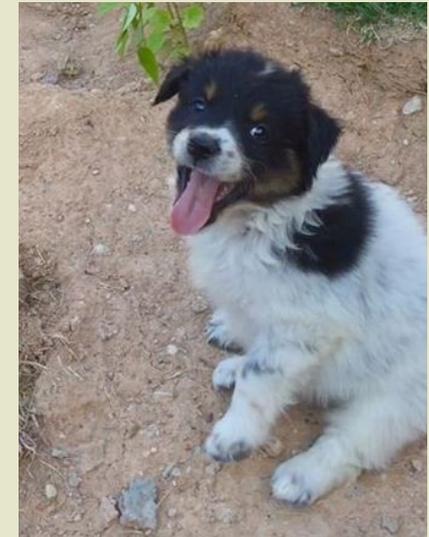




NEW HOPE
foster program

VOLUNTEER MANUAL



Santa Fe Animal Shelter
www.sfhumanesociety.org



Welcome to the Santa Fe Animal Shelter foster program

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Important Questions to ask yourself before you decide to foster

- ▣ **Can you get to us quickly in an emergency?**
- ▣ **Will you be able to spend quality time with your foster animal?**
It is best to spend at least 2 hours a day with your animal because socialization is an important part of fostering.
- ▣ **Will you be able to commit to appointments ranging from once a week to every three weeks for vaccinations or doctor appointments if your animal is ill.**
- ▣ **Are you aware that there may be a great deal of clean-up and even possible damage to your home when you take in a foster animal?**
Foster animals can ruin drapes, carpets and clothing. The Shelter is not responsible for any of this damage.
- ▣ **Are you willing to work with our veterinary care system?**
Only our vets can treat foster animals free of charge and know what is best for shelter animals.
- ▣ **Can you keep your animals from the foster animals?**
Foster animals frequently must be isolated from your own pets. Can you keep them in an enclosed area of their own? Keeping them separate will guard against the spread of disease and protect the foster animals from your pets.
- ▣ **Can you commit to spending the entire foster period with the animal?**
- ▣ **Are you willing to tell friends that these animals are not yours to adopt out and that they must go through the regular adoption process?**
- ▣ **Will you be able to bring the animal back at the end of the foster period?**
It can be hard to let an animal go when you have become emotionally attached.





becoming a foster parent

Let the adventure begin!

Foster care plays a prominent role in our ability to save more animals' lives. So we thank you for participating in this important program. During this adventure, you will have many learning opportunities ... and we hope you will feel a sense of accomplishment by helping change the lives of these animals.

We could not do this work without you.

The foster application

Foster applications can either be picked up at the Shelter or be downloaded online at:

www.sfhumanesociety.org

The application includes questions about your:

- ▣ Volunteer experience
- ▣ Foster experience
- ▣ Current pets and vaccinations
- ▣ Length of the foster care commitment
- ▣ Types of animals you are willing to foster

We will contact you to discuss your application and to schedule a home visit.





becoming a foster parent

After you get the nod!

After you have been approved, your email address will be entered into our New Hope database and you will begin receiving weekly updates from the Shelter. These emails list available foster animals, tips on fostering, and news about the program.

If you see an animal on the list that you feel would be a good fit for your family, contact the New Hope Staff to discuss the possibility of fostering that particular animal. The current New Hope contacts are:

Sydney Emerson
New Hope Coordinator
505-983-4309, ext. 1270
newhope@sfhumanesociety.org

The New Hope contact person will discuss specifics about the animal with you so we can determine whether it's a match made in heaven! While it's important to make your decision carefully, please bear in mind that space is limited at the shelter and we like to place foster animals as quickly as possible.

Picking up your foster friend

When you decide to open your heart and home to a foster animal, the New Hope Staff will arrange a pickup time and date. This appointment is necessary to ensure that you receive undivided attention when you arrive at the Shelter.

Please plan on spending up to an hour when you pick up your foster animal. We want to make sure that all your questions get answered.





becoming a foster parent

Supplies provided by the Shelter

- ▣ Food & bowls
- ▣ Litter boxes & puppy pads
- ▣ Litter
- ▣ Blankets & towels
- ▣ Medical supplies, including vaccinations & any medication
- ▣ Wire kennel, if needed
- ▣ X-pen, if needed
- ▣ Carrier
- ▣ Heating Discs
- ▣ Milk Replacement

All X-pens, carriers, kennels and heating discs must be returned to the Shelter after each foster.

