. Putting a tarp down is always recommended, regardless of what type of floors you have.
- *Can the Foster Cat get into the cabinets or closets?* We keep many poisonous and dangerous items under the sink and valuable items in closets. 'Out of sight, out of mind' does not apply to animals! If there is a way in, they will find it.

POISONOUS HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Outside Hazards

- **Antifreeze that contains ethylene glycol** has a sweet taste that attracts animals but is deadly if consumed in even small quantities; one teaspoon can kill a seven-pound cat. Look for antifreeze that contains propylene glycol, which is safe for animals if ingested in small amounts. Ethylene glycol can also be found in common household products like snow globes, so be sure to keep these things out of reach of Foster Animals.
- **Cocoa mulch** contains ingredients that can be deadly to pets if ingested. The mulch, sold in garden supply stores, has a chocolate scent that is appetizing to some Foster Animals.
- **Chemicals used on lawns and gardens**, such as fertilizer and plant food, can be easily accessible and fatal to a Foster Animal allowed in the yard unsupervised.
- **De-icing salts used to melt snow and ice** are paw irritants that can be poisonous if licked off. Paws should be washed and dried as soon as the Foster Dog comes in from the snow.
- **Cans and garbage** can pose a danger when cats or smaller dogs attempt to lick food from a disposed of can, sometimes getting their head caught inside the can. To be sure this does not happen, squeeze the open end of the can closed before disposing.
- **Traps and poisons** - Pest control companies frequently use glue traps, live traps, and poisons to kill rodents. Even if you would never use such methods to eliminate rodents, your neighbor might. Dogs and cats can be poisoned if they eat a rodent that has been killed by poison (called secondary poisoning).

Indoor Hazards

- **Cedar and other soft wood shavings**, including pine, emit fumes that may be dangerous to small mammals like hamsters and gerbils.
- **Insect control products, such as the insecticides used in many over-the-counter flea and tick remedies**, may be toxic to companion animals. Prescription flea and tick control products are much safer and more effective. Pet owners should never use any product without first consulting a veterinarian, and Foster Caregivers should not use any medication without the express approval of the Hurst Animal Services veterinary partner.
- **Human medications such as pain killers** (including aspirin, acetaminophen, and ibuprofen), cold medicines, anti-cancer drugs, anti-depressants, vitamins, and diet pills can all be toxic to animals. Keep medication containers and tubes of ointments and creams away from Foster Animals that could chew through them and be vigilant about finding and disposing of any dropped pills.

- **Poisonous household plants** include azalea, dieffenbachia (dumb cane), lilies, mistletoe, and philodendron, among others. A more comprehensive list is included at the end of this section.
- **String, yarn, rubber bands, and even dental floss** are easy to swallow and can cause intestinal blockages or strangulation.
- **Toys with movable parts** - like squeaky toys or stuffed animals with plastic eyes - can pose a choking hazard to Foster Animals. Take the same precautions with Foster Animals as you would with a small child.
- **Rawhide dog chews** may be contaminated with Salmonella, which can infect Foster Animals and humans who come in contact with the chews. These kinds of chews should be offered to Foster Animals only with supervision, as they can pose a choking hazard as well. Only give your Foster Animal rawhides made in the USA.
- **Holiday decorations and lights** pose a risk to cats and dogs. Keep these items out of the reach of Foster Animals, and if possible, confine your Foster Animal to an undecorated area while you are out of the home.

Kitchen Dangers

- **Chocolate**
- **Alcoholic beverages, hops (used in home beer brewing)**
- **Apple seeds, apricot pits, cherry pits, grapes, peach pits, raisins**
- **Avocados, onions and onion powder**
- **Candy (particularly chocolate, which is toxic to dogs, cats, and ferrets, and any candy containing the sweetener Xylitol)**
- **Coffee (grounds, beans, chocolate covered espresso beans), tea (caffeine)**
- **Macadamia nuts, walnuts**
- **Mushroom plants**
- **Mustard seeds**
- **Potato and tomato leaves and stems (green parts)**
- **Rhubarb leaves**
- **Salt**
- **Yeast dough**
- **Fumes from nonstick cooking surfaces and self-cleaning ovens** can be deadly to birds. Always be cautious when using any pump or aerosol spray around birds.
- **Leftovers, such as animal bones**, easily shatter and can choke a cat or dog.

DANGEROUS PLANTS AND FOODS

23 Common Plants *That Are Poisonous to Pets*



Aloe Vera



Amaryllis



Azalea



Baby's Breath



Begonia



Carnations



Castor Bean



Chrysanthemum



Cyclamen



Daffodil



Gladiola



Hosta



Ivy



Lillies



Milkweed



Morning Glory



Oleander



Poinsetta



Pothos



Sago Palm



Tomato Plant





















Tulip



Yew



Foods That Can Make Your Pet Sick

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
|  Alcohol |  Yeast Dough |  Grapes |  Milk |
|  Mushrooms |  Chocolate |  Raw meat Eggs |  Salt |
|  Molded or Spoiled Food ¹ |  Macadamia Nuts |  Meat bones |  Chewing gum Candy |
|  Fat trimmings |  Avocados ² |  Artificial sweeteners ³ |  Toothpaste |
|  Garlic |  Coffee |  Onions, Leeks, ⁴ Chives |  Cat Food ⁵ |

1. Keep your trash safely and securely stored

2. Bad for all animals, but especially for birds, horses, cattle, and rodents

3. Any food with artificial sweeteners (xylitol, in particular)

4. Especially bad for cats

5. This seems like a trick one, but cat food packs in a lot of protein, which makes it unhealthy for dogs and may cause unpleasant gas.



- **Alcohol** – Has the same effect on animals as it has on humans, but it takes a lot less to produce those effects since dogs and cats are much smaller. Alcohol can be fatal if too much is consumed.
- **Mushrooms** – Muscarine in some mushroom species can be fatal to dogs if ingested.
- **Fat trimmings and bones** – Can cause pancreatitis and bones can cause choking.
- **Garlic, onions, leeks, and chives** – Have the potential to cause gastrointestinal irritation and possibly destroy red blood cells, leading to anemia.
- **Yeast dough** – Will swell inside the animal's stomach, stretching the abdomen and causing severe pain. Also, the fermentation process creates alcohol.
- **Chocolate** – Theobromine in chocolate can cause vomiting and diarrhea and could lead to abnormal heart rhythm, tremors, seizures, and death.

