

Dear Prospective Foster Family:

Thank you for considering opening your home to a needy pet. The Saskatoon SPCA Foster Care Program has been established to alleviate euthanization of adoptable animals. Your care and nurturing of these animals is essential.

As a Foster Care Family, you will be providing an animal the necessary care it needs to survive. You are a key link in eventually providing this animal a permanent home.

Please read the enclosed information concerning the Foster Care Program, its goals, objectives and policies. If you have any questions, please contact the Volunteer & Foster Coordinator.

Sincerely,

Megan Melvin
Volunteer & Foster Care Coordinator
Saskatoon SPCA

PURPOSE, GOALS & OBJECTIVES

1. PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Saskatoon SPCA Foster Care Program is to help animals who have a good chance of survival and are considered adoptable, but are either too young for the general adoption program, injured or ill. The majority of animals we are able to help through this program would likely face euthanasia.

The Saskatoon SPCA receives many young and injured animals. Injured animals are evaluated on a case-by-case basis by our Heath-Wing Staff. Once the animal has been assessed, the decision will be made as to whether it needs to be placed in Foster Care.

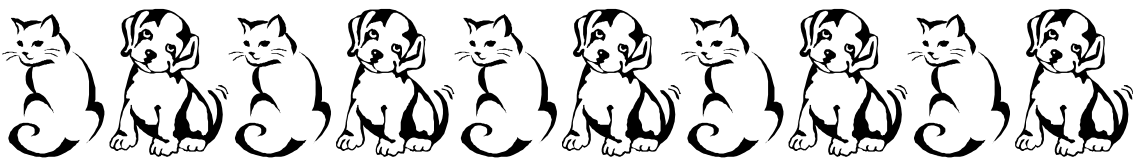
2. GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

- To eliminate euthanization of adoptable animals.
- To provide temporary homes for all adoptable animals.
- To form a network of volunteers in Foster Service.

3. POLICY:

In order to best facilitate the success of the Foster Care Program, the policies below have been formulated:

- All prospective Foster Families must complete a Foster Care Application. The application will be reviewed by the Volunteer & Foster Care Coordinator.
- The fostered animals are under the temporary care of the foster family, and belong exclusively to the Saskatoon SPCA.
- The purpose of the foster relationship is to provide care for the animal. Any determination made about the animal will be made by a supervisor in the organization.
- Any and all permanent placement of the animal will be made through the Saskatoon SPCA. The foster family will surrender the animal at the time of placement.



JOB DESCRIPTION

Major Objectives:

To provide temporary shelter, care and love for potentially adoptable animals so that their chances of being adopted are increased.

Responsibilities:

1. To feed, shelter, socialize, groom, train and medicate animals as needed.
2. To ensure the safety of all foster animals under the foster parent/family's care.
3. To isolate foster pets from other household pets if necessary.
4. To ensure that foster parent/family's own pets are current on vaccinations.
5. To observe and report any problems with the animals to the Foster Care Coordinator.
6. To comply with the Saskatoon SPCA's philosophies and policies.

Qualifications:

-Adequate facilities at home (may include areas in which to confine the animal if not compatible with you pets).
-Willingness to commit much time and energy to an animal that will ultimately return to the shelter for adoption.
- Animal handling and knowledge of animal medical treatment is an asset.

Time Commitment:

A great deal of time and emotional commitment involved: foster term may range from 2 weeks to several months depending on the individual case.

Training:

Acceptance of Foster Care Application and a Home Visit

Benefits:

Satisfaction from helping animals become adoptable that may have otherwise been euthanized.



THE SASKATOON SPCA FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

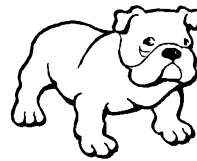
Thank you for your interest in joining our team of Foster Parents! If you have never had the opportunity to foster before, you are now being given the chance to experience all the joys of parenting without the lifetime of responsibility.

Please read these pages carefully. Once you have been approved as a Foster Parent, we will call you with opportunities to foster.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF BEFORE YOU DECIDE TO FOSTER FOR THE SASKATOON SPCA:

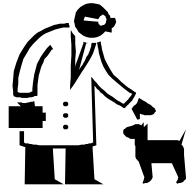
1. **Am I able to separate the foster animal from my own animals?** Foster animals should remain isolated from your resident pets. You can keep them in an enclosed area away from your animals.
2. **Am I emotionally prepared to handle the death of one of my foster animals?** This can be very difficult and unfortunately it does happen. In this event, the Saskatoon SPCA should be contacted immediately.
3. **Will I be able to bring the animal(s) back at the end of the foster period?** It can be difficult to let go once you have become emotionally attached.
4. **Do I feel comfortable explaining to friends and family that these animals are not mine to adopt out and that they must go through the regular adoption process at the Saskatoon SPCA?**
5. **Will I be able to spend quality time with the animal(s)?** On average it is best to spend approximately 45 minutes a day with each foster animal. Socialization is just as important as feeding them and keeping them clean.