While the Shelter is happy to supply the items listed above, any supplies or equipment you can provide would be much appreciated.

If would like to use your own carrier, please:

- ▣ Remove all debris
- ▣ Clean the carrier with a bleach/water solution and allow it to sit for 10 minutes
- ▣ After rinsing, the carrier is ready for a new animal!





becoming a foster parent

Foster Parent Agreement Volunteer Copy

I understand that:

- ▣ The Santa Fe Animal Shelter runs a Foster Care Program for animals that are not adoptable due to age, medical condition or behavior.
- ▣ Foster animal(s) are only temporarily in my care and belong exclusively to the Santa Fe Animal Shelter.
- ▣ The sole purpose of this foster relationship is to provide care for the animal(s).
- ▣ The New Hope Staff must approve any determination made concerning the animal(s).
- ▣ I will bring the animal in for its scheduled shots and medical care required.
- ▣ Any and all placements will only be made through the Santa Fe Animal Shelter.
- ▣ I will return the animal(s) on the scheduled date or on demand, whichever is sooner.
- ▣ I will return all borrowed supplies to the Santa Fe Animal Shelter.
- ▣ I will not hold SFASHS financially responsible for any damages including but not limited to illness and injury to me or my pets by a foster animal.
- ▣ I will not hold SFASHS financially responsible for any damages done to my property by a foster animal.

I hereby acknowledge that I have read, fully understand and agree to all part of the Santa Fe Animal Shelter Foster Parent Agreement.



making your home foster-friendly

Kitchen ... Bathroom ... Utility Room

- ▣ Use childproof latches to keep little paws from prying open cabinets.
- ▣ Keep medications, cleaners, chemicals and laundry supplies on high shelves.
- ▣ Keep trash cans covered or inside a latched cabinet.
- ▣ Check for and block any small spaces, nooks, or holes inside cabinets or behind washer/dryer units.
- ▣ Make sure cats or kittens haven't jumped into the dryer & dishwasher before you turn it on ... this does happen.
- ▣ Keep foods out of reach. Even if the food isn't harmful, the wrapper could be.
- ▣ Keep toilet lids closed to prevent drowning.
- ▣ Keep animals away from pools and bathtubs.

Animal proofing your house



Living Room ... Family Room

- ▣ Keep dangling wires from lamps, electronics and phones out of reach.
- ▣ Put children's toys away.
- ▣ Put away knickknacks until the cat or kitten has the coordination and/or understanding not to knock them over.
- ▣ Block spaces where the vacuum cleaner doesn't fit, but a foster kitten or puppy could.
- ▣ Remove dangerous items such as string and pins.
- ▣ Move houseplants — some of which can be poisonous — out of reach, including hanging plants that can be reached from nearby surfaces.
- ▣ Put away all sewing and craft notions, especially thread.
- ▣ Secure aquariums or cages that house small animals, such as fish or hamsters, to keep them safe.
- ▣ Make sure all heating and air vents have a cover.
- ▣ When windows are open, make sure animals can't get through the screens.



making your home foster-friendly

Animal proofing your house

Bedrooms

- Keep laundry and shoes behind closed doors. Draw strings and buttons pose a danger to foster animals.
- Keep all medications, lotions and cosmetics off accessible surfaces, such as a bedside table.
- Move electrical and phone wires out of reach of chewing.

Garage

- Most garages contain too many dangerous chemicals and unsafe items to be an acceptable foster care site. Foster animals should never be housed in a garage unless discussed with the New Hope Staff.
- Move chemicals to high shelves or behind secure doors.
- Clean up all antifreeze from the floor and driveway. One taste can be lethal to an animal.
- Salt to remove snow hurts animal's paws.

**Always open the door to the foster area slowly.
Little paws are on the other side!
*Make sure all leashes and collars are secure.**

Cleaning Protocol

Please follow these cleaning instructions between foster animals:

- ▣ Clean everything that can safely be bleached with one part bleach and 32 parts water.
- ▣ Dishwashers and clothes washers work great for sterilizing toys and bedding.
- ▣ Throw away any toys that cannot be bleached, such as feathered toys.
- ▣ If one foster animal is sick, make sure to clean everything before fostering the next animal.





fostering puppies and dogs

Before you begin fostering

- ▣ Read all the information in your Foster Manual and keep it handy for future reference.
- ▣ Ensure that your resident animals are current on their vaccinations. All foster animals are given a physical evaluation before entering your home to help identify any signs of illness. However, some illnesses do not present symptoms right away and may be contagious to your resident animals.
- ▣ Prepare a safe, clean environment for your foster animals. (see Animal Proofing Your House). Designate an enclosed space for your foster animals — a small room or wire kennel.