- **Macadamia nuts** – It only takes a handful of raw or roasted nuts to make the animal ill and can be fatal. Symptoms include weakness, depression, vomiting, tremors, and hyperthermia.
- **Avocados** – The leaves, seeds, bark, and fruit of avocados contain persin, which is toxic to dogs if ingested in large quantities.
- **Coffee, tea, and other caffeine** – Ingestion can be fatal and there is no antidote.
- **Grapes and Raisins** – Can cause kidney failure.
- **Raw meat, fish, and eggs** – Could cause food poisoning from bacteria like Salmonella or E. Coli. An enzyme in raw eggs also interferes with the absorption of a particular B-Vitamin, which can cause skin and coat problems.
- **Artificial sweeteners** – Especially Xylitol contained in gum, candy, toothpaste, baked goods, and some diet foods. Xylitol can cause an increase in insulin, which will cause the animal's blood sugar to drop and may result in liver failure.
- **Milk and other dairy products** – Can cause diarrhea, digestive upset, and can cause food allergies.
- **Sugar** – Can cause obesity, dental problems, and possibly diabetes.
- **Persimmons, peaches, and plums** – Seeds of persimmons can cause inflammation or obstruction of the small intestine. Peach and plum pits can cause obstruction, and they also contain cyanide, which is poisonous to both humans and animals.

WHILE FOSTER ANIMALS ARE WITH YOU

Expectations and Care

The Five Basic Freedoms

The five basic freedoms should always be considered when caring for any animal, not just Foster Animals. They are:

1. Freedom from hunger or thirst
2. Freedom from discomfort
3. Freedom from pain, injury, or disease
4. Freedom to express normal behavior
5. Freedom from fear or distress

Foster Dogs

When you first arrive home with your Foster Dog, confine him to a single room such as a kitchen or family room where you spend a large part of your day, as dogs need to spend as much time as possible with you.

Use a baby gate or close doors to block off the entrances to other rooms. By keeping the Foster Dog in one room, you're helping prevent "accidents" that may occur because of stress or adjusting to your routine. Use a crate in this room for times when you are away from the house.

Show the Foster Dog where it is acceptable to go potty. If he does use the proper area for going potty be sure to reward him heavily. This will help teach your Foster Dog your routine.

Show your Foster Dog where his food and water are. He needs his own dishes away from your pet's dishes so there is no concern over resource guarding from any of the animals. Also, show him which toys he can play with so he will have an idea of what is acceptable to chew on.

Be sure to be consistent with training and expectations of behavior. It does not help a Foster Dog if you let him jump all over you for attention on the first day because you just want him to feel loved, then later refuse attention for such behavior. Teaching manners properly through positive reinforcement and being consistent does not make a Foster Dog feel unwanted or unloved.

For the Safety and Well-Being of Your Foster Dog

- Keep your Foster Dog indoors in a crate or other secure location when unattended or when you are not home.
- Spend as much time as possible with your Foster Dog.

- Place your Foster Dog in a room where the temperature is comfortable and the area is dry.
- Keep your Foster Dog **on a leash at all times** when outdoors unless you are in your secured, fenced yard. Be sure to check your fence for possible escape routes. Secure confinement is a necessity.
- Place Foster Puppies indoors in a kitchen (you may want to use baby gates), bathroom, mudroom, or laundry room with hard floors if available.
- Keep your Foster Dog separated from your own pets during the first days in your home or for the entire time if he is sick.
- Supervise your Foster Dog when he is with your personal pets.
- Keep Foster Dogs away from strange dogs. Foster Dogs should not be put in a position of possibly fighting with a strange dog, reducing their chances for adoption.
- **Off leash parks can be dangerous for Foster Dogs, particularly those recovering from surgery or illness or who are under-socialized. These parks are not a suitable place for outings with your Foster Dog.**
- Foster Puppies should be around humans for socialization purposes and **must not be isolated from you.**
- Taking Foster Puppies with you to visit friends or family is not advised until they are fully vaccinated (after 20 weeks of age). Puppies are highly susceptible to illness, which they can pick up anywhere.

Foster Cats

When you first arrive home with your Foster Cat, confine her to a single room where you plan to keep her litter box. Provide the Foster Cat with food, water, and bedding. Adolescent and adult cats normally jump up on high surfaces, so consider how accessible breakable objects are. Some cats chew on exposed wires, so cover them or consider a place where they cannot access them.

By keeping the Foster Cat in one small room except when you can watch her, you are helping to prevent “accidents” that may occur because of stress or adjusting to your home.

You may choose to keep your Foster Cat in a large dog crate containing a litter box, food, water, bedding, and toys when you are not available to watch her. Ask Hurst Animal Services Staff if you think this would be useful.

For the Safety and Well-Being of Your Foster Cat

- Keep your Foster Cat indoors in a quiet room or other safe location.
- Spend as much time as possible with your Foster Cat.
- Place your Foster Cat in a room where the temperature is comfortable and the area is dry.
- Keep the litter box in an accessible location.

- Keep the litter box clean. We flush the toilet each time we go; cats like a clean place to go too!
- Keep your Foster Cat separated from your own pets during the first days in your home or for the entire time if she is sick.
- Supervise your Foster Cat when she is with your personal pets.
- Keep your Foster Cat within the safety of your home; the outdoors is not a safe environment for any kitty.
- Foster Kittens should be handled and spend lots of time around humans for socialization purposes and **must not be isolated from you**.

Introducing Your Foster Animal to Your Own Pets

- Keep in mind that due to the medical and/or behavioral condition of some Foster Animals, it may always be necessary to keep them separate from your own pets.
- If possible, a neutral territory is always the best place for new introductions of animals.
- Go slowly with your Foster Animal as he may have been through a stressful surgery, abusive situation, or a lot of recent changes.
- Give your Foster Animal a chance to adjust and begin to build confidence by making your home a sanctuary for him.
- Remember that some Foster Cats may not adjust to other pets easily and may need to remain separated while in your home to allow them to rest and get ready for adoption back at the shelter.
- Do not force Foster Animals and family pets to interact. If they choose to avoid each other, allow it.
- Allowing initial interactions where the animals are safely separated can be incredibly helpful. Keeping one animal crated or on opposite sides of a fence can be a great place for an introduction so each animal feels safe.
- Introduce animals in a large area so they do not feel cramped. This also makes it easier to separate them if necessary.
- Ask a friend or family member to help out. One person for each animal is a better ratio if things do not go well.
- If introductions are done at your home, take your Foster Dog to the yard to sniff and eliminate first. Then put the Foster Dog in its new room and let the resident dog out into the yard to investigate the smells left by the new dog. At that point, introductions can be made outside. This can also work in a room of the house for Foster Cats.
- If there are multiple dogs in the house, introductions should be made one-on-one.
- Behave normally. Letting the animals know you are fine, they are fine, everything is fine!
- Hold the leash of your Foster Dog loosely as you would normally. Holding the leash too tensely during introductions can cause dogs to react with defensiveness.

