



CAT FOSTER MANUAL

Thank you for participating in the Foster Program for SOCA-FBC! Fostering is a great way to contribute to the organization's mission by providing a loving foster home to the animals in Fort Bend County. Fostering is an immensely rewarding experience, and it changes animals' lives in a very direct way. Plus, animals in foster care create much needed space in the shelter to accommodate other homeless animals.

This manual is meant to serve as a general guide of helpful information about taking care of your foster cat. If you have questions, please reach out to a member of the Admin Team for help. Many answers can also be found at www.SOCA-FBC.org. We are here to make this experience as beneficial and enjoyable as possible. We appreciate your commitment & willingness to take on this responsibility. Welcome to the SOCA-FBC family!!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Rita Garretson is SOCA-FBC President. The Cat Adoption Coordinator is Kelly Adams. The Cat Foster Coordinator is Amy Vogelsberg. Other members of the administrative team are: Elizabeth Witte (Records), Cathi Vann (Condo Manager) and Denise Ruppe and Barbara Cappello (TNR)

All adoption related questions such as applications, meet and greets, payments, etc. should be directed to Kelly Adams.

All foster related questions such as illnesses, supply needs, or needing your foster to move should be directed to Amy Vogelsberg.

SOCA – FBC website is: www.SOCA-FBC.org

Facebook page is: SOCA-FBC (Be sure to “like” us on Facebook and invite your friends) We also have a group chat for cat foster families as well as a Foster Family Facebook page. Check in for pertinent information, updates, and just to chat with some like-minded individuals.

Your foster's bio, information and photos can be uploaded here:

manage.rescuegroups.org. Our group is 8195 You will receive an email with the username and password so you can fill-out and maintain your foster cat's information. Please be sure to update frequently. Add new photos and information as you get to know your foster cat. Updating the site will “push” your foster cat to the top of the search results when potential adopters search for a new family member.

Wednesday is the day each week you will be reminded to update at least one thing about your foster's profile

BEFORE YOUR FOSTER CAT ARRIVES:

Here's what you'll need to help your foster cat make a smooth transition to living in your home:

If your foster cat has come from the shelter or outdoors, they will need to be kept separate from your personal pets for at least 2 weeks. This is to protect your pets from any potential illnesses the foster may have.

When a cat comes from the shelter or outdoors, they likely will have fleas. Please ask for a Capstar (kills all living fleas), and then give the cat a blue Dawn dish soap bath. A flea comb is also very helpful to remove fleas. The next day, apply a topical flea prevention to your foster. It is important to keep animals flea free! We provide

flea medication to foster each month. If you are having a problem with fleas, please let us know. Fleas also cause tapeworms. If your foster has had fleas, they will need to be dewormed as well.

Your new foster should have access to food and water, and a clean litter box.

SUPPLIES

We occasionally receive supply donations, especially for kitten milk and canned food. If you are unable to provide supplies for your foster, please let a member of the Admin team know.

Vet appointments, dewormer, and flea/tick treatment is provided, contact Amy Vogelsberg

CAT INTRODUCTIONS

When bringing a new animal into your home, slow introductions are always best. We recommend keeping your new kittens or cat in a separate room with their own food/water and litter box to allow them to acclimate for a few days.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Foster cats must live indoors.

All of our foster cats are indoor only pets (unless special circumstance).

Please only transport your kittens or cats in carriers.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Will I need to take my foster cat to adoption events?

Please make arrangements to attend at minimum two (2) adoption events per month with your foster.

You are welcome to stay with your foster and help answer questions from potential adopters. If you cannot stay, please make arrangements to drop off and pick up your foster. Kittens may attend adoption events once they have received two rounds of vaccines.

ITEMS TO BRING TO AN ADOPTION EVENT:

Cat Carrier – Bring your foster in their carrier with a soft blanket. There will be crates at the event for you to transfer them.

2. I was contacted about a kitten/cat in need. Can SOCA take them in?

If you are contacted about a cat or kitten in need, please message one of our Admin team, if we decide we are able to intake the cat, we will post for a foster. There are many factors involved in taking in new animals including funds and fosters.

3. How can I help my foster cat find a great home?

- ❖ As you get to know your foster cat, we ask that you update the foster cat's biography online at **www.rescuegroups.org** to reflect accurate information about the cat's preferences and quirks. We also suggest any photos or videos that you take of your foster - those can be uploaded to www.rescuegroups.org. By uploading pictures and bio information, your foster's information is immediately sent to **OVER 70** pet adoptions websites such as www.adoptapet.com and www.petfinder.com for potential adopters to review. There is also a link to our adoptables on our Facebook page SOCA – FBC. Every time you update the information for your foster cat at www.rescuegroups.org, their listing gets “pushed” to the top of the search results.
- ❖ You can also promote your foster on your personal Facebook page, Twitter or other social media. Be sure to tell people the basics about your foster cat: age, weight, dog friendly? Cat friendly? Child friendly? Quirks? Try to keep it positive while still telling the truth. Always refer them to www.soca-fbc.org for more information or an application.
- ❖ Put up a flyer or some info with a photo of your foster in the break room at your office or church.
- ❖ Be sure to mention SOCA-FBC and where someone can find an adoption application when you post your foster cat – www.SOCA-FBC.org
- ❖ Please do not post your foster cat on Craig's List or any similar site.

Please keep in mind that anyone who shows interest in adopting your foster cat will need to go through the adoption screening process – **NO EXCEPTIONS!** **Do not set up meet and greets or home visits until the adopter has passed initial screening and the adoption coordinator has given you the go-ahead.**

If your foster has an Adoption Application, Kelly Adams will contact you with the next steps.

What is a phone interview of a potential family for my foster?

