



PO Box 869
Lansdowne, PA 19050
484-463-1277
info@animalfriendsoflansdowne.com

Animal Friends of Lansdowne- Foster Care Program Overview

Importance: The foster care program is vital to saving lives. Taking cats or kittens into foster care gives them an opportunity to be socialized. Without foster homes, we cannot rescue as many pets.

Time involved: This will depend on the needs of each animal. Some foster pets are young or have health issues so it is important to understand the needs of each foster pet and how much time you have available. We can match you up with the appropriate foster pets depending on your time. Time required also depends on the number of animals fostered.

Qualifications:

- Most important is love and concern for pets.
- Time and desire to socialize pets.
- Willingness to provide food, water and medication, if necessary.
- Provide a clean living environment and daily care.

Expense: Animal Friends of Lansdowne will provide medical care and medications. Foster parents provide food, litter, toys and other items.

If you are interested in being a foster volunteer after reading the information in this packet, please just fill out the foster contract.

Things to consider about Foster Care for Cats and Kittens

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. We want this experience to be a positive and rewarding one for you. You will be giving your foster cats a chance to adapt to a normal, warm and loving foster home environment while it waits for a permanent one.

Please know that if not for caring people like you, hundreds of beautiful cats and kittens will be euthanized or die living as strays where they are susceptible to many unhealthy and unsafe conditions. While there are many positive reasons to open your home to a homeless animal there are numerous practical factors to be considered as well. Prior to making this commitment, please consider the following questions.

1. Will you be able to spend quality time with the foster animal (s)? Socialization can be as important as feeding them and keeping them clean.
2. Are you willing to work with our vet care system? Please understand that only our vets can treat our foster cats/kittens at selected facilities. Some procedures are done for a substantial savings to our organization. Additionally, all medications must come from our sources only. If you choose to go to a vet outside our system without our prior consent (other than life-threatening emergencies) or get medications from outside our system, then any cost incurred will be the fosters responsibility.
3. Do you feel comfortable explaining to friends that these animals are not yours to adopt out and that they must go through the regular adoption process at Animal Friends of Lansdowne.
4. Can you commit to spend the entire foster period with the animal? If something unexpected happens and you need to have someone else care for your fosters, please return them to Animal Friends of Lansdowne.

As with anything else that involves change, there may be an adjustment period for you and your foster cat/kitten. Please be patient — many of our animals have come from rough situations and are frightened. Many times, their only way to communicate their fears is what we humans refer to as abnormal or deviant behavior. Some will hide, while others may exhibit any number of signals: inappropriate urination/defecation, growling, hissing, snapping (also called fear biting), cowering in corners, etc.

Foster program explanation:

Our goal at Animal Friends of Lansdowne is: (1) to reduce the number of feral/stray/unwanted cats in the Lansdowne area (2) while attempting to give a second chance to adoptable cats/kittens by working with local animal control facilities and 3) educate regarding the importance of responsible cat ownership.

***We need foster homes for domesticated cats/kittens. Some may need to recuperate from illness, others may just be too young to adopt. Often it takes just a little longer to adopt the adults/teen cats, and we ask for patience from our fosters while we do everything in our power to find good homes.

How we adopt:

- We run ads in local papers
- We post our adoptables on our website and petfinders website
- We network with other animal advocacy agencies

How it works:

- If fosters have any medical problems or need assistance with food/litter/meds, it is necessary to contact Animal Friends of Lansdowne ASAP. Please try to contact before the situation becomes an emergency/after hours event. If the situation is an emergency and it is after hours for a vet or very late, take care of the cat and we will work with you.
- We will be sending out a small guide for our fosters listing some typical symptoms/diseases/treatments. We hope this will help.
- Please keep fosters separated from animals that you own, at least at first. This is critical for the well being of your current pets.
- If you have any changes in your status, i.e. willing to show from your home, a pending adoption, wanting to take a break, or specifying type of cats to foster, please contact Animal Friends of Lansdowne.

We will work with you! We want to do a great job helping cats without overextending our resources or overusing/stressing our fosters. Thanks for all you do!

For any questions/concerns/suggestions: Call us at 610-259-1401.

Foster Home Information for Cats and Kittens

Thank you for agreeing to give needy animals a warm, loving foster home while it waits for a permanent one! We want this experience to be a positive and rewarding one for you, and a chance for your foster cat or kitten to adapt to a normal environment.