Who needs fostering

- ▣ Puppies under the age of 2 months. We send out two puppies together for socialization reasons.
- ▣ Nursing moms with puppies. Puppies can be weaned 6 to 8 weeks of age.
- ▣ Dogs with heartworm.
- ▣ Underweight dogs or puppies.
- ▣ Under-socialized dogs.

Most foster situations last 3 to 6 weeks. However, the time may vary in the event of illness or with puppies whose immune systems are not developed.

Preparing your pets for a foster animal

- ▣ Fostering may affect your own animals. Because they may be exposed to disease, we recommend keeping your foster and resident animals separated.
- ▣ Make sure your resident animals are current on their vaccinations and ask your veterinarian if additional vaccinations are recommended.
- ▣ Because resident animals may feel threatened by the new arrivals, be sure to give them extra attention and watch for changes in habits or behavior. It may take a while for your pets to get used to the foster animals.





fostering puppies and dogs

Chow Time!

Age, weight and health are the biggest factors in determining how much and how often to feed. It is important for both puppies and dogs to consume adequate amounts of food to ensure good health.

- ▣ Fresh water should be available at all times.
- ▣ Never give puppies cow's milk because they can't digest it properly. The result may be diarrhea that can be confused with a symptom of illness. In fact, it is best never to give puppies and dogs "people food."
- ▣ Monitor how well each puppy is eating. Make sure there isn't a little piggy who is pushing aside littermates. It may be a good idea to either rearrange the puppies or give smaller ones saucers of their own. Or try feeding puppies separately.



Choosing and changing food

Foster families get starter packages of food and additional food is provided as needed. It's a big help to the Shelter if you decide to purchase food on your own. Here are some pointers if you buy food:

- ▣ "Name brand" foods tend to have fewer byproducts than "store brands."
- ▣ Changing animals from one diet to another must be done gradually. Begin by mixing a small amount of new food while decreasing the old food over a period of 3 to 7 days. An abrupt change can make animals ill.
- ▣ If possible, try to feed one brand of food throughout the foster period.
- ▣ If a puppy has diarrhea or constipation add a teaspoon of pumpkin to their food twice a day.
- ▣ A small amount of cooked brown rice added to wet food can also help with diarrhea.
- ▣ If the problem continues, contact the Shelter. See Medical Issues.



fostering puppies and dogs

Puppy Meal Replacer (PMR)

- ▣ As a general rule, PMR should be mixed in a 1:2 ratio; 1 part powder, 2 parts water. The PMR should be the consistency of skim milk and can be heated up slightly (but not too hot) to mimic mom's milk temperature. The milk should NOT be lumpy.
- ▣ PMR should be provided at all times for the puppies as well as nursing mothers. This helps with valuable nutrients and also helps with soft stools.
- ▣ If a foster parent runs out of PMR, goat's milk is also a sufficient supplement. Do not use cow's milk as a supplement.





fostering puppies and dogs

Bringing your foster home

- ▣ You will be given a copy of the medical history. It will describe the animal(s) physical condition, what procedures and medications have been administered, and scheduled dates for vaccinations.
- ▣ Puppies and dogs should always be transported in carriers for their safety and yours.
- ▣ When you get home, carefully release them, give them a bowl of cool, fresh water, and allow 15 minutes for them to get accustomed to their new environment.
- ▣ After they have settled down you may give them a small portion of food (unless directed otherwise), or wait until the next scheduled feeding time. Giving them too much food at first may cause them to become ill if they are upset from the travel or transition.

Meeting the family

- ▣ Keep your foster animal(s) separate from your resident animals for the first few days and when unsupervised
- ▣ If you are fostering a mom and pups, don't introduce them to any animals at this time. She will be protective and may perceive other animals as a direct threat. No matter how friendly you know your own pet to be, you don't know how a new mother will handle stress.
- ▣ If you have children help them understand how to interact with the new foster animals. Adult animals should not be approached quickly or loudly. Let them observe your family from their enclosure for a while.
- ▣ Puppies spend a lot of time sleeping. Allow them to rest undisturbed ... and play with them when they awaken on their own.



