



**New Hampshire Humane Society**  
**Basic Foster Information & Expectations**

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# INTRODUCTION:

## Welcome to the New Hampshire Humane Society's Foster Care Program!

Animals may be in the Foster Care Program for a variety of reasons: socialization, diet, medical, and nursing moms with kittens or puppies. The Foster Care Program here at the New Hampshire Humane Society allows us to take in far more animals per year than can be housed in the shelter due to limitations of space and resources. Your help will save the lives of many animals whose futures would otherwise be uncertain across the country. Animals in the Foster Care Program may require more individual care than they can receive in a shelter environment, and your service by welcoming these animal(s) into your home is invaluable.

In order to foster animals through the New Hampshire Humane Society, you may need some supplies, which we are happy to provide to you. These supplies will vary depending on the circumstances of the foster animals in your care, and as such, more information will be provided to you as needed.

Fostering requires a flexible schedule and a personal commitment to the foster animals in your care. In a typical day, you can expect to give food and water to the animals several times a day, according to age and size. Animals will need clean, safe spaces for living, eating, playing, and relieving themselves. When fostering some animals, some documentation will be required to ensure proper progress is made in relation to developmental and/or medical needs. All animals will need appropriate socialization, and some may require more specific medical care as directed and supported by our Animal Care Team at the New Hampshire Humane Society. Additionally, you are expected to keep appointments for regular vaccinations, dewormings and check-ups. The anticipated **minimum** time commitment is about 2 hours per day, caring for and cleaning up after the foster animals in your care.

Although fostering is a lot of work, it is a tremendously rewarding experience! You get to help animals grow and develop into well-adjusted family pets. More importantly, you are saving lives! We cannot express how much we appreciate your service to the New Hampshire Humane Society, and the care you offer to our animals!

# Important Questions to Ask Yourself Before Fostering

Before you decide to foster for the New Hampshire Humane Society....

## **Are you able to get to us quickly in an emergency?**

While we always hope for healthy foster animals, often the animals who go out to foster may need additional care/attention. If you are unable to get the animals to us at our facility in the event that an animal is unwell, fostering may not be the best way for you to support New Hampshire Humane.

## **Will you be able to spend quality time with the animals?**

On average, it is best to spend at least 2 hours a day with your foster animals, more if possible! Socialization is just as important as feeding them and keeping them clean.

## **Will you be able to commit to appointments, whether routine or emergency?**

While different animals have different needs, young animals (puppies and kittens) on average will need to come in for routine deworming and vaccines every 2 weeks. Occasionally it may be more often if there are any issues or concerns with your fosters. If you are fostering an adoptable animal, it is also necessary that you commit to bringing the animal back to the facility for appointments with potential adopters as well.

## **Are you aware that there is a great deal of cleanup and even possible damage to your home when you take a foster animal?**

Animals can ruin drapes, carpeting, clothing, furniture, and the New Hampshire Humane Society will not be held responsible for any damage incurred while fostering an animal.

## **Are you willing to work with our Medical Department and Veterinary Care System?**

Please understand that only our veterinarian and medical department can treat foster animals free of charge. While emergencies happen, if you seek care outside of the direction of our medical team in NHHS, that will likely not be covered by NHHS.

## **Are you able to separate foster animals from your own?**

Foster animals must remain isolated from your resident pets. Can you keep them in an enclosed area away from your pets?

## **Can you commit to spending the entire foster period with the animal(s)?**

If something unexpected happens, you will need to call us to inform us of an early foster return. Foster commitments can range from a few days to several months, depending on the animal(s), and if possible, we aim to keep our fosters with the same home for the duration of their stay.

## **Do you feel comfortable explaining to friends that these animals are not yours to adopt out and that they must go through the regular adoption process at the New Hampshire Humane Society?**

While under your care, foster animals are still property of New Hampshire Humane. If while you are caring for our animals, you or a friend/family member happen to fall in love with them - that's great! The process will be the same as if the animal were residing in the NHHS Facility. Prospective adopters should complete the application online for consideration.

**Will you bring the animal back at the end of the foster period?**

As long as the animal is in foster care, it is important for the health of the animal as well as their time in temporary homing situations (whether with you or at our facility) that foster parents commit to returning the animal for care and potential adopter appointments, etc. If you wish to adopt the animal you are fostering, that is great - just be sure to complete the formal adoption process, starting with an application on our website.

**Are you emotionally prepared to handle the death of one of your foster animals?**

Losing a foster animal can be exceedingly difficult, but the sad truth is that sometimes it happens, despite our best efforts. In this event, please contact us right away.