As with anything that involves change, there may be an adjustment period for you and your foster pet. Please be patient, many of our animals have come from rough situations and are very frightened. Many times, their only way to communicate their fears is through what we humans refer to as abnormal or deviant behavior. Some will hide, while others may exhibit any number of signals: inappropriate urination/defecation, growling, hissing, snapping (also called fear biting), cowering in corners, etc.

When you bring your foster cat or kitten home for the first time, try to confine it in a small room (bathrooms are ideal) that can be shut off from the rest of your family and pets. Put out water, food and a litter box for your foster. In addition, consider leaving the carrier out, with the carrier door open for the cat or kitten to crawl into until it feels secure enough to explore the room on its own.

Be sure to remove toilet paper and clear things off of the bathroom counters, and any other surfaces the cat or kitten could jump onto and accidentally knock over. Talk very softly to it anytime you are in the same room. Try to avoid sudden loud noises. Depending on its previous circumstances, it may be ready to explore and let you gently pet it shortly after its arrival or it may take several hours or days before it trusts you. This is okay. When the cat or kitten decides to go to the next level of friendship, it will let you know. Many times, this occurs as soon as it realizes you are the food giver!

Animal Friends of Lansdowne will tell you everything we know about your foster pet with regard to its behavior, general health, eating preferences, etc. Please keep in mind that although it may appear healthy, we often do not know if it has been exposed to any diseases, infections or parasites, other than what we have already tested or treated it for. This is why, at least initially, it is a good idea to isolate it from your other pets. We also strongly recommend that you wash your hands after handling it. A few things, like ringworm (a fungal infection, similar to athlete's foot) are contagious to humans. It often appears as a circular rash on you, and is easily treated if you are sensitive to infection.

Animal Friends of Lansdowne Foster Program Contract

- 1 I agree to foster the animal(s) until it is returned to the Animal Friends of Lansdowne. I take full responsibility to provide adequate food, shelter and a loving environment. Cats must be kept indoors at all times.
- 2 I understand that Animal Friends of Lansdowne does not knowingly misrepresent any animals age, condition of health, or temperament.
- 3 I understand that Animal Friends of Lansdowne cannot be held responsible if the pet(s) is unsuitable for my home environment or if the animal(s) becomes ill or acts in an erratic manner. If I cannot keep the foster animal, I agree that I will return it to Animal Friends of Lansdowne immediately.
- 4 I agree to administer any medication(s) provided to me for the animal(s). I agree to contact Animal Friends of Lansdowne at the first signs of a problem or illness and will take the animal to the veterinarian for any treatment required if I am unable to contact Animal Friends of Lansdowne within a reasonable time. I understand that all medication and medical treatment will be paid for by Animal Friends of Lansdowne, provided that it is authorized by Animal Friends of Lansdowne.
- 5 I understand that Animal Friends of Lansdowne reserves the right to inspect the foster home at any time to ensure suitability for these purposes.
- 6 I understand that the foster animal is the sole property of Animal Friends of Lansdowne and cannot be given to anyone or adopted by anyone without completion of a Animal Friends of Lansdowne Application for Adoption, Adoption Contract, and collection of the requested adoption donation. If the animal is given away, the Foster Parent will be responsible any expenses. Should I choose to adopt a foster pet I agree to complete the appropriate adoption records and make an adoption donation.
- 7 In the event of an emergency with the pet(s), I agree to call Animal Friends of Lansdowne. I understand that I will not be reimbursed for any expenses not approved in advance by Animal Friends of Lansdowne, unless it is a life-or-death situation.
- 8 I agree to give an update on the foster animal's condition at least once per week either via phone or email.
- 9 I agree to return the foster animal(s) to Animal Friends of Lansdowne upon request by Animal Friends of Lansdowne if all of the above conditions are not met.
- 10 I agree to defend, indemnify, and hold Animal Friends of Lansdowne, its Board of Directors, officers, and volunteers harmless from direct or indirect and consequential damages arising out of this foster care arrangement.

I have read, understand, and agree to the above conditions.

Foster Parent: _____

Date: _____

Animal Friends of Lansdowne Agent: _____

Date: _____

In case of an emergency, contact:
