



FOSTERING

INFORMATION PACK

FOSTERING ADVICE
AND INFORMATION

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO FOSTER



Thank you so much for becoming a foster carer and joining our team. Fostering is rewarding and one of the most crucial roles for many homeless animals. It saves lives and you will be supported throughout your entire fostering journey. Fostering is flexible - you choose who you want to foster and when you can foster.

HOW TO START

Once you have advised that you are able to foster a cat or kitten/s, we will find a suitable match for your home. When your foster is ready for collection, you will be given the day and time for pickup and will work with you for a convenient time.

Once you have picked up your foster, please send a photo of your space with them once settled at home.

HOW IT WORKS

As a foster carer you will need to provide a warm and nurturing environment in which our kittens and cats thrive to prepare themselves for a forever home. You supply a safe, stable, loving environment. We provide you with support and cover all veterinary costs.

Many of our requirements are legal obligations - under the companion animals act and prevention of cruelty to animals legislation - so please follow our instructions and rules.

While fostering we request that you do not foster with any other rescue groups or bring any other strays into your care. We have a high standard of vet care and we can't have cats or kittens at risk of infection from a new cat or kitten being brought in.

A FOSTER-READY HOME

Cats can escape, even through fly screen. Please ensure all windows are secure and fly screen is inaccessible.

Do not expose your fosters to anything toxic (especially certain indoor plants and chemicals). A list is available [here](#).

FOSTERING BASICS

TYPES OF CATS

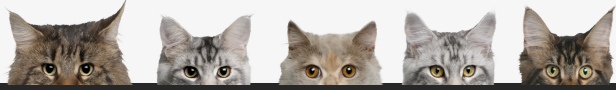
We have all aspects of carers and cats and it is important to choose the right fit for you and your situation:

- Kittens – fat camp
- Spicy cats who need rehabilitation (you will be provided additional support and a care plan to follow)
- Adults
- Pregnant & lactating queens
- Neonatal
- Injured and/or sick

You will have direct contact with our foster coordinators and a support group chat where we have qualified and experienced team members who can help to answer any questions. This is a supportive and non-judgmental group of animal lovers who appreciate you and are there to help.

We can usually give you an estimated timeline of how long a cat or kitten/s will be in your care - normally 2-8 weeks.

If you are no longer able to continue to foster, let us know as soon as possible and we can source another carer.



ISOLATION

This is one of the most important requirements. We are a rescue group, so the cats and kittens we take in need a period of isolation, especially if you have existing cats/pets. During the 14-day isolation period, your foster cat/kittens will need to be isolated from your household pets, furniture and carpets (if possible).

The two most common diseases in rescue are ringworm and cat flu.

Ringworm is a contagious fungal infection which starts as hair loss, often in a circular pattern. It then becomes crusty (often on the face and/or tail, but can be elsewhere on the body)

Cat flu symptoms are watery eyes, sneezing and/or nasal discharge.

If you notice any of these symptoms, please contact your foster care coordinator or let a team member know in the group chat. We aim to reduce the spread of any infections, parasites and diseases.

FOSTERING BASICS



TRAVEL

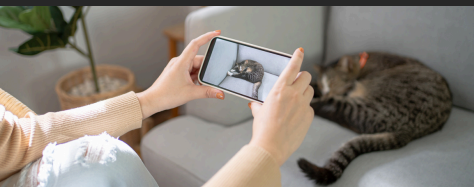
It is important that you can drive and have access to a car so you are able to get to our main vets in Bannockburn, Bayswater, Bentleigh, Colac, Elwood, Heidelberg, Lower Plenty, Middle Park or Yarra Junction. This is in case of an emergency so you can get them to the vet quickly.

You may also be required to take your foster animals for their desexing or vaccinations and pick up the same day.

They must be in an enclosed and secure cat carrier whenever leaving your house.

PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR FOSTERS

Please look for photo opportunities when possible. A good photo can be the difference between a kitten or cat staying in care for weeks or months. Photos with good lighting that capture the cuteness, quirks and personality of your foster will really help with their adoption.



SUPPLIES

To foster you will need:

- Bedding
- Toys
- Enclosed cat carrier
- Kitty litter tray
- Kitty litter - the crystals can be toxic to kittens if they eat them so please avoid them.
- An XL dog crate/tent if fostering scared, shut down or small kittens (you will be provided with one if you require it)

If you need these supplies provided please ask your foster coordinator. All the supplies you can provide yourself is a huge financial help to the rescue.

FOOD/DIET

We recommend:

- Kitten dry or wet food (Royal Canin, Advance or Hills Science Diet)
- Adult Dry or wet food (Royal Canin, Advance or Hills Science Diet)

Kittens and cats are carnivores and lactose intolerant.

Poor diet can contribute to many health issues such as runny poo, vomiting, lethargy and weight loss. If you are confused on what to feed or noticing any health problems please contact your foster coordinator for advice.

