



*friends of the
animal shelter*
Jackson County

Foster Handbook

Contents

Welcome to the Foster Program	2
Frequently Asked Questions	4
Fostering Supplies.....	6
Vaccine Guidelines for Puppies and Kittens - Jackson County Animal Shelter	7
Foster Spay/Neuter Process	8
What should I do if my foster dog escapes?	8
What to do if your foster animal gets hurt or becomes ill	9
Kitten Care	10
Ringworm	17
Return and Adoption of Foster Animals.....	19
Placing Foster Animals from Your Home	19
Return of Foster Animals to the Shelter	19
Ways to Help Your Foster Pets Get Adopted.....	20

Contact Information

Diane Novak, Foster Program Coordinator	(541) 941-3677
Jackson County Animal Shelter.....	(541) 774-6654
Best Friends Animal Hospital – Talent.....	(541) 535-8187
After hours emergency - Southern Oregon Veterinary Specialty Center	(541) 282-7711
Bonnie Chirrick, FOTAS Volunteer Manager.....	(541) 774-6651
Friends of the Animal Shelter Office, fotas@fotas.org	(541) 774-6651

For non-emergency questions:

Diane Novak
di.sped.head@gmail.com

For emergency questions contact:

Jackson County Animal Shelter
Barbara Talbert, Shelter Manager
TalberBA@jacksoncounty.org
After 4:30 PM: (541) 890-2308

Welcome to the Foster Program

Welcome to the **Friends of the Animal Shelter Foster Program** for Jackson County Animal Shelter animals! Thanks so much for providing a temporary home for homeless animals. You are saving lives!

This handbook contains helpful information about fostering animals. Be sure to read over this information (with the whole family) and ask questions if you are uncertain about anything. The information includes tried and true techniques tested by our veteran foster volunteers. Some is from successful foster programs at other shelters, and some is from medical journals and publications. There is a lot of information out there - books, internet, experts, etc., and we encourage you to learn as much as possible. Supplemental literature about young kitten/puppy care is available upon request.

By becoming a foster parent, you are joining a team of dedicated volunteers who support each other in their efforts to help those Shelter animals that need special care. Please take advantage of their experience by asking for advice and developing friendships with other foster parents. Many experienced foster volunteers are willing to come to your home to help with any issues you may have, (e.g., health, training, animal proofing) and all you have to do is ask!

We strongly encourage you to use the emergency contacts sheet if you believe there is a health emergency with one of your foster animals. There are no “stupid questions,” and the people on that list are more than happy to help. Most of them have experienced the things you are going through, and they know the answers because they were once in your shoes.

Please be aware that you may experience some common health issues when fostering a shelter animal. Due to stress and change of diet, diarrhea may be a common symptom during the first few days. If it persists for more than a week, first contact the shelter staff. They do try to de-flea, de-tick, de-worm, clean ears for ear mites, and other common parasites before releasing a foster animal into your care. This is not always 100% effective, so your own pets may be exposed. Therefore, it is very important for you to keep your own pets up to date on shots and treatments, such as flea and tick prevention.

Again, thank you for joining our program. We hope this will be an enjoyable and educational experience for you, and the animals, thank you for your help!

**As foster volunteers, you have given the animals you have cared for and loved
a very special gift – a second chance at a full and wonderful life.**

Sincerely,

Diane Novak

Foster Program Coordinator
Friends of the Animal Shelter
Jackson County Animal Care and Control

Pet Fostering Guardian Agreement (Foster Volunteer copy)

- 1) I accept full responsibility for all foster pets placed in my care. I acknowledge that I must comply with all County and State Laws. I understand that I am responsible under the law as guardian of the foster pet.
- 2) I agree to keep adequate identification and/or a Jackson County license on the pet at all times.
- 3) I agree to take full responsibility for any damage caused by the foster pet to my property or to the property of others. I understand that Jackson County shall not be held responsible for any damages caused by the foster pet.
- 4) I agree to keep the pet with me as much as possible, and to provide basic training and house breaking as needed. I also agree to provide a safe fenced yard or kennel with adequate shelter for the pet when left alone.
- 5) I agree to keep cats, kittens, small dogs, and puppies indoors unless supervised.
- 6) I agree to notify the Jackson County Animal Shelter and FOTAS immediately if the fostered pet develops health problems, sustains injuries, becomes lost, or if I am no longer able to care for the pet.
- 7) I agree to take responsibility for the pet's basic health care needs and daily feeding. I also agree to provide transportation to the Shelter for all vaccinations, as outlined at the time of foster placement, and to receive veterinary care for medical treatments or spay/neuter appointments, if needed, and approved by Shelter staff.
- 8) I understand that for the protection of my personal pets as well as the foster pet, my own animals must be current on basic vaccinations, and rabies vaccination. I understand that the Shelter recommends vaccination against kennel cough for my personal dogs, and feline leukemia protection for my personal cats. I understand Jackson County will not be responsible for any illness or injury my personal pets may contract due to contact with a foster pet.
- 9) I agree that I may help in finding the foster pet a permanent home as needed and understand that the adoption or placement of the foster pet in any other home must be approved by the Shelter staff.
- 10) I agree to make the pet available for view by a prospective adopter upon reasonable notice. I also agree to return the pet to the Jackson County Animal Shelter at any time I am instructed to do so and that I will not be reimbursed for any unapproved cost incurred for fostering the pet.
- 11) I give Jackson County the right and permission to use any photo of me and the foster pet for promotion or publicity purposes.
- 12) I understand that Jackson County shall collect all fees at the time of permanent adoption..
- 13) I understand that if I choose to adopt the foster pet myself that I must pay the full adoption fees. I also understand that this could affect my eligibility as a foster care provider.
- 14) I have conferred with all members of my household and have their complete support and agreement for the foster program.
- 15) I will immediately notify Jackson County Animal Shelter of any changes in my address, phone number, or other pets entering the home.

