

## NORTHEAST ANIMAL SHELTER FOSTER CARE INFORMATION

If you have never provided foster care before, the following information will answer some of your questions. After reading, if you are interested in becoming a foster caregiver for Northeast Animal Shelter, please print out these pages, complete the attached Foster Care Application and sign the Temporary Care Release Form and mail to:

Northeast Animal Shelter      Foster Care Program      204 Highland Avenue      Salem, MA 01970

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Thank you for thinking about sharing your home with a foster animal. Without the help of foster caregivers, we would be forced to turn away some animals that need special care or attention. The following information is a guideline to help you understand what is required of foster caregivers.

Fostering is an incredibly rewarding experience that requires a real commitment. The emotional aspects of fostering can be challenging and should be discussed with all of your family members. Oftentimes it can be difficult to see them leave your home for their new forever home. The wonderful part of fostering is knowing that you played a tremendous and extremely crucial role in getting them there. If you feel that you might not be able to handle a particular situation from start to finish, please say so before taking an animal into your home.

Foster parents must be 21 years of age or older. If you rent a house or apartment, we will contact your landlord for verification of his or her permission for you to have pets temporarily.

Veterinary care is paid for by Northeast Animal Shelter, provided you take your foster animal to a specific veterinarian. We have established relationships with individual area veterinarians and they provide certain services for us for a lower rate. In case of emergency, you would need to check with the Shelter before seeking any medical care.

Food is provided by the foster caregiver, we may request that certain foods be fed to your foster animal. Sometimes a healthy foster animal will not eat at first. S/he may be frightened, nervous, or spoiled from having steak tips every night. Eventually s/he will eat. For the same reasons, s/he may have diarrhea in the beginning. Feed a bland diet and monitor the stool for changes. We ask that you keep us up to date on any issues that may occur during their stay with you.

When introducing an animal to a new environment, do so gradually and use great care. Remember that the animal might be frightened and could bite, run away, scratch, or cower in a corner. Depending on the animal and his/her history, there may be incidents of housebreaking, spraying, damage, and barking. Please be forewarned and "animal proof" your house.

We do not recommend that your foster animal mingle with your own pets. This is to prevent possible fights among animals and eliminates the possibility of any germs or diseases being spread. Your own animal(s) must be fully inoculated against all diseases to ensure their own protection. If you are fostering a nursing mother, no attempt should be made to integrate animals because nursing mothers will fight. If you do plan to have your foster animal mingle with your own animals, bear in mind that introducing an animal to other animals presents possible problems depending on the temperaments and pecking order of the resident animals. Be sure to discuss this with a staff member before bringing home each foster animal.

If you have children, we request that you monitor their contact with a foster animal at all times. We cannot guarantee any animal's behavior and this will help to protect both the child and the animal. Foster animals are under a lot of stress and do best in a quiet environment.

**NO FOSTER ANIMAL IS ALLOWED OUTSIDE UNATTENDED OR UNRESTRAINED.** If you feel you cannot go along with this, the foster animal's life will be compromised. **NO CAT SHOULD EVER BE ALLOWED OUTSIDE FOR ANY REASON UNLESS IT IS IN A CARRIER.**

Animals do die. This is a reality of being involved in this kind of work. If you take a sick animal and there is a concern about its future, you must be prepared for his/her possible death. If you cannot handle this, please say so and don't attempt to take on this particular project.

We require a completed foster care application and an interview with you in your home before we can approve you as a foster caregiver. We encourage you to ask questions and keep us updated on your foster animal's progress. We thank you for your willingness to share your life and love with a foster animal. It may well be the most important thing to happen in his or her life. We hope that your life will be greatly enriched by this experience as well.

**NORTHEAST ANIMAL SHELTER**  
**204 Highland Avenue, Salem, MA 01970**

**FOSTER CARE APPLICATION**

If you need more room, use back of paper.

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**PET OWNING EXPERIENCE**

1. What kind of animals have you owned in the past and for how long?
2. What kinds of animals are living in your home now?  