How to pick up a puppy ...

Always place one hand under the animal's hindquarters and the other under the puppy's chest. Very young children should always be supervised when they are with foster puppies.



fostering puppies and dogs

Guide to 4-8 Week Old Puppies

Socialization

Between 3-12 weeks of age, puppies are forming bonds with people, dogs, and other animals that will last a lifetime. Puppies who are not exposed to and/or do not have good experiences during this period can end up with fear and aggression problems later on. As much as possible — always keeping the puppies' safety in mind — get puppies around all kinds of people, including children and big, uniformed men, etc. Make sure they have a good experience with play, petting and treats. It's also a good idea to expose puppies to cats to improve their chances of growing up to like their feline friends.

Sights and Sounds

Puppies are forming impressions of other things in the environment besides people and animals. It's helpful for them to see and hear household things like televisions and vacuum cleaners. Praise and treat the puppies every time they come into contact with something new so they will have positive associations. We will provide a crate if you would like to do this.

Crate Training

Teach the puppies to enjoy a snug, cozy crate. Put them in for naps and keep the crate close to you so they don't associate it with abandonment.

Housetraining

Put the puppies on a pee pad as soon as they wake up, right after eating, and at least once an hour in the beginning. Reward them every time they use the pad.

Handling

Handle the puppy all the time ... play with his feet, brush him, and give him hugs. Remember to give him treats while you do it so he enjoys being handled with love.

Training

Even a little pup can learn basic commands like sit and down if you keep training short, fun, and rewarding.

If you have questions, our Behavior Staff can answer them. Just call 505-983-4309, ext.1251 or 1151.



fostering kittens and cats

Before you begin fostering

- ▣ Read all the information in your Foster Manual and keep it handy for future reference.
- ▣ Ensure that your resident animals are current on their vaccinations. All foster animals are given a physical evaluation before entering your home to help identify any signs of illness. However, some illnesses do not present symptoms right away and may be contagious to your resident animal(s).
- ▣ Prepare a safe, clean environment for your foster animals. (see Animal Proofing Your House).

Who needs fostering

- ▣ Litters of kittens that are too young for adoption.
- ▣ Nursing moms with kittens.
- ▣ Kittens that are too young to eat on their own.
- ▣ Animals with an injury or illness that may not have adapted well to the Shelter environment and will respond well to a few weeks of foster home care.
- ▣ Cats with degenerative medical conditions that need attention to make the end of life more comfortable.

Most foster situations last 3 to 6 weeks. However, the time may vary in the event of illness or with kittens whose immune systems are not developed.



Preparing your pets for a foster animal

- ▣ Fostering may affect your own animals. Because they may be exposed to disease, we recommend keeping your foster and resident animals separated.
- ▣ Make sure your resident animals are current on their vaccinations and ask your veterinarian if additional vaccinations are recommended.
- ▣ Because resident animals may feel threatened by the new arrivals, be sure to give them extra attention and watch for changes in habits or behavior.



fostering kittens and cats

Bringing your foster home

- ▣ You will be given a copy of the medical history. It will describe the animal(s) physical condition, what procedures and medications have been administered, and scheduled dates for vaccinations.
- ▣ Kittens and cats should always be transported in carriers for their safety and yours.
- ▣ When you get home, carefully release them, give them a bowl of cool, fresh water, and allow 15 minutes for them to get accustomed to their new environment.
- ▣ After they have settled down you may give them a small portion of food (unless directed otherwise), or wait until the next scheduled feeding time. Giving them too much food at first may cause them to become ill if they are upset from the travel or transition.
- ▣ If the kittens are walking, place them in their litter box so they can begin to recognize its location.
- ▣ Show the mother cat where the larger litter box is located.

Meeting the family

- ▣ If you are fostering a mom and her kittens, don't introduce them to any animals at this time. She will be protective and may perceive other animals as a direct threat. No matter how friendly you know your own pet to be, you don't know how a new mother will handle stress.
- ▣ If you have children help them understand how to interact with the new foster animals. Adult animals should not be approached quickly or loudly. Let them observe your family from their enclosure for a while.
- ▣ Kittens spend a lot of time sleeping. Allow them to rest undisturbed ... and play with them when they awaken on their own.



How to pick up a kitten ...