Frequently Asked Questions

Now that I am approved, when do I get a foster animal?

After Shelter staff determines that an animal needs a foster home, a group email will be sent. To ensure that the animal is placed quickly, we ask that e-mails be replied to (or call) as soon as possible, if you are interested in fostering. Timing is often critical. If you are not interested, currently fostering, or have a “full house,” you do NOT need to respond to emailed appeals.

Why am I not getting the opportunity to foster very often?

The demand for foster homes depends on the time of year, number of foster families, and the number of animals in need at any given time.

Cats, kittens, and mother cats with kittens are most in need of fostering. Seasons of the year dictate the breeding seasons for cats. Typically, we will see “kitten season” begin in late spring and continue through the late fall. Not only do kittens need fostering at this time of year, but sometimes adult cats without kittens are in need of foster care due to a lack of space at the Shelter.

There is a chance that a family that only wants to foster healthy dogs may never be contacted (due to our fantastic adoption program!). At the same time, large numbers of such animals can come in to the Shelter together in animal “hoarding” cases, so your help could be of extreme importance at that time.

What kind of financial responsibility do I have for my foster animals?

Food and other supplies may be available from the Shelter (see Fostering Supplies, below).

At times, the Shelter may be able to send donated toys, litter boxes, food, dog/cat beds, special kitten formulas, or litter home with foster parents. However, you are more than welcome to purchase these items yourself, in order to save the supplies for those who truly need them.

Purchases made for foster care are considered donations to Friends of the Animal Shelter and are tax-deductible. Collect your receipts (for anything foster related - food, litter, toys, etc.) and submit them to FOTAS office. They will issue you a donation receipt for tax purposes. In some cases, such as a special diet, you may be reimbursed. Ask for reimbursement form and attach a receipt.

Veterinary visits cannot be reimbursed without prior authorization from Jackson County Animal Shelter staff. Unfortunately, medical funds are limited and must be allocated on a case by case basis. If you have a medical emergency with your foster animal(s) you are welcome to take them to your veterinarian, or Southern Oregon Veterinary Specialty Center, but it will be **at your own expense**.

Jackson County Animal Care and Control and Friends of the Animal Shelter are not responsible for damages to your personal property made by foster animals.

When can I pick up my foster critter(s)? How long will it take?

The Shelter staff is on-site at 8:00 AM, Monday – Sunday, but they are not always at the front desk, so may not hear you knocking on the front doors (which remain locked until the Shelter opens to the public). The Staff prefers handling foster business between 2:00 - 4:00PM when they are usually less busy.

We recommend that you communicate with the Staff prior to coming to the Shelter, and let them know when you are coming.

Plan to be at the Shelter for approximately one hour to pick up your foster animal(s). Paperwork needs to be filled out by the Staff and supplies provided. The Staff may be busy with other Shelter activities, and sometimes the foster animal may need to be vaccinated and/or treated, so your patience is always appreciated.

How do I schedule vaccinations / treatments for my foster animal(s)?

See “Vaccinations Guidelines” below. (p.7)

What should I do if my foster animal(s) becomes ill?

See “What to do if your foster animal gets hurt or becomes ill” below. (p.9)

What if I need to go out of town and I still have my foster animal(s)?

1. Often times the Foster Coordinator can find a temporary placement in another foster home. Please notify the Foster Coordinator two weeks prior to your departure, if possible, so that she can try to make other arrangements. Compose and send an email to her with the details of the foster’s needs and the time you will be gone.
2. If you have a trusted pet-care provider for your own pets, he/she would most likely be approved to also take care of your foster animal(s). Please keep the Foster Coordinator informed and clear it with her prior to your trip.
3. You may return the animal to the Shelter, which also gives the pet exposure to the public.

Are there any “Foster Mentors” I can talk to?

Yes, we have experienced foster parents who would be happy to talk with you about getting started or if you have questions.

Cats

Eliza Kauder (kittens) (541) 261-6206
Stephanie Roland (541) 951-0965
Dee Wollter (541) 245-8505
Amanda Roberson (541) 973-9980

Dogs

Barbara Talbert(541) 890-2308
Stephanie Roland(541) 951-0965
Dee Wollter(541) 245-8505
Amanda Roberson(541) 973-9980

Fostering Supplies

Food (dry and wet – make sure it’s appropriate for age of foster animals)

For dogs, there is usually dog food available at the Shelter for foster families to use. Please remember to ask for a supply when you pick up your foster dog, and come back to the Shelter to replenish your supply as needed.

For cats, the Shelter has limited supplies of cat and, occasionally kitten, food for foster families. Litter is often available as well. Please remember to ask for a supply when you pick up your foster kittens/cats, and come back to the Shelter to replenish your supply as needed.

- Purina, Science Diet, Nutromax, Eukanuba and Walthams are recommended.
- Check for red dye on the list of ingredients – no animal should have red dye!
- Kitten and puppy food is good for nursing mothers, so there is no need to have separate food bowls.

Food/Water Bowls

- Food and water dishes should be shallow and heavy enough so that they will not tip over.
- Ceramic or stainless steel dishes are best.
- Glass pie dishes work well for kittens and puppies. They are shallow, heavy, and large enough to accommodate a lot of eaters at once.