- Remain alert and make the introductions gradually and calmly.
- Leave leashes on the dogs initially so you can get immediate control if necessary.
- Give your own pets LOTS of love and praise.
- Many small, short meetings which build to longer time together can help relieve stress. You do not need to have everyone together all the time from the first moment your Foster Animal comes home.

Feeding Your Foster Animal

Feeding Schedule

Create a consistent schedule for feeding your Foster Animal. Feed at the same time every day. Create a separate space for your Foster Animal to eat so he will feel comfortable. If you have other pets at home, **feed your Foster Animals in a separate room** and close the door. This will help prevent any arguments or worries over food. **Do not feed any “people food.”** You do not know what the adoptive family will want to do, so do not start a habit they will have to break. By feeding only dog food, you are discouraging begging.

It is not uncommon for animals to be finicky eaters when they are in a new environment. If your Foster Animal does not eat heartily for the first day or so and is otherwise acting healthy, do not fret! Feel free to contact the Hurst Animal Services Staff if you are concerned. Sometimes adding water or low sodium chicken broth to the food will make it more palatable. Avoid adding too many goodies to their food as we do not want them developing any habits that will be hard to change later. (You can pamper them, just do not spoil them rotten!) 😊

Amount of Food

Feeding will depend on the age and size of your Foster Animal and the veterinarian's advice. In general feeding will be as follows:

- **Adult Dogs and Cats:** dry adult dog and cat food twice a day, once in the morning and once at night.
- **Nursing Mothers with Puppies and Kittens:** dry puppy or kitten food (extra calories), three times a day.
- **Adolescent dogs and cats (4 months - 1 year):** dry puppy or kitten food, twice a day.
- **Weaned puppies and kittens (6 - 8 weeks - 4 months):** dry puppy or kitten food three to four times a day. Moisten the food with water or puppy/kitten formula if needed to get the puppy or kitten to eat.
- **Un-weaned puppies and kittens (4 - 8 weeks):** canned food at 4 weeks. Introduce dry puppy or kitten food at 5 weeks and gradually change toward mostly dry food by week 6. At 8 weeks, the puppies and kittens should eat straight dry kibble. Puppies and kittens of this age need to be fed four times a day.

Animal Feeding Charts

PUPPIES

| Weight of Puppy (pounds) | 2-4 Months Old (Cups per Day) | 4-9 Months Old (Cups per Day) | 10-12 Months Old (Cups per Day) |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{3}{8}$ | $\frac{1}{3}$ |
| 5 | 1 | $\frac{7}{8}$ | $\frac{2}{3}$ |
| 8 | $1 \frac{1}{2}$ | $1 \frac{1}{4}$ | 1 |
| 10 | $1 \frac{3}{4}$ | $1 \frac{1}{2}$ | $1 \frac{1}{8}$ |
| 20 | 3 | $2 \frac{1}{2}$ | 2 |
| 40 | 5 | 4 | $3 \frac{1}{4}$ |
| 60 | $6 \frac{2}{3}$ | $5 \frac{1}{2}$ | $4 \frac{1}{3}$ |
| 80 | $8 \frac{1}{4}$ | $6 \frac{3}{4}$ | $5 \frac{1}{2}$ |
| 100 | $9 \frac{3}{4}$ | 8 | $6 \frac{1}{2}$ |
| 120 | $11 \frac{1}{4}$ | $9 \frac{1}{4}$ | $7 \frac{1}{2}$ |

ADULT DOGS

| Weight of Adult Dog (pounds) | Cups of Dry Food per Day |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 5 | $\frac{3}{8} - \frac{5}{8}$ |
| 10 | $\frac{2}{3} - 1$ |
| 20 | $1 \frac{1}{4} - 1 \frac{2}{3}$ |
| 40 | $2 - 2 \frac{2}{3}$ |
| 60 | $2 \frac{2}{3} - 3 \frac{2}{3}$ |
| 80 | $3 \frac{1}{3} - 4 \frac{2}{3}$ |
| 100 | $4 - 5 \frac{1}{2}$ |

KITTENS

| Weight of Kitten (pounds) | 1-4 Months (Cups per Day) | 4-6 Months (Cups per Day) | 7-12 Mon & Mothers (Cups per Day) |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | $\frac{1}{4}$ | | |
| 2 | $\frac{3}{8}$ | $\frac{1}{3}$ | |
| 3 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{3}{8}$ | |
| 4 | $\frac{5}{8}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | |
| 5 | $\frac{3}{4}$ | $\frac{5}{8}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 10 | | $1 \frac{1}{8}$ | $\frac{7}{8}$ |
| 15 | | | $1 \frac{1}{8}$ |

ADULT CATS

| Weight of Cat (pounds) | Cups of Dry Food |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 5 | $\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{3}$ |
| 10 | $\frac{3}{8} - \frac{5}{8}$ |
| 15 | $\frac{5}{8} - \frac{3}{4}$ |

What to Expect from Your Foster Animal

Allow time for adjustment. It may take some time for your Foster Animal to feel comfortable in his new surroundings. Some Foster Animals are comfortable in their new surroundings within 24 hours, while some may take a week or more. Be patient and understanding. Watch your Foster Animal's behavior closely. On the average, Foster Caregivers have their Foster Animals for a minimum of two to four weeks. While this amount of time will not be long enough to fully train your Foster Animal, it will be enough time to give him a good foundation for his new family.

Ask the Hurst Animal Services Staff before beginning to train your Foster Animal. Your Foster Dog may have been traumatized or stressed in a variety of ways before he came to you, so we need to be careful about how he is handled. You will be teaching him that people are good and can be trusted. You should handle and work with him every day. If he shows any signs of aggression or fear (growling over food or toys, biting, or hiding), contact Hurst Animal Services.

Children and Your Foster Pet

Children under 12 years old should NOT be left alone and unsupervised with a Foster Animal under any circumstances. Do not allow children to behave with the Foster Animal in a manner you would not want the child to behave with a younger sibling. Teach children to leave the Foster Animal alone while he is eating, chewing, sleeping, or any time he is in his crate.

Allow your Foster Animal to have his space. Observe his behavior and if he is moving away from a child or animal, allow him to be alone. If his space is not respected, he may feel threatened and react.