Always place one hand under the animal's hindquarters and the other under the kitten's chest. Very young children should always be supervised when they are with foster kittens.



fostering kittens and cats

Dos and Don'ts of socializing kittens

Do ...

- ▣ Sit on the floor and let them come to you. It may take them a while to get used to being in your home. This is a good way to observe the social dynamics of the litter. Please take note of kitten personality characteristics that will be helpful to the future adoptive parents.
- ▣ Help shy kittens get comfortable coming to you by putting a food dish next to you. Be sure to touch and pet them while they are eating.
- ▣ Work with kittens individually. Hold the kitten with one hand under their chest and rub your other hand up and down each leg. Gently squeeze the pads of each foot. Run your hands gently over their face and mouth and gently stroke the ears.
- ▣ Use gentle human contact to reduce aggression that is sometimes linked to animals being petted in certain spots they don't like.

Don't ...

- ▣ Let children play with kittens unsupervised.
- ▣ Don't allow children to wave their hands in front of animals' faces since they may attempt to play-bite or scratch.
- ▣ Don't wake up sleeping kittens. Playtime should be coordinated with their schedule.
- ▣ Don't give foster animals toys they can choke on, including string toys and large toys they could tear up and try to eat while you aren't watching.
- ▣ Kittens should be gently but firmly shown what is and isn't appropriate for play. For example, if a kitten begins playing with curtains, pick him/her up and say "no." Direct him/her toward a scratching post or toy.
- ▣ Try sprinkling areas that are acceptable for kitty play with catnip. Do not use catnip with young kittens.





fostering kittens and cats

Chow time!

Age, weight and health are the biggest factors in determining how much and how often to feed. It is important for both kittens and cats to consume adequate amounts of food to ensure good health.

- ▣ Nursing mother cats should be fed kitten food, which has higher nutrition.
- ▣ Orphaned kittens less than 3 weeks old should be fed KMR (Kitten Milk Replacement) on demand — usually every 3 to 4 hours. The KMR formula will be provided for you but it can be purchased at pet stores or your veterinarian. It comes in both liquid and powder form. It is important to refrigerate open KMR (both liquid and powder) and mix only what is necessary.
- ▣ Orphaned kittens between 3 weeks and 6 weeks old should be KMR mixed with canned kitten food. Start with a ratio of 3 parts KMR to 1 part canned food and gradually increase the canned food until the kitten is weaned at 5 to 6 weeks of age. The KMR and canned food should be pureed in a blender and fed through a bottle or syringe.
- ▣ Kittens who are newly weaned should be fed canned kitten food mixed with a small amount of warm water to make the food easier to eat and to reduce the risk of dehydration. When kittens are 8 weeks old the amount of water can be reduced so they are eating regular wet food.
- ▣ Kittens 6 to 8 weeks in age should be encouraged to eat dry food. The dry food may need to be moistened or mixed with canned food to make it more palatable for a kitten. As the kitten eats more and more dry food, the wet canned feeding should be reduced to twice a day.
- ▣ Contrary to popular belief, kittens and cats should never be given cow's milk, as they can't digest it properly. It may cause diarrhea that can be confused with symptoms of illness. In fact, it is best not to give kittens and cats any "people food."
- ▣ Monitor how well each kitten is eating. Make sure there isn't a little piggy who is pushing aside littermates. It may be a good idea to either rearrange the kittens or give smaller ones saucers of their own. Or try feeding kittens separately.





fostering kittens and cats

Choosing and changing food

Foster families get starter packages of food and additional food is provided as needed. It's a big help to the Shelter if you decide to purchase food on your own. Here are some pointers if you buy food:

- ▣ The best flavors for kittens are chicken and turkey, and loaf or paté style is easiest for them to eat. If they don't like meat, try fish.
- ▣ Changing animals from one diet to another must be done gradually. Begin by mixing a small amount of new food while decreasing the old food over a period of 3 to 7 days. An abrupt change can make animals ill.
- ▣ If possible, try to feed one brand of food throughout the foster period.
- ▣ If a kitten has diarrhea or constipation add a teaspoon of pumpkin to their food twice a day. Some volunteers have found Purina's Forti-flora helpful.
- ▣ If the problem continues more than 2 or 3 days, contact the Shelter. See Medical Issues.
- ▣ If your cat has special dietary needs, these rules may not apply.