SUPPORT



COMMUNICATION

Communication is super important when fostering. Questions are fantastic! There is no such thing as a silly question. If you are concerned or have any questions, please reach out to your foster coordinator or write in the support group chat. Each Sunday we require an update on your foster cat, including photos. This is so we can ensure everyone is supported and every cat is receiving what they need. It is also a legal obligation that we know how each cat under our care is going. If contact isn't made on Sunday, a core team member will contact you personally.

CONTACT

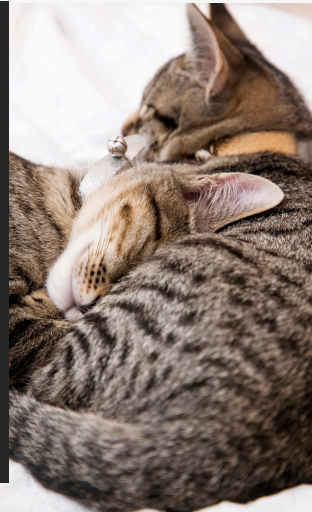
When to contact us immediately - please note some of these symptoms can be normal with diet change/stress but we would prefer you to flag it:

- Vomiting or diarrhoea
- Any weight loss
- If kitten become lethargic, cool or warm to the touch
- Not eating
- Not toileting
- Any unusual behaviour - anything that concerns you concerns us. It is always best practice to reach out immediately if you have even the slightest of concerns.

EMERGENCY

Please contact a core team member for support prior to taking an animal to a vet.

If you cannot get hold of a core team member or one of our partner vets and you're experiencing an emergency where an animal's life is at risk, please take your foster cat or kitten to your closest vet clinic - it is wise to know where that is so you are able to get there quickly in an emergency.



VET VISITS



VACCINATIONS

Rescued cats are often not up to date with their annual vaccinations, so we make it a priority to get them on schedule. We will work closely with you to ensure vet visits are convenient for you - these are generally short visits where you will remain in the room during the injection.

DESEXING

If you have young kittens, we will need to arrange to have them desexed prior to adoption. They will be pre-booked for desexing based on estimated weight - kittens must be 1kg, so when they reach 800g we will aim to book them in within a fortnight. We work closely with you to ensure vet drop off and pick up are convenient, but this may not always be possible.

Drop off can generally be arranged between 8-9am the morning of. Pick up is usually between 3:30pm-5pm the same day. If dropping off in the morning, all kittens must be fasted (no food intake) from 10pm the night before. The vet team will go through aftercare with you and answer any questions, but please do not hesitate to contact a team member if you are still unsure on anything!

Kittens come back into your care after desexing as they recover quicker in familiar surroundings, plus you know these kittens well and will recognize if something isn't quite right during their recovery.

For the first 24 hours after pickup it is best to keep kittens crated or in a tent, kept quiet (if possible) and prevent jumping, especially with females. Male kittens will recover quicker than females. For the next 24-48 hours your kittens/cat maybe quiet or a little lethargic due to the vaccination and anaesthesia.

If during this time you are concerned about anything, reach out immediately. Major concerns include - extremely lethargy, vomiting, diarrhoea, any unusual behaviour and blood/fluid oozing from scar. We definitely prefer you to be over cautious than under.

ADOPTION PROCESS



FOSTER FAILING

Wanting to adopt your foster?

If you do fall completely in love with one of your foster cats, please let your coordinator or a team member know as soon as possible. The adoption fee usually ranges from \$200 - \$400. Exotic breeds often are more and senior cats less. This is to help go towards vetwork, supplies and the running of the rescue. Like you, the entire team are volunteers that rely solely on adoption fees and donations to continue saving lives. We do not make any money on the cats we adopt out - it all goes back into the rescue.

MEET AND GREETES

Once your cat has been fully vetted we will start the adoption process. We ask that you send us all the adorable pictures you have and a few words explaining the personality and best suitable home for each individual foster. They all have their own personalities and requirements and it is crucial we know so we can find them the perfect match.

Using the details and photos you provide, we will set up profiles and start looking for suitable and beautiful homes. Once a successful application is submitted, a thorough phone interview will take place. If this is successful, a coordinator will reach out to you to organise a meet and greet. If the meet and greet goes well the adoption can take place on the day. You will need to tell your coordinator how the meet and greet goes.

If successful your coordinator will send through the account details to the adopter and email through all vet paperwork (desexing certificate, vaccination history, microchip details and change of owner forms. If you are not comfortable with conducting meet and greets in your home that is completely fine, please let us know.

SAYING GOODBYE

Saying goodbye is bittersweet, however it is important to remember that your goodbye is their hello to a long and beautiful life in a loving home. You then have space to save another little life who needs you!

Adopting saves one life, fostering saves hundreds.

THANK YOU



FOR FOSTERING THROUGH
HOUSE OF CHANCES



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