POSITIVE POTTY TRAINING FOR DOGS

Be patient with your Foster Dog. Even house-trained adult animals will make mistakes - especially if they have been at the shelter for a long time and have been going to the bathroom in their kennel. Be sure to take your Foster Dog out every 15 minutes when he first gets home and reward him for good potty habits so that he can learn your routine and what is acceptable. You can make trips outside less frequently as the Foster Dog continues to do the right thing, but be careful not to allow too much time to lapse between potty breaks. **Set your Foster Dog up for success so you both can be happier!**

If there are smells in your house from another dog or cat, some animals may “mark” out their territory. This action should be re-directed immediately by bringing the Foster Dog outside where he can finish. You will then want to use some odor neutralizer on the areas where the Foster Dog “marked” to increase the odds that he will not smell that area again.

You can begin to housetrain your Foster Puppy as soon as he can walk well. Even if you bring home an adult dog that is house trained, you will want to follow these guidelines for the first couple of days or weeks as necessary, as the Foster Dog adjusts to his new situation and to your schedule.

Determine where you want your Foster Dog to eliminate. It could be in the backyard, side yard, or newspaper. When you have determined where he should do his business, take him to the same place every time and tell him to “go potty.” Take him out when he wakes up, after he eats or drinks, after a play session, or at least every two hours.

Foster Puppies should go out every hour. Stand with him for 5 minutes. If he eliminates, praise him. If he does not go in five minutes, take him back inside, place him in his crate, and try every 15 minutes until he goes. After he has urinated and defecated, you can allow him to play.

Supervise the Foster Puppy closely while you are inside. If he starts to go, scoop him up quickly and take him to the approved spot. Keeping him confined to the room you are in with gates, doors, or leashing him to you will keep him from going to a quiet area of the house to relieve himself without your knowledge.

Praise your Foster Dog when he finishes! If he goes in the house while you are not paying attention, do not correct him. Remember that puppies have to be watched when they are loose in the house. Make sure you learn what he does before he relieves himself so you can get him outside in time. Most dogs sniff the floor and either walk quickly or go in a circle just before they relieve themselves. If you see your Foster Dog doing this, quickly take him outside! Clean it up and go back to your schedule. Use an odor neutralizer to get rid of the smell.

NEVER put your Foster Dog’s face in his mess or yell at him after the fact. He will not understand you, and you will be teaching him to fear you. A common result is the dog or puppy will find a hidden place in the house to relieve themselves, such as in the dining room or guest bedroom.

HOUSE-TRAINING CATS

Most cats prefer to relieve themselves in a litter box, but they may not remember where it is if they are given too much freedom too soon or if your house is large and they are on the opposite end of the house when the urge hits. For the first couple of days or weeks in your home, a Foster Cat or Kitten should be enclosed in a small room where her litter box is any time you are not watching her. This room should also contain bedding, toys, food, and water on the opposite side of the room from the litter box.

Some cats will not use a litter box that is soiled even a little bit, so it is important to scoop the litter box every day or twice a day and completely clean it once a week. If your Foster Cat was used to going outside before she came to our organization, she may not want to use a litter box. Many of these cats will use the litter box if you sprinkle grass clippings or leaves from your yard over the top of the litter. Use yard scraps that have not been exposed to lawn chemicals! Do not allow a Foster Cat to go outside!

Some Foster Cats prefer a covered litter box, while others may prefer an open litter box. Some will prefer clay litter like we have at the shelter, while others prefer soft, scoopable litter. If your Foster Cat is not using the litter box, try a different type of litter or litter box first. Talk with Hurst Animal Services Staff if you still have problems with your Foster Cat not using the litter box, even if confined.

QUALITY TIME WITH YOUR FOSTER ANIMAL

Lots of human contact is important for recovering, sick, injured, or neglected animals. Human handling is especially important for the healthy development of puppies and kittens.

Attention and playtime is a reward for your Foster Animal. Be sure to give your Foster Animal several minutes of playtime periodically throughout the day. If you have a shy or fearful Foster Animal, do not throw toys toward him because he may think you are throwing things at him and become more fearful. When giving your Foster Dog a toy or treat, try to have him sit before giving it to him. That way he has to work to get the toy or treat making the toy a reward.

If you are fostering puppies or kittens, **make sure they have lots of new experiences**, so they are well socialized and will be adaptable as an adult. Since it is best not to take puppies out in public until they are fully vaccinated, bring new experiences to them. Have friends over and invite children over to play. Always supervise playtime with children and dogs closely! Take your Foster Puppy on car rides to get him used to the car. Keep in mind, puppies need to go to the bathroom frequently, so be sure they eliminate before you go on a car ride. Be sure to keep the ride brief since they will have to go again soon and remember not to feed them immediately before a car ride – some first time riders may experience motion sickness.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR FOSTER ANIMAL MORE ADOPTABLE

Our homeless animals benefit greatly from exercise, basic training, special love, and any attention you give them. Providing them with basic training and manners will increase their adoptability. Shy animals will benefit from your patience, a consistent routine, and slowly exposing them to new people to build their confidence. Puppies and kittens need a lot of love, attention, and hand-holding from humans to develop properly and feel secure. Puppies and kittens need socialization with other dogs or cats in your household once they are acclimated and/or their isolation period has ended. Talk to the staff at Hurst Animal Services for tips and tricks on how to make your Foster Animal more adoptable!

HEALTH CARE AND MEDICAL ISSUES

If you have any questions regarding your Foster Animal or in case of emergency, **contact Hurst Animal Services at 817-788-7216 or if no answer, contact Hurst Police Dispatch at 817-788-7180 and they will contact the On-Call Animal Services Officer.** They are on call to Foster Caregivers all day, every day, and will get back to you as soon as possible. Hurst Animal Services gathers the needed information from the Foster Caregivers regarding their Foster Animal's health issues and schedules an appointment if necessary at one of our partner clinics.

Even if your Foster Animals appear healthy when you pick them up from the shelter, they may be incubating a disease. **It is very important that your own pets of the same species be current on all vaccinations for their own protection and well-being.** You may wish to discuss the fact you are fostering with your veterinarian. Due to the increased chance of exposure to animals with diseases, your veterinarian may recommend vaccinations that are not routinely given.