When our application review team has an application for your pet that has passed initial review and appears to possible be a good match for your pet, you will be given the application to read and asked to make contact with the adopter as soon as possible by phone. This is an opportunity for you to ask lots of questions of the family and for them to ask questions about the pet as well. The goal is to see if the family will be a good home for your foster. If it a good fit, please let the adoption coordinator know you would like to proceed with the next step. If it is not, please give the adoption coordinator feedback so they can re-connect with the family to let them know, or perhaps offer a pet that is a better fit. Always thank them for their time and let them know someone will contact them.

How do I get Flea/Tick Preventative Each Month?

SOCA-FBC will have topical flea/tick available at each adoption event (you can also contact Amy). You will need to go to an adoption event to pick up the medicine each month for the following month. If you would like to donate \$5 to help defray the cost, it is greatly appreciated. Your foster should be given a preventative on the first day of each month. If you wish to provide flea/tick preventative medicine for your foster, it is welcomed and appreciated, but must be approved by your Foster Coordinator. You can receive a donation letter for tax purposes if you provide a receipt for the purchase.

Cat Condos

We are fortunate to have three locations that we use for cat condos: Rosenberg Petco, Southpark at Cinco Ranch Petco on FM 1093, and Fulshear Petsmart on FM 1463.

Cats and kittens can reserve a condo spot once they are fully vetted. They will stay at the condos for 2 weeks (unless adopted), and they will need to come back to your home for a “cage break”. Since we have so many cats and kittens in foster care, we often have waiting lists for the condos. Please let one of the Admin team know if you would like to reserve a condo. Cathi Vann organizes the condos.

VETERINARY CARE

SOCA-FBC provides all medical care for our foster cats at our approved veterinary clinics. This typically includes Lighthouse Vet in Sugar Land, Fort Bend Animal Hospital in Rosenberg, and occasionally Simonton Vet for special circumstances. Because we are ultimately responsible for your foster cat’s well-being, our staff must authorize any and all treatment for foster cats at our approved veterinary partners PRIOR to treatment.

If your foster cat needs to go to the veterinarian, please notify Amy Vogelsberg by Facebook or Text Message (713-829-7853) Amy will schedule the appointment.

For non-emergency situations, please understand that our veterinary partners book quickly and may not be available for same-day appointments. We ask that you schedule basic non-emergency appointments at least 24- hours in advance. Most of our veterinary partners will not schedule rescue appointments on Saturday.

Remember, foster parents will be responsible for payment of any medical care if they take their foster cat to a veterinarian without authorization from a member of the Admin Team.

Cats generally do a good job of masking when they don’t feel well, so determining if your foster cat is under the weather will require diligent observation of the cat’s daily activity and appetite levels.

KITTEN VETTING

We have several volunteers who can assist with giving kittens vaccines now. Dr. Anna Moseley can administer combo tests and vaccines from her home in Sugar Land. Valerie Tolman can give vaccines from Missouri City area, and Amy Vogelsberg is in Katy/Fulshear. Amy has a spreadsheet with all kittens’ vaccine schedules and will contact and schedule these visits for you.

6 weeks of age: Combo test (if mom was not with them), vaccines, dewormed (This visit can be with one of our volunteers)

9 weeks of age: vaccines, dewormed – Kittens can be adopted with an approved application after their 2nd set of shots. The adopters would then be responsible to transport the kitten for their final vet visit (This 2nd round of vaccines can be with one of our volunteers)

12 weeks of age and at least 3 pounds: Spay/Neuter, microchip, final vaccines plus Rabies, dewormed (This visit will be at Lighthouse or Fort Bend Animal Hospital, Amy will work with you to schedule)

*It is very common for kittens to have problems with diarrhea. Please contact Amy if your kittens are having diarrhea. Coccidia and Giardia can become serious if not treated, and small kittens can go downhill fast.

*Ringworm is also a very common condition for our kittens. If you notice anything abnormal about your foster’s skin, please let us know.

Criteria for emergencies:

What constitutes a medical emergency in a cat? A good rule of thumb is any situation in which you would call 911 for a person. Here are some specific symptoms that could indicate an emergency:

- Not breathing or labored breathing
- Signs of extreme dehydration: dry mucous membranes, weakness, vomiting, tenting of the skin (when the skin is pulled up, it stays there)
- Abnormal lethargy or unable to stand
- Unconsciousness or unable to wake up
- Cold to the touch
- Broken bones
- Any trauma: hit by a car, dropped, stepped on
- A large wound or profuse bleeding that doesn't stop when pressure is applied
- Loss of appetite for more than 24 hours

***** Unless your animal has a MEDICAL EMERGENCY please help us to keep costs down by notifying us of symptoms during normal vet business hours, do not WAIT until the weekend to tell us your dog has been sick for days. Weekend and afterhours visits costs can add up quickly for the rescue, thus reducing the number of animals we are able to help. Please do your part by notifying us ASAP instead of waiting.**

WE ARE VOLUNTEERS

Please note that our organization is staffed solely by volunteers. Volunteers are not compensated financially in any way. Most of our volunteers have families and full-time jobs. We ask that you be patient in requesting a response from us. We will try very hard to get back to you quickly. Most of the answers to any question can be found on the SOCA-FBC website – www.SOCA-FBC.org. Please refer to this manual or the website when you have questions. If you cannot find the answer, then please message a member of our Administrative Team.

Adoption event dates and any events will always be listed on the SOCA-FBC Facebook page, website and sent by email by Signup Genius. Please take a look and plan to attend a least 2 events per month.

SOCA-FBC is a 501c3 non-profit organization and we rely solely on donations to help the animals in our care. Please share our website, our Facebook page and tell your friends about us.

We are always looking for great foster parents LIKE YOU!

www.SOCA-FBC.org