<u>Species</u>	<u>Breed</u>	<u>M/F</u>	<u>Neutered/ Spayed</u>	<u>Describe Temperament</u>
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3. Are they tolerant of other animals? Please explain.
4. Do you have a separate area or room in your house where you can contain an animal(s) while it is in foster care with you?
5. Please describe any experience you have had with animal training/obedience/medical care/births.

**YOUR FAMILY**

1. Is everyone in your family comfortable with the idea of providing foster care?
2. Do you own or rent your home?
3. Is there anyone in your household who is allergic to animals?
4. Are there children in your home? If so, what are their ages?
5. Do your children have any experience with animals and what kind of contact will they have with a foster animal?

6. How many adults are in your household?
7. What are the daily work schedules of the adults in the household?
8. While you are at work, will members of your household be interacting with a foster dog? If so, what are their ages?

**GENERAL QUESTIONS**

1. Are you willing to take animals back and forth to our approved vets in your own vehicle?
2. Do you mind picking animals up at the shelter and dropping them off at the shelter when they are ready for adoption?
3. Different animals need to be in foster care for different lengths of time. What do you feel would be the longest you would be willing to keep an animal in your house?
4. We ask that you leave it up to us to place them in appropriate homes. We really appreciate all the time and effort you've put into helping our animals, but we have an extensive screening process, which ensures just the right match. Realizing that this is a temporary arrangement, are you certain that you will be able to remain emotionally separated and able to part with foster animals when the time comes?
5. Are you prepared to deal with an animal that might become ill and ultimately die?
6. What kind of animals are you willing to take?
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant cats (and their subsequent kittens)	<input type="checkbox"/> Litters of puppies
<input type="checkbox"/> Cat/kitten needing medical attention	<input type="checkbox"/> Litters of kittens
<input type="checkbox"/> Dog/puppy needing medical attention	<input type="checkbox"/> Bottle-fed kittens
<input type="checkbox"/> Recently neutered male cats	<input type="checkbox"/> Felines needing socializing

 Additional comments:

**REFERENCES**

Please provide names, addresses, and phone numbers for the following:

1. Two friends or neighbors who know you in relation to your experience with animals.
2. Your veterinarian.
3. Your landlord, if applicable.

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**TEMPORARY CARE RELEASE FORM**

1. The Northeast Animal Shelter (hereafter known as NEAS) and its employees shall not be responsible for any damage or injury to any person or property caused by this animal while in temporary care. (Temporary care refers to an animal being placed in a private home for the purpose of providing specialized care unavailable at the shelter as in the case of a pregnant or nursing animal.)
2. The undersigned who is providing temporary care for the animal does not legally own the animal. Ownership is transferred only when the legal adoption agreement appearing on the adoption record is signed and the adoption contribution is received by NEAS.
3. The undersigned agrees to pay for the animal's food while in temporary care. Any reimbursable medical or other expenses incurred must be approved by NEAS in advance.
4. The undersigned agrees to care for this pet in a responsible manner, providing proper food, shelter, and medical care, and will restrain this pet appropriately at all times. The foster animal must be kept separate from your pets. Cats must be kept indoors, and dogs must be on a leash, a runner, or in a fenced yard.
5. NEAS has explained the animal's behavior and medical history to the undersigned.
6. If the undersigned wishes to terminate the temporary care arrangement at any time, he/she must notify the shelter by telephone at least 24 hours in advance.
7. NEAS reserves the right to have the animal returned to the shelter facility at any time. NEAS also reserves the right to refuse any adoption.

THE SHELTER MAKES NO WARRANTIES OR CLAIMS AS TO THE HEALTH, TEMPERAMENT OR DISPOSITION OF THE ANIMAL.

I acknowledge that I have reviewed this Temporary Care Release Form. I understand and accept its terms and accept full responsibility for the animal and its actions while in my care.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone H \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved by NEAS Representative \_\_\_\_\_

WE EXPRESS OUR GRATEFUL APPRECIATION FOR TAKING ONE OF OUR ANIMALS FOR RESPITE CARE AND PROVIDING A FOSTER HOME FOR AN ANIMAL NEEDING YOUR SPECIAL ATTENTION.