COMMON ILLNESSES AND MEDICAL ISSUES

- **URI** - Upper Respiratory Infection can infect dogs and cats. Cats cannot give URI to dogs, nor can dogs give it to cats, but it can be spread within the same species. Symptoms include sneezing, coughing, discharge from the nose or eyes, lethargy, loss of appetite, and elevated temperature.
- **Diarrhea** - Generally, feces should be brown and formed. Diarrhea can be a symptom of many different illnesses and parasites. Diarrhea can also be caused by stress and overfeeding, especially in puppies. If your Foster Animal develops diarrhea, you will need to bring a fresh (within 24 hours) sample of the most normal part of the stool into Hurst Animal Services so that the necessary diagnostic tests can be run. Feed a bland diet of cooked white rice and boiled chicken (3 parts rice to 1 part meat) to dogs and just boiled chicken to cats, until the diarrhea subsides.
- **Dehydration** - Animals with diarrhea can quickly become dehydrated. To check for dehydration, pull up gently on the skin at the scruff of the neck. If it bounces back quickly when you let go, hydration is fine. If it does not go back or goes back slowly, your Foster Animal is dehydrated and needs medical attention quickly.
- **Fleas** - Fleas can affect dogs and cats. A Foster Animal with fleas will be given a general flea treatment called Capstar or a flea bath depending on the severity of the fleas and the age of the animal. **Do not use any over the counter flea treatments at all.** If you notice fleas within a week of having the Foster Animal in your home, call Hurst Animal Services. Although we do try to prevent fleas, we recommend that all of your pets be on a flea preventative such as Frontline or Advantage.
- **Worms** - Your Foster Animal will be treated for worms before coming to your home. If you detect worms in your Foster Animal's stool, contact Hurst Animal Services to make arrangements for treatment. Tapeworms resemble a grain of rice, and roundworms resemble spaghetti.

Signs and Symptoms of Pain and Illness

The best way to monitor your Foster Animal's health is to **know what is normal and report what is not. The vet will always ask about food and water intake, energy level, and for a fecal sample.**

Foster Caregivers who recognize the early signs and symptoms of illness or pain in their Foster Animals will not only relieve the animal's suffering, but may also be able to save themselves a trip to the veterinarian. Not only is it important to recognize these signs early to relieve pain and suffering, but it is much more effective to treat an illness when it is detected early.

The Foster Caregiver should keep an accurate and detailed account of their Foster Animal's symptoms to help the veterinarian correctly diagnose and effectively treat the Foster Animal's illness or condition. Most illnesses are detected through a combination of various signs and symptoms:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sneezing and/or coughing | Green mucus from the nose or eyes |
| Squinting or crusting over of eyes | Gagging |
| Wheezing | Tiring easily |
| Vomiting | Diarrhea |
| Straining to urinate or defecate | Bleeding from any part of the body |
| Twitching abnormally | Loss or decrease of appetite |
| Change in attitude or behavior | Lethargic or depressed |
| Breathing heavily | Rectal temperature over 102.5 degrees |

If your Foster Animal develops severe or bloody diarrhea, severe vomiting, or is very lethargic, contact Hurst Animal Services immediately.

Temperature, Respiratory and Heart Rates

A normal adult dog or cat body temperature is between 101° F and 102.5° F. Puppies and kittens under four weeks of age will have a lower temperature. To take your Foster Animal's temperature, you will need a digital thermometer, a probe cover, and some lubricant. Put the probe cover on the thermometer and add a small amount of lubricant, then turn the thermometer on. Make sure that the animal is properly restrained and insert the thermometer into the animal's anus. Take care when trying to take your Foster Animal's temperature as the thermometer can easily be broken off in his rectum. Remember, any form of excitement can cause the temperature to rise by 2-3° when the Foster Animal is actually in normal health. If your Foster Animal's temperature reaches 105° or above OR 96° or below please contact Hurst Animal Services immediately!

An adult dog will have a respiratory rate of 15-20 breaths per minute (depending on such variables as size and weight) and a heart rate of 80-120 beats per minute. An adult cat will have a respiratory rate of 20-30 breaths per minute and a heart rate between 140 and 220 beats per minute. You can feel for your Foster Animal's heartbeat by placing your

hand on his lower ribcage just behind the elbow. Don't be alarmed if the heartbeat seems irregular compared to a human's heartbeat, it is irregular in many animals. Check your Foster Animal's heartbeat regularly so you can get an idea of what is 'normal' for him.

Behavior Changes

Behavior changes that are not associated with a change in the household atmosphere, such as jealousy over a new pet or child or adjusting to a new home and environment, may be an indication of an illness. Signs of behavioral changes may be:

- Depression (decreased or ceased activity)
- Anxiety
- Fatigue
- Sleepiness
- Trembling
- Falling/Stumbling

If your Foster Animal shows any of these signs, he needs to be kept under close watch for a few hours, or even a few days, until these symptoms go away or he has returned to normal. Do not try to exercise your Foster Animal or put him in any situation that may cause stress while these symptoms are present. Our veterinarians will want you to keep track of when the symptoms first appeared, whether they are getting better or worse, and whether the symptoms are intermittent, continuous, or increasing in frequency. Put your Observation Log (found later in the Guidebook) to use and track any changes to show the vet.

Pain In Dogs

Dogs that are in pain will likely indicate they are suffering by giving you clues as to where the area of discomfort is. For instance, a dog that has abdominal pain will continually glance toward his belly, bite or lick the area, and will not want to leave his bed. The dog may stand hunched over or take the 'prayer position' (when a dog gets down on his forelegs with the hind legs still standing) because of the pain in his abdomen area.

Dogs cannot tell you they are hurting or cry real tears, but a dog may vocalize his pain in a different way. A dog that is hurt suddenly (such as being stepped on) will cry out or whimper in pain. This also happens when an external injury or internal injury (such as an organ) is touched. Whining or vocalization that is unprovoked may be caused by an internal injury as well. Some breeds of dogs (such as the American Pit Bull Terrier) have a higher pain threshold and need to be watched more closely for signs of pain. Breeds with a high pain tolerance are more likely to endure the pain without vocalization.

Another clue to indicate pain is a change in temperament. A dog that is in pain may show signs of aggression. Please take note of this before concluding your Foster Dog has become vicious and let your veterinarian know so your Foster Animal can be evaluated and properly treated. Also, animals have days when they are in a bad mood for no

obvious reason, just like their human counterparts. Take note of the days and times these mood swings occur as well as any events that might have triggered them.

Pain In Cats

Cats often disguise their pain, so it is difficult to tell they are feeling badly until they are very sick. Therefore it is especially important to keep an eye on your Foster Cat's behavior. Cats that don't feel well may do one or more of the following:

- Hide or Sleep even more than usual
- Be irritable and avoid being touched or move around, unable to get comfortable
- Growl, hiss, swat, or try to escape when you touch them or try to hold them
- Stop eating
- Sit hunched up

If you suspect your Foster Cat or Kitten is in pain, contact Hurst Animal Services for advice.