6. **Can I commit to spend the entire foster period with the animal?** If something unexpected happens and you need to have someone else care for your foster animal, we need to be informed and have a chance to talk with the sub-foster parents.
7. **Am I aware that there is a great deal of clean-up and even possible damage to my home when I take a foster animal?** Foster animals can ruin new drapes, carpeting, clothing...
8. **Will I be able to make a long term commitment to the Saskatoon SPCA Foster Care Program?**



The following are a few pointers to keep in mind:

- Whenever you have any questions regarding the health of your foster animals, do not hesitate to call the Saskatoon SPCA @ 374-7387. The staff will be able to give you useful advice and instructions.
- It is recommended that you keep your pets separate from your foster animals. It is always a health risk to expose your animal to another animal. Any contagious diseases that may have been dormant while the animal was at the shelter may become symptomatic while in your home. Also, please be aware that the Saskatoon SPCA is unable to cover any medical costs incurred by your resident pets as a result of exposure to your foster animal.
- The Saskatoon SPCA will cover the expense of emergency care for the foster animal **only** if the care was organized through the SPCA. Any visit to your own veterinarian if not organized through the SPCA will be at your own expense.
- If you notice that your foster animal is becoming ill, please call the SPCA as soon as possible. Catching an illness early could save your foster animal's life.



WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY FOSTER ANIMAL BECOMES ILL?

If your foster animal becomes ill while you are caring for it, with symptoms such as: diarrhoea, vomiting, loss of appetite, weight loss, runny eyes or nose, or anything that concerns you, please follow these procedures so that your animal will receive the care it needs.

Call the Saskatoon SPCA @ 374-7387 and ask to speak to a Health Technician or the Foster Care Coordinator. The trained staff member will ask you to describe the symptoms you are noticing and may advise you to bring the animal in to be looked at. **PLEASE DO NOT JUST DROP IN WITHOUT CALLING TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FIRST!** If you are asked to bring the animal in, the staff member will arrange a time for you to come in to have the animal examined.

The trained staff will make a decision based on the animal's symptoms as to whether or not to treat the animal, send it to Arlington Animal Hospital for a more in depth health examination, or to euthanize the animal. *****This is completely up to the discretion of the SPCA staff and management team.*****

VERY IMPORTANT!

If the animal is taken to Arlington Animal Hospital for further examination, the foster parent must remain in the waiting room at the clinic. Admittance to the examination room is prohibited due to liability issues. Since the SPCA is the legal guardian of all foster animals, foster parents will receive all communication through the SPCA in regards to the health of the animal. Due to the Privacy Act, the veterinarian cannot release any information regarding the animal's health directly to the foster parent.



WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY FOSTER ANIMAL BECOMES ILL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?

Call the 24 Hour Emergency Service @ 374-7387 for emergency situations only. Criteria for certain emergency situations are:

- Continuous diarrhoea
- Continuous vomiting
- Bleeding of any kind - nose, urine, stool
- Any trauma; hit by a car, dropped, limp, stepped on, unconscious
- Difficulty breathing.

If the animal has minimal vomiting, diarrhoea or is coughing or sneezing, but is still active, alert, eating and drinking, it can probably wait until the next morning to receive help. However, if the animal is lethargic and shows no interest in food or water, it is wise to seek emergency help at that time.

If you have any questions or doubts as to whether your fostered animal needs emergency care at any time outside of regular business hours, please call our emergency service and ask for assistance on the decision.

HOW SHOULD I HANDLE THE RETURN OF MY FOSTER ANIMALS?

Call the Foster Care Coordinator @ 374-7387 to schedule the return of all foster animals. PLEASE DO NOT JUST SHOW UP! It is important that we can expect your arrival so we can prepare the incoming and medical team to evaluate the animals for adoptability.

HOW SHOULD I HANDLE THE ADOPTION OF THE FOSTER ANIMAL?

Please keep in mind that all foster animals are property of the Saskatoon SPCA. Accordingly, it is important to keep in mind the following when considering adoption.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADOPT THE PET:

- Call the Foster Care Coordinator and schedule your return of the foster animal. Be sure to tell the person whom you are arranging the return with, that you are interested in adopting the pet.
- Hours for returning foster animals are Monday-Sunday from 2:00-5:00.

- You must be present to adopt the pet.
- You must have landlord approval if you rent your property.
- Be sure to bring a valid driver's licence.
- Clear your schedule to anticipate an adoption process that takes about 30 minutes. If the animal has not been vaccinated, the medical team must do this before adoption.

IF A **FRIEND OR RELATIVE** WOULD LIKE TO ADOPT THE PET:

- Do not give the animal directly to the interested person.
- Call the Foster Care Coordinator and schedule the return of the foster animal.
- Be sure to schedule your arrival with the foster pet at the same time as the interested party.
- Hours for returning fostered animals are Monday-Sunday from 2:00-5:00
- The person who is adopting must be present to adopt the pet.
- The person must have landlord approval if they rent their property.
- The interested adopter must bring a valid driver's licence.
- Make sure the interested party clears his/her schedule to anticipate an adoption process that takes about 30 minutes.
- If the animal has not been vaccinated, the medical team must do this before adoption.