Shallow litter boxes (for young kittens)

- Kittens should be able to get in and out of litter boxes easily.
- Suggestions: shallow tin foil baking trays, plastic lined cardboard box trays, shallow Tupperware
- Once the kittens get bigger, they can hop in and out of a standard litter box.
- A covered litter box may be helpful for some mothers who are vigorous diggers.

Litter

- If you use clumping litter, clean often and observe the kittens. Young kittens like to taste things and will eat litter. Eating litter can cause intestinal blockage.

Entertainment

- Any toy that can be torn into smaller pieces and eaten should not be used. Especially avoid plastic bags, yarn, and string. Use age-appropriate climbing toys – very young kittens cannot judge how far it is to the floor.
- Hard rubber toys, like Kongs, are great for dogs and puppies.
- Try not to use your hands – this will teach the kitten that it is ok to swat at people and will teach puppies it is ok to “mouth” people – cute now, not so cute later.

Towels/Bedding

- Bedding doesn’t have to be fancy. Old towels work well, as long as they don’t have unraveling thread that could be ingested, and can be easily laundered.

Identification

- Please make sure you pick up a foster dog tag with the words “FOSTER DOG” and the Foster Coordinator’s or the Shelter’s phone number on it. If you have your own tag made with your phone number on it, please feel free to use that instead. A couple of ideas to make the foster dog tag with your number are: Put tape on the back of the FOSTER DOG tag and write your phone number with a permanent marker. 2) If you have a label marker, you can use it to make your phone number and attach it to the back of the FOSTER DOG tag.

Love

- Last, but certainly not least, shower your foster pet with love! Be understanding. They have had a rough past, whether they came in off the street or were surrendered to the Shelter by the only home they’ve ever known. Try to accommodate their individual quirks and work with them to make them even more adoptable by training and socializing them.

Vaccine Guidelines for Puppies and Kittens - Jackson County Animal Shelter

- When you pick up your foster pet from the Jackson County Animal Shelter you will receive a piece of paper that states when your foster pet(s) is expected to be ready for shots and spay/neuter.
- All canines and felines are generally given a distemper combo vaccine shot within the first day they arrive at the Shelter, unless they are too young or ill. A follow-up booster is usually given 2 weeks later.
- Puppies and Kittens start getting shots at 4 weeks and then every 2 weeks until they have had 4 vaccinations.
- At each visit they will be weighed, nails clipped, and general check-up.
- When foster puppies or kittens are picked up to be fostered, staff will inform the foster parent when the next shot is due (or the foster parent should ask). Foster families are then expected to make an appointment to bring puppies or kittens back to the Shelter for staff to administer the next vaccine. Usually Tuesday through Friday are the best days; 2:00 – 3:30 PM in the afternoon, but other times can be arranged.
- Call the Shelter at (541) 774-6654 and talk with Shelter staff to make arrangements.
- Once a kitten or puppy is adopted, it is the responsibility of the new owner to continue with any remaining vaccines required, including a rabies vaccination, once they turn 6 months old.

Foster Spay/Neuter Process

When are kittens and puppies ready to be spayed/neutered?

- Kittens must be a minimum of 2 pounds and the male's testicles need to have descended.
- Puppies need to be 8 weeks old, 2.5 pounds, and the male's testicles need to have descended.

Making an appointment for foster pets

Please be sure to confirm with Shelter staff (via the Foster Program Coordinator) that the animal you are fostering is cleared for surgery.

The places that are commonly used are:

Best Friends Animal Hospital, Talent	107 N Pacific Hwy, Talent	(541) 535-8187
Phoenix Animal Hospital	3945 S Pacific Hwy, Phoenix	(541) 535-6923
Best Friends Animal Hospital, E. Medford	980 N Phoenix Rd, Medford	(541) 779-2361
A Street Animal Clinic	565 A St #100, Ashland	(541) 488-1661

You are welcome to check with other vets to see if they accept the Jackson County Animal Services spay/neuter voucher straight across. It covers \$60 for dogs and \$45 for cats. Usually only the vets listed above will do the surgery for that amount – others charge extra, which the Shelter will not pay, since funding is limited.

Make sure you have the Shelter Case # and animal's name available. We suggest you make the appointment when it is convenient for you. Usually, the drop off at the vet is between 8 – 9 AM and pick up is between 3 – 5 PM. When you call the vet, you should be instructed as to the pre-surgery food restriction requirements – if they don't tell you, please ask. Usually no food after 8PM. Water is okay.

Make sure to let the Foster Program Coordinator and Shelter staff know when you have scheduled a spay/neuter surgery. The staff needs to fax the paperwork in to the vet.

What should I do if my foster dog escapes?

- Call the Shelter immediately with the name and description of the dog, and location where last seen. (541) 774-6654
- Contact the FOTAS Foster Coordinator by phone or email, so she is prepared if the finder of the dog calls (the Foster Dog tag that came with your foster dog has the Foster Coordinator's phone number on it).
- If the dog is not found quickly, post fliers at veterinary offices, pet stores, and around your neighborhood. Also, post it on Facebook, Craigslist, etc. Include a picture if possible.
- If dog is found and is back with you, make sure both the Shelter and the Foster Coordinator are informed immediately.

What to do if your foster animal gets hurt or becomes ill

If illness develops, please make the shelter staff aware within 24 hours.

DO NOT ADMINISTER ANY KIND OF MEDICATION, EVEN HERBAL OR NATURAL, WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE SHELTER STAFF OR THE PRE-APPROVED VET.