Other Signs that Your Foster Animal May Be Sick

- Ears: discharge, debris, odor, scratching, crusted tips, twitching, or shaking
- Eyes: redness, swelling, or discharge
- Nose: runny, thickened, or colored discharge, crusty
- Coughing, sneezing, vomiting, or gagging
- Shortness of breath, irregular breathing, or prolonged/heavy panting
- Evidence of parasites in the stool, strange color, blood in the stool, or lack of a bowel movement (constipation)
- Loss of appetite, not drinking as much water as normal, or excessive water consumption
- Weight loss
- Strange color of urine, small amount of urine, straining, dribbling, or not going as frequently as normal
- Bad odor coming from mouth, ears, or skin
- Hair loss, wounds, tumors, dander, or change of the skin's color
- Biting of the skin, scratching, or licking the skin frequently

If any of these symptoms occur over a prolonged period of time, please call Hurst Animal Services at 817-788-7216. It is very important to keep watch over your Foster Animal's health patterns and to keep an accurate, detailed health record.

ADMINISTERING MEDICATION

Administering Pills to Foster Cats

If the pill can be given with food, try hiding it in a piece of food. A small amount of butter, tuna, cream cheese, liverwurst, canned food, or semi-moist food like Pounce is often used. Unfortunately, most cats are very picky and too smart for their own good, so this method rarely works with cats. If your Foster Cat will not take the pill in food or cannot have food with the medication:

1. Have the pill loaded into the 'pet pill dispenser' (if you have one and prefer to use it) and have it ready in a convenient place.
2. Bring the Foster Cat to the place you will give the pill, while talking to her in a happy, light voice.
3. Sometimes it is helpful to wrap the cat in a blanket or a large towel so just her head is sticking out.
4. Place your Foster Cat between your knees or at eye level on a table.
5. Hold the pill between your thumb and index finger of your dominant hand.
6. Using your other hand, gently but firmly grasp the cat's head from above with your thumb on one side and your finger on the other.
7. Tilt the cat's head back so she is looking at the ceiling. The cat's lower jaw will automatically drop a bit.
8. Place one of your free fingers from the hand holding the pill between the lower canine teeth (long front teeth) and push down.
9. Quickly place the pill as far back in the cat's mouth as possible, making sure it is over the hump of the tongue. Do not place your hand too far into the cat's mouth because it might gag.
10. If you choose to use the pill dispenser, after tilting the cat's head back, insert the pill dispenser into the cat's mouth just behind the tongue and push the plunger to dispense the pill. Remember, this is one quick, fluid movement. If not, you may have to start over, and the second time around is always more difficult.
11. Close the cat's mouth. Hold it closed, lower her head to a normal position, and gently rub or blow on the cat's nose to stimulate swallowing.
12. You can use a syringe to squirt some water into her mouth after you have given the pill to encourage swallowing.
13. Talk softly and stroke the cat or give another type of treat.

Administering Liquid Medication to Cats

1. Wrap the cat in a towel or blanket so only her head sticking out.
2. Insert the dropper between the cheek and teeth while tilting the chin upward.
3. Slowly dispense the medication, remembering not to give it faster than the cat can swallow. The quicker you do this, the more cooperative the cat will be.

Refrigerated medication MUST be kept in the refrigerator.

Administering Pills to Dogs

If the medication can be given with food, the easiest way to give pills is to hide it in a piece of food. Pill Pockets are great for this purpose. A small amount of butter, peanut butter, cream cheese, canned food, or liverwurst may also be used. If your Foster Dog will not take the pill in food or cannot have food with the medication:

1. Have the pill out and in a convenient place.
2. Calmly approach the dog using a happy voice.
3. Sometimes putting the dog on a surface off the floor is best, but this may require assistance.
4. Squeeze behind the upper canine teeth and tilt the animal's head back so he is looking at the ceiling. His jaw will automatically drop a bit.
5. Place one of the fingers from the hand holding the pill between the lower canine teeth (long front teeth) and push down.
6. Quickly place the pill as far back as possible inside the dog's mouth being sure to get it over the hump in the tongue. Do not place your hand in the dog's mouth too far because it might gag.
7. Close the dog's mouth and hold it closed while you gently blow or rub his or her nose. This will stimulate swallowing.
8. You can use a syringe to squirt some water into his mouth after you have given the pill to encourage swallowing.

Administering Liquid Medication to Dogs

1. Insert the dropper between the upper and lower teeth in the back and tilt the chin upward.
2. Slowly administer the medication while being careful not to go faster than the dog can swallow.
3. Always remember to praise the dog and even offer a treat after the medication. This will make administering medication easier in the future.

Applying Eye Drops and Ointments to Both Dogs and Cats

1. Before administering eye medication, be sure to wash your hands and ensure the Foster Animal's eye is clear of discharge. You can use warm water on a cotton ball or clean cloth to gently clean around the eyes.
2. Use your thumb and forefinger to open the eyelid.
3. With your other hand, place 1-2 drops (as directed) or a small amount of ointment on the eye or the pink tissue around the eye.

The Foster Animal will blink, and the medication will cover the entire eye. When applying medication to the eye, try to avoid the animal's direct line of vision when approaching and **avoid touching the eye with the container of medication.**

FOLLOW UP EXAMS AND RECHECKS

Kittens and puppies that go to foster care before they are six weeks old will get their first round of vaccinations at six weeks of age. Even though they may be approved to go up for adoption at that time, kittens and puppies must weigh two to four pounds to be sterilized. If they weigh less than two pounds at the time of their exam, you might be asked to keep them until they weigh enough for sterilization. To avoid problems at the time of surgery, kittens and puppies stay in their foster home until they are at least two and a half pounds AND two months of age.

All veterinary exams need to be scheduled by a Hurst Animal Services Staff member with our partner veterinarian. This includes both animals who are sick or those that are just recovering from an illness, surgical recuperations, etc. **You must call Hurst Animal Services during weekdays to schedule a veterinary exam.**

It is critical that you keep any appointment you make. Please be prepared with the following information when you bring your Foster Animal to the vet clinic:

- Is the animal eating regularly?
- Is the animal drinking regularly?
- Any diarrhea?
- Activity level
- Date of last medications given
- When were the last signs of illness observed?
- **A fecal sample is always appreciated!**

All veterinary care for your Foster Animal should be done by our partner veterinarian. Our organization will not reimburse you for any costs incurred during appointments not scheduled by Hurst Animal Services Staff.