fostering kittens and cats

Kitten Development Guide

Week 1

- ▣ Kittens are born blind and deaf. Their eyes are closed and their ears are folded down.
- ▣ They sleep and eat. When they are awake they stay close to their mother.
- ▣ Newborns rely on their mother to keep warm. Keep their environment at a constant temperature to avoid either hypothermia or hyperthermia.
- ▣ If kittens are orphaned, provide a constant supply of warmth such as a heating pad, towels or blankets. Make sure they can move away from the heat source if they get too hot.
- ▣ Toileting is stimulated by the mother. After kittens have nursed, she will lick their bellies and genitals, eating any feces and urine. If you have motherless kittens, you may need to clean their bottoms with scent free baby wipes.
- ▣ If kittens are orphaned, stimulate toileting before & after every meal by gently rubbing the abdomen in front of the genital area with a soft cloth or cotton pad. 10-15 min before & after feedings.

Week 2

- ▣ Eyes begin to open, but vision is still poor. Don't force them open. Young kittens are vulnerable to eye infection; watch for signs of infection such as crustiness or white/yellow secretion. All kittens have blue eyes at this stage!
- ▣ The sense of smell is developing.
- ▣ This is the beginning of the socialization period. Be sure to handle kittens gently and frequently so they get used to humans.

Week 3

- ▣ Kittens are becoming more aware of littermates. Sense of smell continues to develop.
- ▣ They begin to shakily move about. Some kittens will try to walk and explore.
- ▣ Ears will be erect. Baby teeth begin to show. The sense of smell is well developed.
- ▣ Kittens can now purr!

Week 4

- ▣ The sense of smell is fully mature. Hearing is well developed. Eyesight is improving.
- ▣ Kittens are becoming more active. They will interact with littermates and may explore outside their kitting box.
- ▣ They can groom themselves and control elimination.



fostering kittens and cats

Kitten Development Guide

Week 5

- ▣ Kitten's sight is fully developed.
- ▣ The weaning process can begin. Start out slowly by mixing baby food (check ingredients to make sure it doesn't contain onion, which is toxic to cats), canned or dry cat food in with some kitten formula. Not all kittens will take food immediately, so patience is important. Introduce a small amount at first. You may place a bit of food on your finger or in a cat bowl.
- ▣ Kittens are much more graceful on their feet and are exploring more. They are stalking and pouncing on their litter-mates!
- ▣ They may start using the litter box, although there are likely to still be some accidents. Make sure bedding is easily washable so you can keep the area clean.
- ▣ Provide them with a small litter tray and make sure it has non-clumping litter which is safe for young kittens to use, and possibly eat.

Weeks 6-8

- ▣ Kittens receive their first vaccinations at 6 weeks of age.
- ▣ They are extremely active.
- ▣ Kittens should be eating four small meals a day. By 8 weeks they should be eating mostly solids. They should have almost all of their baby teeth.

Spaying and Neutering

All kittens and cats must be spayed or neutered before they can be adopted. Your kittens will be weighed at each vaccination date and you'll be told how they're progressing. Kittens are spayed when they reach at least 2.2 lbs. This roughly coincides with 10 weeks of age. Once the kittens are spayed or neutered, they are retained at the Shelter and put up for adoption.



fostering kittens and cats

Vaccination Schedule and Testing

Foster animals receive preventive medical treatment and vaccines to protect them from viral and bacterial infections. Depending on age and health, this program includes one or more vaccinations and tests.

- ▣ You will receive a vaccination schedule for each foster animal when you pick them up at the Shelter. **It is important to adhere to this schedule.**
- ▣ Kittens must be 6 weeks or older to receive their first vaccinations. They need a series of upper respiratory/distemper vaccinations (FCRVP) approximately two weeks apart.
- ▣ This schedule may be adjusted if the animal is sick, becomes sick, is nursing or pregnant. Cats and kittens may receive a deworming formula with their vaccination.





medical issues

Even if your foster animal is determined to be healthy, please keep the animal in an isolated area for the first few days and watch closely for any changes in normal behavior. Most common illnesses take time to manifest. If the animal shows any of the following symptoms, please contact the New Hope Coordinator as indicated.