Emergency

- Call the Foster Program Coordinator or the Shelter. You are unable to make contact, you have the choice of taking the animal to your personal veterinarian, or Southern Oregon Veterinary Specialty Center. (Please be aware that the after-hours vet charges a lot more.) Contact information is on page 1 of this handbook.
- You will have to pay for the visit yourself if you have not received Shelter approval. If you are not able to wait to take the animal to the vet, you may ask the Foster Program Coordinator if your visit might be reimbursed. Please do not count on being reimbursed for your visit even if the visit was life threatening.

Non-Emergency

- Send your first medical concern email to the Foster Program Coordinator (unless it is life threatening, then see above for emergency). She will, if needed, contact the Shelter staff for answers. Always make sure you are cleared by the Shelter staff to take your foster to the vet. The animals in the Shelter's care are the Shelters staff's responsibility, so they will either examine/treat at the shelter, or staff will give the ok to go to an approved vet. The Shelter has many medications, if needed.

Kitten Care

Shelter contact #: (541) 774-6654 ♥ Non-Shelter hours: Eliza (541) 261-6206

Kitten Fostering Supplies

Supply needs change, depending on the age/size of the kittens:

ITEM	SUPPLIED BY:
Notepad for keeping good notes re: weight, meds, etc.	You
Calendar for vaccinations	You
Digital kitchen scale (ounces and grams)	You
SnuggleSafe Warming disc	Shelter (return after fostering)
Washable bed	You
Washable towels/blankets	You or the Shelter
Washable wash clothes for stimulating	You or the Shelter
Washable plush toys	You
Top-loading carrier (for tiny kittens)	You or the Shelter (return after fostering)
Kitty play pen	You or the Shelter (return after fostering)
Blender for mixing/pureeing food	You
Kitten Replacement Formula (powder)	Shelter
Canned Food	Shelter
Kitten Kibble	Shelter, if they have any You, and submit receipts for reimbursement
Bottles (1 per kitten)	Shelter
Kitten Nipples (2 per kitten)	Shelter
Liquid Syringes (1 per kitten)	Shelter
Shallow litter boxes	Shelter
Non-clumping litter (paper or corn-based)	Shelter, if they have any You, and submit receipts for reimbursement
Shallow food bowls	You
Fragrance-free baby shampoo	Shelter, if they have any You, and submit receipts for reimbursement
Pee pads	Shelter, if they have any You, and submit receipts for reimbursement
Old shirts/sheets (if you don't want to throw away pee pads and can wash cloth)	You
Precious Cat Ultra Litter Attractant	Shelter, if they have any
Feliway spray	Shelter, if they have any
Flea comb	You

Preparing Their New Home

Place a comfortably-warmed heating disc or pad in the kitten's secure carrier or playpen, leaving enough space for the kitten to escape the heating pad if desired. Line the space with a soft blanket/towel. Add a plush toy. Spray Feliway on bedding. Change/wash bedding daily.

When You Get Them Home

Check the kitties for any injuries, birth defects and fleas.

- Report any injuries or birth defects to the Shelter.
 - This could include a cleft pallet or misshapened limbs.
- Use a small flea comb to comb out each of the kitties. Pick off and dispose of fleas. Check every day for the first two weeks. Adolescent fleas can avoid your search until they get bigger!
- Look at their gums ... they should be pink.
- Weigh and record weights in your kitten fostering notebook.
 - Weigh them every day for the first month, to ensure they are gaining weight.

Vaccinations

Your kittens will receive a total of three (3) vaccinations while in your care, as well as being dewormed. The first (or next) vaccination/deworming date will be noted on the paperwork supplied by the Shelter when you pick up your kittens.

- It's essential that you stick to the schedule indicated by the Shelter!

Development Milestones

AGE	ATTRIBUTES
Newborn	Pink in color and umbilical cord attached 97° and can't regulate their own temperature Can neither see, nor hear
1 Week	Eyes closed and ears folded (eyes should open at 8 – 12 days) Umbilical cord detached
2 Weeks	Eyes open (blue!) Wobbly on their feet, and will stumble around!
3 Weeks	Incisors emerge Ears unfold Introduce canned food into the bottle
4 Weeks	Canines emerging Walking more confidently & exploring their surroundings Good time to move into a larger space and introduce a litter box
5 Weeks	Premolars emerging Wean slowly onto wet kitten food in a bowl with milk
6 Weeks	Molars emerging Much more coordinated, but still hysterical to watch! Transitioning more to wet kitten food and try a little kibble
7 Weeks	All milk (deciduous) teeth have emerged Eye color will starting changing
8 Weeks	Should be approaching 2 lbs. – Time to schedule spay/neuter!

Kitten Health Concerns

Kittens are fragile, and can harbor diseases that are undetectable when they enter the Shelter. Although Shelter staff do a thorough wellness check and test for Feline Leukemia and FIV, there are other underlying issues that can quickly and adversely affect kittens.