****Any illness contracted by owned pets is the responsibility of the Foster Caregivers and their own personal veterinarian. All Foster Animals are screened against certain contagious illnesses, and the shelter's recommendation is to keep owned animals separated from Foster Animals for a pre-determined amount of time to avoid contamination of owned pets****

WEEKLY FOSTER ANIMAL HEALTH CHECKLIST

Weekly Foster Animal Health Checklist

Detecting potential health problems before they become serious can save your Foster Animal unnecessary suffering and save you great worry and expense. Once a week, see whether you can answer true to all of the statements in this list.

If a statement is *not* true, call Hurst Animal Services as soon as possible.

My Foster Animal:

- Is acting normally and is in good spirits.
- Does not tire easily from moderate exercise
- Has a normal appetite
- Has not lost or gained much weight
- Has not vomited
- Produces normal stools
- Produces normal urine
- Does not drag his bottom or chew his tail excessively
- Has a full coat with no missing hair or mats
- Does not scratch, lick, or chew excessively
- Has healthy skin with no dry flakes, greasy feel, or bad odor
- Does not have fleas or ticks
- Does not have any lumps or bumps on his body

- Has clean ears with no debris or odor
- Does not shake his head or scratch at his ears excessively
- Has bright eyes that are free of matter
- Has normal hearing and reacts as usual to the environment
- Moves and walks without stiffness or pain
- Has healthy feet and short nails
- Breathes without straining or coughing
- Has normal thirst and drinks plenty of water, but not too much water
- Urinates without straining
- Has a moist nose that's free of discharge
- Has pink gums with no redness
- Does not sneeze more than 2-3 times a day

All Foster Caregivers should be aware of any changes in their Foster Animal's health. Using this checklist **EVERY WEEK** will help ensure that your Foster Animal's basic health is being monitored and alert you to any "out of the ordinary" conditions.

This information is for general guidance only. Should you have any concerns on any health issue relating to your Foster Animal, you should contact Hurst Animal Services as soon as possible.

Hurst Animal Services • Office 817-788-7216 • Dispatch 817-788-7180

IT IS SO HARD TO SAY GOOD-BYE

Returning Your Foster Animal

When Do Foster Puppies and Kittens return to the Shelter?

If you are fostering puppies or kittens, you may return them to the shelter when they are eating freely on their own and weigh two and a half pounds or more, with occasional exceptions for very small breeds. This is at about eight weeks of age. If your Foster Puppy or Kitten is old enough but developmentally slow, under socialized, or undernourished, you may keep him for a while longer (please keep Hurst Animal Services updated). Keep in mind that puppies and kittens between two and four months of age are highly marketable to prospective families who visit the shelter.

What Happens if My Foster Animal Needs Foster Care Again After I Return Him?

If the shelter and veterinarians determine that the animal needs foster care again within the first 60 days after he is returned from foster and he has not been adopted and returned during that time, you will be contacted personally and offered the option to foster the same animal again. If the animal needs foster care at a time beyond 60 days after the return to the shelter, he will be treated as a new case, and the request will be sent out in the daily mailing from Hurst Animal Services. If the animal needs foster care again but was adopted and returned at any time after his time as a Foster Animal in your home, he will be considered a new case and sent out in the general mailing.

What Happens if My Foster Animal Needs to Be Euthanized After Returning to the Shelter?

Hurst Animal Services staff carefully assess each animal before making a decision to euthanize. Our decisions are based on the animal's quality of life, now and in the future, considering his situation, chances of recovery, and other indicators of suffering or well-being. The decision to euthanize is never made lightly. Once we have made the decision to euthanize an animal, he is no longer available for adoption to staff, volunteers (including fosters), or the public.

Hurst Animal Services will contact you as soon as possible to let you know that the decision has been made and to offer any support we can.

CLEANING AND SANITIZING YOUR HOME

In order to prevent disease and parasite infestations in your home, thoroughly clean areas where the Foster Animal has stayed.

- Wash bedding in hot water, detergent, and **bleach**.
- Discard toys with non-washable surfaces.
- Disinfect all washable surfaces with a mild bleach and water solution (bleach/water ratio of 1:32 or 4oz of bleach per gallon of water is recommended). Bleach solutions should be prepared as needed, because they lose their strength after 24 hours. Bleach is inactive in the presence of organic matter, so clean up dirt, hair, feces, etc. **before** using bleach to disinfect. **Bleach solution must stay in contact with the surface being sanitized for at least 10 minutes to be effective.**
- Vacuum all carpeted areas.
- Soak toys in bleach water for 20 minutes and scrub and bleach crates, carriers, scoops, food bowls, and litter boxes.
- Clean any urine or feces soiled areas with an enzyme cleaner immediately to avoid residual odor (Nature's Miracle Stain and Odor Remover works well).
- Regularly clean up all waste in the yard to decrease the risk of spreading disease.

QUARANTINE PERIODS

Sometimes a Foster Animal is sent into a home before evidence of a serious disease has manifested. Quarantine periods are used to allow infectious diseases to die off in the environment. This protects future Foster Animals from being infected with the virus or disease. Specific quarantine periods are as follows:

- Feline Leukemia/FIV 3 days
- Sarcoptic Mange 1 week
- FIP or Canine Distemper 3 weeks
- Ringworm 3 months
- Panleukopenia or Parvovirus 8 months

If a Foster Animal is infected with one of the above illnesses, the Foster Caregiver will not be allowed to bring another Foster Animal into the home for the designated quarantine period.

Once you have returned your Foster Animal, you will not be able to take another Foster Animal home for one week. This time period allows for you to clean thoroughly, to prevent "burn out," and to ensure that if your previous Foster Animal comes down with illness that you are able to care for it again.

NINE WAYS TO BECOME A SUCCESSFUL FOSTER CAREGIVER

- 1. Divide your time between your Foster Animal and your own pets and give each lots of attention and affection.**

The animal you are fostering likely has special needs that require time and energy. The Foster 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.
- 2. 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 your Foster Animal needs veterinary attention.
- 3. 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 your Foster Animal's room warm and comfortable. Also, take steps to prevent him from escaping. Check your fence for possible weaknesses, secure screen doors, etc.
- 4. Keep your own pets up to date on their vaccinations.**

All animals should be currently vaccinated to protect them from diseases. Before you bring home a Foster Animal, consult with your veterinarian to make sure your own pets have received the preventive treatments they need.
- 5. Keep Foster Animals away from your own pets for a period of time established by the shelter.**

A Foster Animal may come into your home harboring contagious diseases. Even though your pets are vaccinated against many diseases, it is a good idea to keep the Foster Animal away from your pets for a period of time as an added precaution.
- 6. Recognize your limits.**

Fostering requires a great deal of time and energy, both emotional and physical. Do not overextend yourself by fostering animals too frequently; you may burn yourself out.
- 7. Return the Foster Animal to the shelter on time.**

The shelter depends on you to make its program work. Be sure to return your Foster Animal to the shelter at the scheduled time. If you decide to adopt an animal you foster, go through the shelter's normal adoption process. If a friend or relative wants to adopt the animal you are fostering, that person must go through the shelter's adoption process as well.