Recognizing Common Illnesses

Symptom	Possible Cause	What to do
Sneezing, wheezing, coughing	Upper respiratory infection	If more than three times in a day, call that day
Discharge from the nose (clear, colored, bloody)	Upper respiratory infection	Call that day
Sores on the nose, tongue or mouth	Upper respiratory infection	Call that day
Watery, goopy or red eyes	Upper respiratory infection	Call that day
Diarrhea— stools are soft but not watery	Stress, change of food, intestinal parasites	Give the kitten or puppy Bene-Bac or Forti-Flora, a probiotic that can firm up the stool. Monitor for two days. If no improvement, collect a fecal sample and call that day.
Diarrhea—stools are watery and/or bloody	Stress, change of food, intestinal parasites	Collect fecal sample. Call that day. Refrigerate sample no more than 24 hours.
Itchy/dirty ears (Dirt may look like coffee grounds)	Ear mites	Call that day



medical issues

Recognizing Common Illnesses

Symptom	Possible Cause	What to do
Vomiting	Viral infection	If vomiting two or more times, still eating and active, call that day. If vomiting frequently, shows loss of appetite or not as active, call immediately.
Dehydration	Associated with diarrhea, vomiting, or loss of appetite	To test for dehydration, gently pinch the animal's skin over the shoulders. If the skin springs back slowly (takes more than one second), the animal may be dehydrated. Call immediately.
On medication but condition is getting worse or not improving		Call that day
Hair loss	External parasites/ringworm	Call immediately
Loss of appetite	Normal first day or serious sign of illness	If not eating for more than 24 hours, call that day.

Medication Information

- ☐ Most common illnesses are treated with oral medication. Some animals are already on medication when going to a foster home.
- ☐ Administer necessary medications as directed.
- ☐ Give only medications prescribed by the Clinic.
- ☐ Visit www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc to see an instructional video on how to give a cat oral medication.



medical issues

Quarantines

Some illnesses are more contagious than others and can survive longer in the home environment. This requires us to quarantine the home. Quarantine is necessary in the case of these illnesses:

Pan leucopenia: Feline illness that is accompanied by bloody diarrhea, vomiting and lethargy. If a kitten in your home tests positive for pan leucopenia, there is a six-month quarantine before any new cats/kittens may be placed with you. Clean everything with bleach and water solution and throw away toys and bedding.

Parvovirus: Canine illness that is accompanied by bloody diarrhea, vomiting and lethargy. If a puppy tests positive for parvo there is a six-month quarantine before we would put any new dogs/puppies in your home. Clean everything with bleach and water solution and throw away toys and bedding.

Ringworm: Symptoms include hair loss and lesions on the skin. Ringworm is contagious to both animals and people. Because it is highly contagious, ringworm cannot be treated at the Shelter. However, you can choose to treat it in your home.

Treatment generally takes two to three months. It is important to keep your foster animal in a separate room for the duration of treatment. If your foster animal tests positive for ringworm, it will need three negative cultures before being returned to the Shelter for adoption. Once this animal has left your home, we will not put any new animals in the home for six months. You will also be asked to culture different areas in your home and residents animals (if they came in contact with your foster animal). You will need three consecutive negative cultures before the quarantine can be lifted.





medical issues

Failure to Thrive (FTT)

The first eight weeks of life can be a perilous time for young animals. Because they lack mature immune systems, they face the constant threat of diseases. A sick kitten can have a difficult time living into adulthood.

Sometimes despite our best efforts, kittens just do not thrive. These are things to watch for:

- ▣ Normal kitten neonates sleep and nurse. They spend most of their time in a group and cry only briefly. Neonates that lie away from the group, cry constantly, are restless, or are not nursing are signs of FTT.
- ▣ Mouth breathing is never normal for a kitten or cat. Kittens should always breathe through their nose with their mouth closed.
- ▣ Although the first 4 weeks of life are the most fragile, FTT can happen up to 8 weeks in age.
- ▣ A pinch test is a good indicator of dehydration: *Tent the skin between the shoulder blades. If it bounces back quickly, the animal is well hydrated. If the skin is slow to bounce back, the animal is probably dehydrated and can deteriorate quickly.*
- ▣ Severe lethargy and no appetite, coupled with vomiting and diarrhea are signs of possible FTT.

Is it an emergency?

If your foster animal is going through FTT and it is after hours at the Shelter, please wait until morning and then bring the kitten in to see a vet. In the meantime, keep it dry, warm and comfortable. Do not force feed it. It's important not to panic as a foster parent and to understand that FTT can be common. Often there is little that can be done in true cases of FTT and taking the animal to an emergency clinic will only result in a huge expense on your part.

What if the animal dies at night?