- Keep them warm! Even if your kittens are bigger, when they're sick they get cold. Offer a heating pad and make sure they have the room to be on or off of it as they choose.
- Keep new kittens away from your pets for at least the two weeks to monitor for illness. Make sure your pets at home are current on vaccines and flea preventative.
- If kittens become ill at any point, isolate fosters pets from resident pets.
- Symptoms to be concerned about:
 - Lethargy
 - Weakness or balance issues
 - Upper respiratory infection (URI): *sneezing, watery/red eyes, coughing, discharge from eyes/nose*
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Loss of appetite
 - Visible parasites (*e.g. fleas or worms*)
- **Diarrhea** is cause for concern in kittens but is not always an emergency. Sometimes any change in your kitten's life will cause some loose stools (change in food, location, medication). So try to keep things as consistent as possible.
 - If loose stools are combined with other symptoms like vomiting, lethargy, or lack of appetite, contact the Shelter (541) 774-6654.
 - Home remedies for diarrhea, such as pureed pumpkin or probiotics, are fine but keep portions small and be consistent. Pick one and stick to it! If symptoms persist more than 24 hours, call the Shelter.
- **Dehydration** is our biggest concern in kittens with URI or diarrhea. So, if you can't reach the shelter, then start syringe feeding. KMR is great because it is specially formulated for kittens, has nutrients and hydrates. You can mix it with Pedialyte to give an extra boost (see recipe below). Also, you can offer canned food warmed up with a little hot water mixed in. They may have lost their sense of smell with URI and this will help entice them.
- Home remedies for URI (upper respiratory infections) to try until the Shelter can be contacted: steaming in a bathroom (run hot shower and sit in bathroom with kittens) or set up a humidifier in the room they are in. Wash goopy eyes and nose with a warm wash cloth and baby shampoo to help open them up.
- You will not be held responsible for any long-term disabilities, illness, or death that your foster animal may suffer as a result of not seeking medical attention. However, you must be emotionally prepared for these situations. Every effort is made to diagnose and treat injuries and/or illness before your foster pet leaves the Shelter. Unfortunately, there may be some illnesses that do not show symptoms until after you take your foster pet home. Sometimes, especially with kittens, it is simply known as, "Failure to Thrive."
- If your pet has diarrhea, you are generally pre-approved to give a child dose of Kaopectate, but it is best to verify this with the Shelter. The Shelter has TROTS medication.

Bottle Feeding

Unweaned kittens need to be fed with a bottle and kitten formula. **Kittens should NOT be fed cow's milk or any dairy products or milk alternatives.** Kitten formula is specially formulated to meet their unique needs. Mixing kitten formula with homemade Pedialyte (see recipe below) is OK.

It can take some time for a kitten to get the hang of bottle feeding, so remain calm and be patient.

Kittens should be alert when feeding, or they may not suckle. If you wake them up to feed them, they should be awake enough **AFTER** you stimulate them to pee/poop (see below) to start feeding.

1. Thoroughly mix the powdered kitten formula with warm water according to the product's instructions. Test the temperature on the inside of your wrist; it should be comfortably warm, made fresh every 1-2 feedings, and free of clumps.
2. Cut a small hole into the nipple of the bottle to allow formula to flow. Invert the bottle and fill the nipple with formula. When properly cut, formula should just barely drip out.
3. **Hold the kitten in a natural position with the belly facing downward. Do not hold the kitten like a baby with the belly up, as this could lead to aspiration.**
4. Hold the kitten's head and body steady with your non-dominant hand, placing one finger on the throat to allow you to feel for swallowing. Gently introduce the tip of the nipple into the mouth with the dominant hand.
5. The kitten should roll her tongue like a taco and latch onto the tip of the nipple.
 - Position the bottle so that the kitten is not sucking air. This can happen when the bottle is half full.
 - Loosen the bottle top a little to let air in.
 - You should see air bubbles coming from the nipple as the kitten drinks.
6. Do not flood the mouth with formula; let the kitten drink at her own pace.
7. Allow the kitten to drink until she is full, or until she drinks an acceptable volume based on her weight.
 - Supplement bottle feeding with syringe-feeding, if needed.

TIPS FOR TRICKY BOTTLE FEEDERS:

- May need to pee/poop. Try stimulating.
- Make sure the flow is correct. If a nipple is too small or big, the kitten may not get a good latch. If the hole is too small, make it a little bigger.
- Make sure the formula is a comfortable temperature and has no clumps.
- Try gently holding the head in place and covering one eye. This helps the kitten focus and provides the comforting feeling of being nuzzled into their mother's belly.
- If a kitten is being fussy, you can try gently wrapping her in a blanket while feeding.
- Don't be discouraged if it takes you a while to become comfortable with bottle feeding—take it slow and remember to be patient with their tiny bodies.

Aspiration occurs when a kitten inhales formula into the lungs, which can lead to respiratory distress, pneumonia, and even death. To prevent aspiration, feed in the proper posture, and never squeeze formula forcefully down a kitten's throat. If aspiration does happen, stop feeding and help the kitten sneeze out the formula. Consult the Shelter immediately if respiratory symptoms arise.

Kittens Weight and Feeding Chart

The stomach capacity of a kitten determines how much formula they can take in at any given feeding. This enables you to see if they are eating enough, and if you are syringe-feeding, how much to feed them.

IMPORTANT: Don't over-feed a kitten manually ... it can cause a lot of digestive issues.

ESTIMATED AGE	WEIGHT (OUNCES)	WEIGHT (GRAMS)	DAILY TOTAL VOLUME (ML)	STOMACH CAPACITY (ML)	FREQUENCY
Newborn	1.8	50	13.5	2	Every 2 hours
	2.6	75	20	3	
	3.5	100	27	4	
	4.4	125	34	5	
~ 1 Week	5.3	150	40	6	Every 2 – 3 hours
	6.2	175	47	7	
	7.0	200	54	8	
	8	225	61	9	
~ 2 Weeks	8.8	250	68	10	Every 3 – 4 hours
	9.7	275	74	11	
	10.6	300	81	12	
	11.5	325	88	13	
~ 3 Weeks	12.3	350	95	14	Every 4 – 5 hours
	13.2	375	101	15	
	14.1	400	108	16	
	15	425	105	17	
~ 4 Weeks	15.9	450	122	18	Every 5 – 6 hours
	16.8	475	128	19	
	17.6	500	135	20	
	18.5	525	142	21	
~ 5 Weeks	19.4	550	148	22	Every 6 hours



Recipes and Kitten Ages

Introducing solid food is a slow process. Their little tummies can only handle a little bit of change at a time. So using the table below is a good guideline.