8. Understand that some Foster Animals will not survive.

Many animals that arrive at the shelter come from unknown backgrounds. Despite your best efforts, the animal you foster may develop a severe illness that cannot be treated. Do the best you can to help the animal, but accept the fact that you cannot save them all.

9. Enjoy being a Foster Caregiver!

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 and helping that animal become more suitable for adoption into a responsible home.

HURST ANIMAL SERVICES BORROW A BUDDY AND FOSTER CARE PROGRAM APPLICATION

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City & Zip Code _____

Telephone (H) _____ (C) _____

Email Address _____

How long at current residence _____

Do you OWN or RENT your home? (please circle one)

Number of adults in household? _____ Children? _____ Ages of children _____

Current Pets:

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| 1. Dog / Cat | 0-2yrs / 2-6yrs / 6yrs or older | Male / Female | Neutered? |
| 2. Dog / Cat | 0-2yrs / 2-6yrs / 6yrs or older | Male / Female | Neutered? |
| 3. Dog / Cat | 0-2yrs / 2-6yrs / 6yrs or older | Male / Female | Neutered? |
| 4. Dog / Cat | 0-2yrs / 2-6yrs / 6yrs or older | Male / Female | Neutered? |
| 5. Dog / Cat | 0-2yrs / 2-6yrs / 6yrs or older | Male / Female | Neutered? |

Animals you would be interested in fostering (Please check all you would be willing to foster)

- Dogs Cats Kittens Puppies Nursing Mothers Cats with Upper Respiratory Infection
 Unweaned Kittens/Puppies Dogs with Kennel Cough Special Needs Animals

Are all members of household agreeable to fostering? _____

Who will be responsible for the animal's care? _____

Do you work: **FULL TIME** **PART TIME** **HOME DURING THE DAY**

How many hours per day would the animal be left alone? _____

Are you willing to administer medications (pills or liquid)? _____

Are you willing to bring the animal to the VCA Bedford Meadows Veterinary Hospital or Hurst Animal Shelter for vaccinations/checkups? **Yes No**

Where will the animal be housed during the day? _____

Are you able to keep your pets separate from Foster Animals if necessary? **Yes No**

Are your own pets current on their vaccinations? _____

How would you describe your yard in terms of size? **SMALL MEDIUM LARGE**

Is your yard fully fenced? **Yes No**

Type of fencing: **WOOD CHAIN-LINK OTHER** _____

What is the height of your fence at its lowest point? _____

Are you willing to attend a training class prior to fostering? **Yes No**

Would you be agreeable to being listed as one of our "Emergency Fosters" should an animal come to the shelter unexpectedly with no immediate foster care available? **Yes No**

How did you hear about the BAB and Foster Care Program? _____

Please use this space for any additional information or comments that you may want to share with us:

FOSTER CAREGIVER CONTRACT

For and in consideration of the use of the Hurst Animal Services Facilities of my participation in the Hurst Animal Services Borrow A Buddy and Foster Program and any instruction of training provided therein, the undersigned participant, parent or legal guardian for and on behalf of themselves and the above named participant, their heirs, executors, and assigns (collectively referred to as the "Undersigned") do hereby release, indemnify and hold harmless the City of Hurst, Texas it's officers, agents, employees, third party representatives and invitees (collectively referred to as the "Hurst Animal Services") from any and all claims, damages, causes of action of any kind whatsoever, statutory or otherwise, personal injury including death, property damage and lawsuits and judgments, including court costs, expenses and attorney fees, and all other expenses resulting that the Undersigned has, or might have, known, or unknown, now existing or that might arise hereafter, directly or indirectly, from the Undersigned's participation in the Hurst Animal Services Borrow A Buddy and Foster Program, including but not limited to planning, organization and instruction by any Hurst Animal Services personnel, and other activities associated with Hurst Animal Services operations, including any error, omission, carelessness, negligent or intentional act by the Undersigned in connection therewith.

The Undersigned understands that the participation in the Hurst Animal Services Borrow A Buddy and Foster Program shall be under the direction and control of the Animal Services personnel and agree to strictly comply with all Hurst Animal Services rules, directives and regulations written or otherwise including any personal direction from the Hurst Animal Services personnel during any time the Undersigned is on or within Hurst Animal Services or other City of Hurst Facilities. The Undersigned agrees to assume any and all risk associated with participation in the Hurst Animal Services Borrow A Buddy and Foster Program and an instruction or direction connected therewith.

Hurst Animal Services (HAS) supplies a Borrow A Buddy and Foster Care Program for animals that are not immediately adoptable. I understand fully that this animal(s) is/are temporarily in my care and belong exclusively to HAS. I further understand that the purpose of this foster relationship is solely to provide care for this/these animal(s). Any determination made about this animal(s) must be approved by a designated HAS representative within the organization. I understand that when the animal(s) is ready to be available for adoption, I will bring it back to HAS for placement (all animals fostered by foster parents are the property of HAS and will remain so until adopted). Any and all placements will be made through HAS and are subject to the same guidelines as any other adoption, and all fees apply. Foster parents are encouraged to assist in the placement process of their Foster Animal(s). If you have any questions, please contact Hurst Animal Services at (817) 788-7216. Foster Caregivers understand that HAS cannot guarantee placement of all Foster Animals. Foster Animals that are not placed may be euthanized due to health or behavior. HAS will make every attempt to re-foster an animal if additional care is needed.

I am or have applied to be an approved City of Hurst Volunteer and have attended or will attend the foster care orientation, and have read and understand the Borrow A Buddy and

Foster Care Program guidelines and agree to the policies and procedures of HAS while I have a Foster Animal in my care.

NOT FOLLOWING THE POLICIES OR PROCEDURES OUTLINED IN THIS GUIDEBOOK MAY RESULT IN DISCONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE HURST ANIMAL SERVICES BORROW A BUDDY AND FOSTER CARE PROGRAM.

Signature _____ Date _____

Print full name _____

HAS Staff Signature _____ Date _____