If your foster animal passes away during the night, gently place it in a plastic bag and put it in your freezer. You can either bring it to the Shelter in the morning or call for additional options.

When an animal suffers from FTT, it is NOT the fault of anyone involved. Very little can be done to stop "fading kitten/puppy syndrome." No matter how much tender loving care these animals are given, some just don't survive. Unfortunately, it is the natural cycle of life.

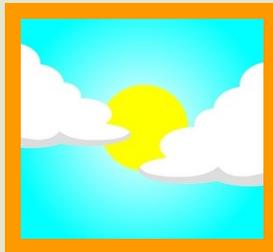


emergency information

General Criteria For Emergencies

- ▣ Continuous weight loss
- ▣ Continuous diarrhea (lasting more than 1 day)
- ▣ Continuous vomiting (lasting more than 1 day)
- ▣ Bleeding of any kind — nose, urine, stool
- ▣ Any trauma—hit by a car, dropped, limp, stepped on, unconscious
- ▣ Difficulty breathing/blocked airway

Emergency Numbers



9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Seven days a week

Call: 505-983-4309, ext. 1270

**Bring animal to the Shelter
Receiving Building
[unless instructed otherwise]**



5:00 pm to 9:00 am,
Seven days a week:

505-433-1389 (Sydney Emerson)
505-670-2283 (Dylan Moore)

[unless instructed otherwise]

IMPORTANT!

The Santa Fe Animal Shelter does not pay for emergency medical care or outside veterinary services.

Other Important Phone Numbers

New Hope Department
505-983-4309, ext. 1270

Schedule pick-ups and returns; all other questions

Clinic
505-983-4309, ext. 1360

Make medical appointments

Behavior
505-983-4309, ext. 1251
or ext. 1153



returns, appointments & adoptions

When it's time to return your foster animal(s), please schedule a date with the New Hope Coordinator. If in regards to puppies/kittens, New Hope will coordinate a date with you and the Clinic. These types of fosters should either be dropped off the night prior to their surgery date, or the morning of (8-9a.m.). Other types of foster animals will return to the Admissions building (Receiving). New Hope will coordinate a date with you and the Admissions staff.

When dropping off your foster animal(s) to either the clinic or Admissions bring along their paperwork and the Foster Parent Questionnaire provided in your Foster Packet. This information will help in matching the animal with the right person.

If you have a good close-up photo of the animal (no people), please share it with us for our website and the pet biography card on the front of the adoption kennel.

If you have found a potential adopter for your foster animal, please notify the New Hope Coordinator immediately. We will set up an adoption appointment with our customer care staff. Please provide the animal's ID number (A#) when you call. The foster animal cannot go to the potential adopter's home until the adoption has been finalized.

If you wish to participate in the adoption process (chatting with adopters/off-site adoptions) please inform the New Hope Coordinator.

contacts

Sydney Emerson
New Hope Coordinator
505-983-4309, ext. 1270
newhope@sfhumanesociety.org

Animal Shelter Clinic
505-983-4309, ext. 1360



Foster Waiver of Liability

This agreement releases the Santa Fe Animal Shelter and Humane Society (SFASHS) from all liability relating to illness or injury that may occur to me, my family, my personal pets or other occupants/visitors in my home while fostering a shelter animal. By signing this agreement, I agree to hold the SFASHS entirely free from any liability, including financial responsibility for any illness or injuries incurred regardless of fault or animal instigator.

I also acknowledge the risks involved in fostering a shelter animal. These include but are not limited to destruction of property, exposure to illnesses from a shelter animal, injury from fights between my pet and a shelter animal, bites, scratches or other injuries to any person exposed to this animal including but not limited to family members, visitors, myself and others and any other issues that may arise from having a shelter animal in the home. I attest that I am participating voluntarily, and that all risks have been made clear to me. Additionally, my pets do not have any conditions that will increase their likelihood of experiencing illness or injuries while fostering.

I agree to take my pet to my veterinarian at my own expense if any illness or injury should occur from a foster animal. By signing below I forfeit all right to compensation from the SFASHS for any reason. Additionally I will make every effort to follow safety precautions as listed in writing and explained to me verbally. I will ask for clarification when needed.

I will not take a shelter animal to a non-shelter clinic or vet. I understand that I will be financially obligated by this decision to pay any and all fees for the foster animals treatment if taken to an non-shelter clinic or vet.

I, _____, fully understand and agree to the above terms.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Witnessed By (Name & Title): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____