



## FOSTERING CATS AND DOGS

Welcome to the AnimalSave foster program. Fostering animals can be both challenging and rewarding. It is a great deal of responsibility. It is also a way to directly save the lives of innocent animals. To help you in your efforts, we have outlined your responsibilities below.

### Foster Caregiver (Foster) Responsibilities

Fosters will be responsible for the general care and feeding of all AnimalSave animals placed in their care. This will include, but is not limited to the following:

- a. **\_\_\_\_\_ Providing food and water.** Food will be provided by AnimalSave unless the foster wishes to cover the cost of feeding as a tax deductible donation to AnimalSave. The animal must be fed on a regular basis. If a specific diet or feeding routine has been recommended by AnimalSave or a veterinarian, this must be followed. Young kittens and puppies may need around-the-clock feedings. If you plan to be out of town and are unable to care for the animal(s), you must contact AnimalSave to advise who will be providing care or to seek our assistance in making temporary arrangements for the animal(s).
- b. **\_\_\_\_\_ Administration of oral or topical medications.** If medications are ordered by a veterinarian, AnimalSave will provide the medication. However, the foster is required to administer it. Some medications must be administered around the clock, or with specific foods, or under very specific circumstances. Instruction on medication administration and a log sheet will be provided to the foster. The log sheet must be kept updated and returned to AnimalSave when the course of medication has been completed.
- c. **\_\_\_\_\_ Providing grooming on a regular basis.** Long-haired dogs and cats need regular brushing and combing. Cats and kittens need flea combing regularly. Flea bathing or treating AnimalSave animals should only be done with AnimalSave's approval. Young kittens or puppies should NEVER be flea bathed or flea dipped. Use a baby shampoo and a flea comb only to remove fleas.
- d. **\_\_\_\_\_ Providing regular exercise** for animals in your care. If you have a large dog and a small home, please plan to walk the dog on a leash daily.
- e. **\_\_\_\_\_ Keeping dogs in a fenced yard.** They should only be allowed out of the yard on a leash and accompanied by you. They must always wear a collar with current identification.
- f. **\_\_\_\_\_ Keeping cats as indoor animals.** Any outdoor activity must be approved by AnimalSave. Litter boxes and litter will be provided by AnimalSave unless the foster wishes to cover this cost as a tax deductible donation to AnimalSave.

- g. **Seeking help for housebreaking and training.** Please talk to us if you find that the animal needs training, housebreaking, etc., to become adoptable. AnimalSave can help you with these matters if needed.
- h. **Providing transportation** to the animal in your care. We may need you to transport the animal to and from the veterinarian, to AnimalSave for regular check-ups and/or to adoption events. Mileage expenses for volunteer activities are tax deductible.
- i. **Allowing visitation-approved applicants in your home.** Some animals do not do well in group settings. We may, at times, ask you to allow a potential, approved adopter to visit the animal in your home.
- j. **Contacting AnimalSave for medical help.** Veterinary care and related costs must be approved by AnimalSave in advance and will be paid by AnimalSave unless the medical need is due to your negligence. Contact AnimalSave immediately if a medical need arises. In case of an emergency, when nobody from AnimalSave can be reached, please seek life-saving care immediately while continuing to contact AnimalSave (see letter 'n' below).
- k. **Completing and signing a Foster Application and Agreement.** Your foster commitment may be as long as six months or as short as one day. Your foster animal may be adopted out and returned to us later. If that occurs, we may ask you to foster this animal again, since the animal is most familiar with you and your household.
- l. **Making other arrangements.** AnimalSave animals are solely AnimalSave's. You may not co-foster or give away an AnimalSave animal without our express approval. All adoptions must be approved by AnimalSave. Do not make adoption commitments to others as this creates problems if AnimalSave determines another adopter is more appropriate for an animal. If you cannot care for the animal, contact AnimalSave immediately, so that other arrangements can be made.
- m. **Maintaining a safe environment.** Your home should be large enough to accommodate the animal you intend to foster. You should have an area in which you can, at least temporarily, isolate the AnimalSave animal from your own. Before you become a foster, you should be certain that your animals are up to date on all their shots and that they have been spayed or neutered. Your foster animal may have parasites (ringworm, tapeworm, hookworm, coccidiosis, giardiasis) and we cannot be responsible if this is transmitted to your pets. We want all the animals to be safe, so please take precautions as you deem necessary. We may visit your home to inspect the area you have available for the AnimalSave animal.
  - I. **AnimalSave foster homes are limited to the following number of foster animals at one time:**
    - a. **2 litters of kittens (under 4 months old) to be kept separately, or 3 older kittens or adult cats**
    - b. **1 litter of puppies (under 4 months old) or 3 older puppies or adult dogs**
- n. **Contacting AnimalSave.** When you receive your foster animal, you will be provided with the names and phone numbers of your primary contacts at AnimalSave. Use these for all issues, including veterinary care relating to your foster animal.

- o. \_\_\_\_ **Completing a biography.** Please be observant of your AnimalSave animal’s habits, likes and dislikes. So that we can find just the right home for your foster animal, we need to know as much as possible. Notice how s/he gets along with people of all ages, any animals s/he may live with or encounter, whether s/he is a “touchy-feely” or “hands off” type, indoor or outdoor lover, quiet or talkative. You will be asked to fill out a cat or dog biography so our counselors will be able to match your foster animal with that perfect home.
  
- p. \_\_\_\_ **Providing loving care.** As a foster caregiver you have taken on a “labor of love” in providing needed care until a permanent home can be found. Your kindness and attention to the animal will help facilitate adoption and is much appreciated by your foster animal as well as by AnimalSave.

By initialing items A-P and signing below, I indicate that I have read, understood and agreed to the terms outlined in this document.

Name of Foster (please print)\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Foster\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Foster Animal(s)\_\_\_\_\_

Description of Foster Animal(s)\_\_\_\_\_