Please remember to give kittens medication AFTER they have eaten. Do NOT put medication IN their food.

AGE	RECIPE
Newborn to 3 weeks	Kitten replacement formula only Powders: 2 parts filtered water to 1 part powder Kitten Pedialyte: 1 cup water (boiled) 2 tsp sugar 1/8 tsp salt 1/8 tsp baking soda
3 – 4 weeks	Light goop with a bottle: 2.5 parts filtered water to 1 part powder .25 part canned food (pate) (if it's too goopy, it won't flow through the nipple)
4 – 5 weeks	Heavy goop, without a bottle: 2.5 parts filtered water to 1 part powder .5 - 1 part canned food (pate) Sprinkle a few hard kitten kibbles to see if they can handle the crunch!
5 weeks+	Heavy goop, and more hard kitten kibble

Bathroom Business

Neonatal kittens under 4 weeks old must be stimulated to go to the bathroom. Mama cats will use their tongues to lick the kittens' genitals, stimulating them to urinate or defecate, and to keep them clean.

As a foster parent, you'll need to replicate this behavior with a soft, absorbent material like tissues, toilet paper, or baby wipes. Gently rub the kitten's genitals in a circular motion, continuing to do so until they are completely finished. Kittens should pee at every feeding, but may poop only once or twice a day.

Stimulate kittens BEFORE and AFTER every feeding cycle, and make sure you keep the area clean to avoid scalding and bacterial buildup on their sensitive skin.

If you want to wash off their backsides, use baby shampoo and warm water. Thoroughly dry the kitten, so that they don't get a chill.

Also wash their cute little faces, to get milk residue off!

What does Healthy Poop Look Like?

Healthy bottle baby poop will be mustard yellow in color, and will change to brown as they wean. Good kitten poop should have a solid form—if it looks the shape of a miniature cat poop, it's a good poop!

It sounds gross, but poop is an incredibly important indicator of the health of the kitten, so monitor it closely. The color, form, frequency, and even smell can all be signs of disease, parasites, or other health problems. Collect a stool sample and take to a vet for a fecal analysis if concerned.

By the way, some kittens SCREAM when they are pooping! Don't be too concerned, unless it looks like they are impacted. It's OK to help them get a poop out, if it's hard.

Diarrhea Dangers

Diarrhea is very serious, and can be fatal for neonatal kittens. Diarrhea can be brought on by parasites, viruses, infections, change in diet, stress, or many other causes.

- Seek diagnostic support from a vet so that you can treat the cause of the diarrhea. Always ensure kitten is fully treated for parasites.
- Try adding a probiotic such as BENE-BAC® PLUS to their bottle or wet food.
- Add flavorless Pedialyte to food to keep them hydrated.
- If diarrhea continues for more than one day, consult the Shelter. They can prescribe small doses of drugs to help stop the diarrhea, and subcutaneous fluids that contain electrolytes and proteins and can help save the kitten.

Litter Training

Around 3 weeks of age, introduce a shallow litter pan with a fragrance-free, non-clumping litter. Place the kitten in the pan frequently to help them remember to use it.

It may help to stimulate them over the litter pan while they are learning, letting the pee and poop drop into the box.

Kittens naturally understand the litter box, but it's up to you to make sure it's kitten-safe and easy to access.

One trick is NOT to change the litter very often, and leaving a little pee/poop in the box. The kittens will recognize the smell and use the box more readily.

You can also try **PRECIOUS CAT ULTRA LITTER ATTRACTANT**. It smells like the great outdoors, and kittens seem to like the smell.

Spay/Neuter

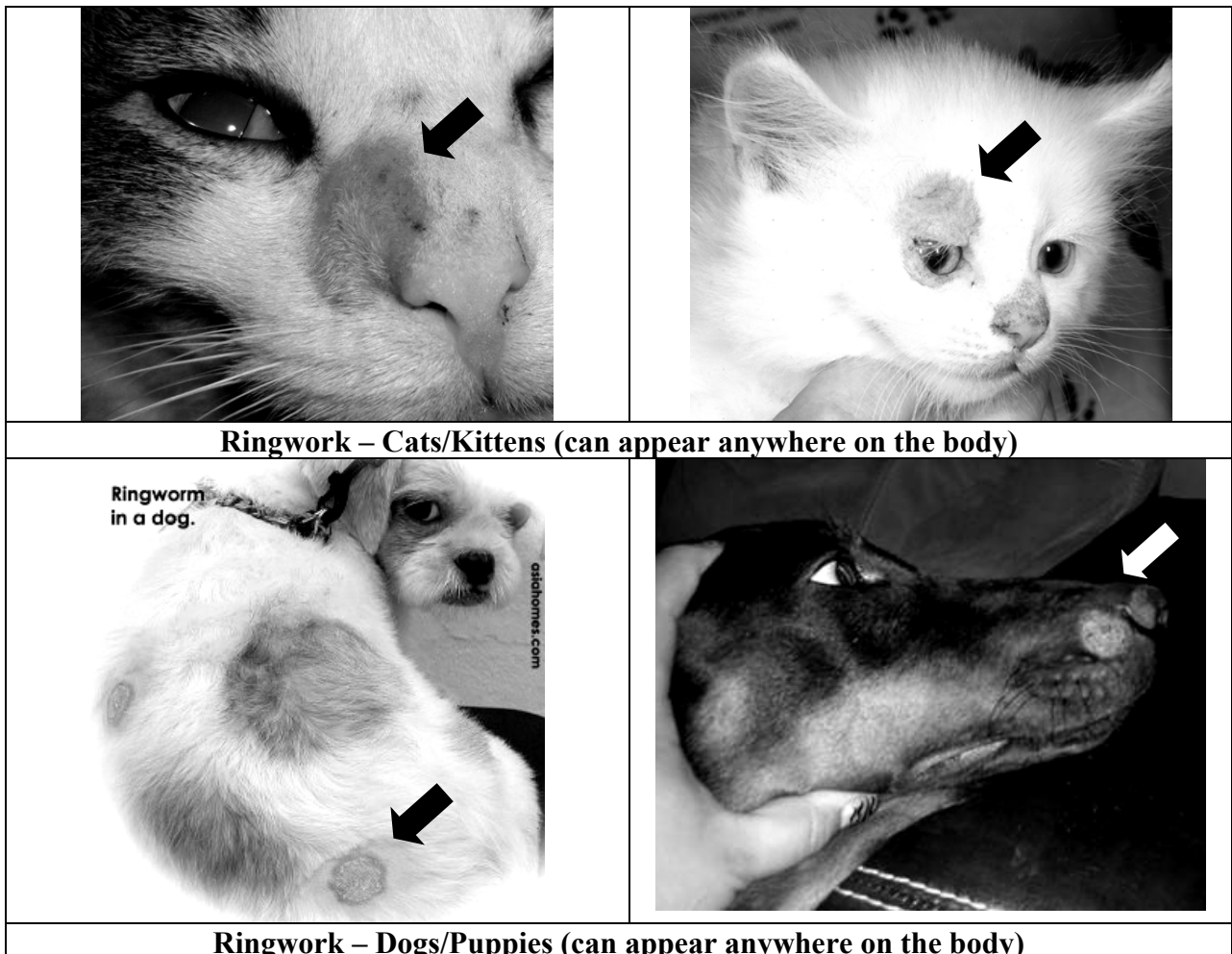
- When kittens approach 2 lbs, it's time to contact the Shelter to schedule their spay/neuter appointment(s).
- No food for 10 hours before surgery.
- Keep kittens for another week to ensure there are not post-surgery issues.
- Then it's adoption time!

Remember that “good-bye” is the goal of fostering, and that your care has given these kittens an incredible opportunity to live a long and full life in a forever home!

And, it means you have room to foster more kittens! Yay! THANK YOU!

Ringworm

- Ringworm is a fungal skin infection, and not actually a worm. It is no different than the fungus that causes jock itch or athlete's foot. In humans, it responds well to topical treatment, but in animals it is more complicated, requiring several weeks of baths, oral medications and isolation.
- Fungal spores tend to accumulate in the fur, usually in round patches of hair loss on toes, face, ears, etc., making it easy to transfer to the environment, other animals and humans. Of note, it is one of the few conditions that a human can pass to an animal. If anyone in your household has a round itchy area; please confirm that it is not ringworm before taking an animal into your home.
- Also, if you are a FOTAS volunteer you should not be handling animals in the Shelter until the ringworm clear on the animals in your home.
- See photos on the next page as examples of what ringworm could look like on an animal or person.
- The link following link provides a more in-depth description of what to look for: www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/Foster_Care_Manual/Ringworm_FostersFN_L.pdf





Ringworm – Human skin (can appear anywhere on the body)

Return and Adoption of Foster Animals

When/if your foster animal is returned to the Shelter, it will receive a health and behavioral evaluation to assess adoptability.

Foster volunteers are encouraged to provide a special note about the animal for display on its kennel. These notes can be clever (and always honest), and should contain information about the cat or dog's personality and behavior.

Placing Foster Animals from Your Home

Foster parents are encouraged to facilitate visits with potential adopters at their home or at the Shelter. If a good match is found, interested adopters should be informed that they **must** complete the standard adoption process **at the Shelter** before being allowed to adopt a foster animal. The Shelter requires potential adopters to visit the Shelter to complete an Adoption Application, pay fees, and speak with adoption counselors. Special arrangements can be made with Shelter staff to facilitate adoptions off-site if needed.

See "Ways to Help Your Foster Pet Get Adopted" below.

Point to remember:

Please email the Foster Program Coordinator when you pick up and/or return an animal, or if he/she is adopted from your home. She is responsible for keeping up the foster records for FOTAS.

Return of Foster Animals to the Shelter

We recognize that returning a foster cat or dog to the Shelter can be very emotional, even under the best of circumstances. It can also be a very rewarding experience when an animal finds a good permanent home.

Many staff members are also foster volunteers and are always available to offer emotional support to you. **You are not alone.** Our Foster Support Facebook page is also a wonderful community to share.

If both parties are agreeable, you may exchange phone numbers with adopters to find out how your foster animal is settling in to their new surroundings. This also gives the new parents a chance to ask questions and the foster parents to give advice to ensure this match lasts forever. We strongly encourage foster parents to call adopters in a week to check in. On-going updates and pictures from foster animals that have been adopted are so heartwarming for both parties. Trained volunteers also make follow-up calls to recent adopters to see how the animals are doing.

Ways to Help Your Foster Pets Get Adopted

Photographs

A FOTAS Volunteer Photographer is available to take pictures of foster animals, either at the Shelter or possibly in your home! Feel free to contact her directly to arrange a photo shoot. Sunny LeGrand, SLG.FOTAS@icloud.com, (541) 841-0092

Flyers

Make flyers to put in the kennels at the Shelter, the Dog Parks, work, school, wherever you go, including on your car window! See the last page of this booklet for a sample poster. Please make sure to include the following information:

- Animal's picture and name
- Description (personality, spayed/neutered, compatibility with other animals, etc.)
- Both the Jackson County and FOTAS logos need to be on the flyer.
- Jackson County Animal Shelter phone number, (541) 774-6654, or your name and phone number (if you're comfortable with people contacting you) as a tear-off on the bottom of the flyer

Suggestions for Writing Foster Animal Resumes

The following excerpts are some of the positive ways that behavior traits can be addressed.

If the cat is not good with young children:

- Don't say: "He cannot go to a home with children."
- Say:
 - "... would do best in a mature home."

If the cat needs to be a single pet

- Don't say: "He doesn't like other animals."
- Say:
 - "looking to be the top cat in a one-cat home"
 - "can't wait for your full attention and will do best if she is the only cat"
 - "enjoys the status of being the only cat in the home"

If the animal is nervous:

- Don't say: "He is nervous."
- Say:
 - "He is eager to find a quiet household."
 - "She is looking for a patient person who can help her become more self-confident."
 - "She will do best in an adult household."

Word of Mouth

Talk to everyone you know and everyone you meet about your foster animal. Sometimes it helps to carry a picture of your current foster animal with you. If you have a foster dog, put an “adopt me” vest on him or her and go for a walk. Adoption vests may be checked out from the FOTAS Volunteer Manager at the Shelter. This is also a great opportunity to educate the public about fostering.

Online

Utilizing online locations is essential in finding homes for foster animals, as they don’t get the same exposure as animals in the kennels. Please make sure to email pictures and bio description to these people.

FOTAS Facebook Page

Marilyn Edwards (cats) marilynjeanne.edwards@gmail.com
Samantha Johnson (dogs) samantha_m_j@hotmail.com

Petfinder.com

Barbara Talbert (dogs) barbara.talbert@gmail.com

You may also create and post your own ads at other online locations. For example, Craigslist is a great one that is free, easy, and effective.

Community Outreach Events

You may bring your foster pet to any of our Outreach and special events (like parades) that might be appropriate. Please check with the Volunteer Manager before attending any Outreach events with your foster animal(s), and approval is needed from Shelter staff first to ensure your foster animal is appropriate for the venue.

Foster pets can be dropped off for a couple of hours, or the Foster parent can stay at the outreach event with their animal(s).

TV Spots

FOTAS has two regular TV spots where a volunteer takes an adoptable animal on air: every Monday morning and every other Friday morning. Please contact the FOTAS Volunteer Manager if you’d like to take your foster animal on TV, and she may contact any of you to offer the spot to your foster animal if one of her regular volunteers cancels. This is a great way to get your foster animals seen by tons of potential adopters at once, but as always, consider if this option is right for your particular animal. Super shy animals may not do well.

Shelter Time

If appropriate for your foster animal, you may bring them to the Shelter for some exposure to potential adopters. A round pen (for small dogs and puppies) or a moveable cat cage can be set up in the lobby. This way the Shelter Staff can keep an eye on the animal. Large dogs can be placed for viewing in the regular kennel area. This option is not appropriate for many fosters due to stress, illness, or behavior, and must be discussed with the Shelter staff beforehand.

There are also daily morning dog playgroups at the Shelter, which can help dogs with behavioral issues or those that are under-socialized with other dogs. Any foster parent who thinks that play time with other dogs would benefit their foster dog should consider play groups, since it's a very safe way to do that – far better than dog parks. Even a dog with energy to burn would benefit. The foster parent would just need to let the FOTAS office know ahead of time, so that the playgroup lead person can plan for it.

Ashland Recycle Center

A good way to expose a dog to the public is at the Ashland Recycle Center on Mondays and Tuesdays. They have a great space for a dog and have a fun day playing with Tim and the public.

Contact Tim Church at (541) 482-6404 or (541) 488-2363. singingmoon@jeffnet.org

A FOTAS volunteer to help coordinate which dog goes on Tuesdays is JoAnne Hamblin-buddy64jo@charter.net.

Flurry Needs a Home!



**Adopt me from the
Jackson County Animal Shelter!**

My name is Flurry, and I am a happy and cuddly girl, who represents the American Staffordshire/Pit Bull breed well.

I am approximately 3 years old, weigh in at a slim 50 pounds and am affectionate and very eager to please.

I sit on command, love to walk on leash and my favorite activity is playing ball and splashing in the doggy pool.

I like riding in the car, quietly watching the scenery or snoozing.

Though I can sometimes play too rough, I do well with other dogs and with a little patience and direction on your part, should fit well into your pack - whether it's 2-footed or doggy 4-footed.

Call my foster mom Tracy for more information.



Tracy, Foster Mom ~ (541) 531-5842

Adopt Flurry Tracy ~ 541.531.5842	Adopt Flurry Tracy ~ 541.531.5842	Adopt Flurry Tracy ~ 541.531.5842	Adopt Flurry Tracy ~ 541.531.5842	Adopt Flurry Tracy ~ 541.531.5842	Adopt Flurry Tracy ~ 541.531.5842	Adopt Flurry Tracy ~ 541.531.5842	Adopt Flurry Tracy ~ 541.531.5842	Adopt Flurry Tracy ~ 541.531.5842	Adopt Flurry Tracy ~ 541.531.5842
--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------