



Humane Society
OF THE
CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY

Foster Care Program Guide



Fostering an animal is one of the many ways you can help improve the life of an orphaned dog or cat. Fostering provides both the animal and the parent with a unique experience filled with love, compassion, and sense of satisfaction. Foster parents are one of the shelters greatest assets as it allows PAWS Humane to save more animals by providing temporary safe homes before coming to the shelter for adoption.

Foster parents provide a safe haven for animals to get the attention, love, and medical care they need outside of the shelter environment. Paws Humane Society could not save over 1700 animals a year without the dedicated work of our Foster parents.



One of our Jr. In-Home Hero's named Emma with her foster puppy "Bella."



Our dedicated In-Home Hero Sara Beth with her foster "Tetris."



Introduction

Paws truly values you, our foster caregivers. Your decision to choose to foster animals for Paws is amazing. Not everyone can do what you do. Fostering an animal can be much like parenting. What is it they say? “The toughest job you will ever love”. Fostering can be one of the most rewarding ways to volunteer. We could not do what we do without you!

One of the most emotional aspects of fostering an animal is treating him or her through an illness or injury. It hurts to see them when they are helpless or not feeling well. During your time as a foster parent, PAWS is committed to providing you with the medical (and emotional) support that you may need during this period. It is important to remember that decisions made by the shelter management regarding our animals are done so in conjunction with our staff veterinarians. A number of factors are taken into consideration at every step of your foster animal’s treatment. We must constantly balance the needs of one animal vs. the needs of literally hundreds more. Should you have any questions regarding your foster animal’s treatment or decisions made regarding your foster animal, you are encouraged to contact the foster care coordinator. We would be happy to discuss our decision pertaining to your foster animal.

Foster Animal Candidates

All candidates in need of a foster home are selected by the shelter evaluation and management team. The animals selected are those that will benefit from time spent away from the shelter. The most common reason the shelter looks for foster placement is due to upper respiratory infections, however, animals may be in need of foster for other medical reasons or for socialization. Some animals have minor illnesses that can be treated in the shelter without concern and will not need foster care. Any animals that have major medical or behavioral conditions that make them too sick to be treated or unsafe in a home will not be considered for foster care.

In some instances, though rare, an animal may not respond to treatment while in foster care. This can happen due to many different reasons ranging from an unknown, underlying illness to a poor immune system. Whatever the reason, the management team may be faced with having to make a decision to stop treatment if an improvement in the animal’s health is not seen.

Foster Caregiver Support

You can contact the Foster Coordinator with any questions regarding behavior or medical concerns about your foster animal, as well as any issues you may be experiencing. We will respond as quickly as possible (usually within 1 business day) to resolve the situation or offer any advice needed. We appreciate the time and effort you put into caring for our foster animals and want to help you through the process when needed. In addition, there are emergency contacts available after hours for serious medical concerns that need immediate attention. Please keep in mind that the emergency contact numbers should only be used in emergency situations.



Foster Caregiver Requirements

As a volunteer of Paws we want your relationship with us to be built on respect and trust! Those interested in being a volunteer for Paws are doing so to have an impact on improving and saving the lives of animals. As a volunteer we ask that you adhere to the following guidelines:

- Be professional and courteous in all interactions with PAWS staff and the public when representing your foster animal and Paws.
- Keep an open line of communication between yourself and the Foster Department when you have a suggestion or grievance.
- Foster as many cases as you are able to throughout the year based on your specific situation (generally 3-5 cases on average per year).

In foster care we want all animals to be treated with care and compassion! Each animal that enters your home as a foster animal is doing so because they need some extra care. As a foster caregiver you should expect to provide the following for each and every foster animal:

- The administration of medications
- General behavior/manner training
- Basic grooming
- Specific time for play and petting
- Provide food and water

In short all animals should be provided with the highest level of care at all times. Paws strives to meet this goal which includes ensuring that our foster caregivers are also able to do so.

Deciding Which Animal to Foster

In order to decide which foster animal you would like to take into your home you should consider the following:

- First, determine which species fits your home and schedule.
- Second, determine if you can only foster one animal at a time or if you can take multiples, such as a litter of kittens or puppies or nursing moms and babies.
- Information pertaining to why foster care is needed and additional medical notes.

If you need assistance deciding what best fits you and your home, please do not hesitate to contact the foster coordinator.

Picking-up Your Foster Animal

Make sure your home is prepared and ready for the foster animal.

Contact the foster coordinator for the proper day and time.

The staff member will make sure you are comfortable with the animal(s) you have been given and provide you with any further details that may be needed.

Please call the same day you are able to pick the animal up. Animals should not be held for more than half a day or so after you have decided you are able to foster.



The following day you will receive a call which will reiterate your foster animal's general and medical information.
*Note -any animals picked up on Friday-Saturday will receive this follow up call on Monday.

Note that Paws Humane ONLY delivers or picks up animals in extreme emergency cases or when otherwise approved by management

Preparing for Your Foster Animal

The area you plan to utilize for your foster animal should be prepared in advance.

If you have a foster animal that is not being fostered for a medical illness and you would like to introduce it to your pets, you may do so after a 7-10 day quarantine period. This is a general time frame in which an animal will begin to show symptoms if they recently contracted an illness such as URI (incubation period).

Note-Paws Humane is not responsible for cost of any illnesses passed from foster to companion animals. Even animals that are quarantined may pass illness to a companion animal if they are able to have any contact, such as under doors, or sharing outdoor areas, etc.

If you will have to administer medications, you may want to ask for a demonstration prior to leaving with your foster animal. Generally scruffing a cat is the most difficult task, but can be easier if you are shown. (Scruffing a cat does not hurt them! It is a safe way to administer medications without injury to yourself or your foster animal).

Make sure your home is pet-safe. It is recommended that all foster animals should be kept to one or two rooms in your home. Animals can do the most unlikely things. Use this list to make sure you have covered all areas of potential concern:

- All cleaning supplies and medications should be kept out of the reach of jumping and climbing cats and dogs. Make sure cleaning supplies and medications are in cabinets.
- Place all small chewable items, socks and shoes out of reach.
- Trash cans should be covered.
- Wires, electrical cords and mini blind cords should be out of reach
- Be aware of foster animals when using home appliances such as dishwashers, refrigerators, stoves, washers and dryers. These sounds may frighten animals who are unaccustomed to them.
- Be sure to keep toilet lids closed at all times. This will prevent small animals from jumping in and possibly drowning and bigger animals from using it as a water source.
- Count your foster animals when opening and closing doors (including closets).
- Many house and garden plants are poisonous. Keep household plants out of reach and supervise your animals outside. **Foster cats should never be allowed outside**
- Toys must be safe! Avoid toys that have small parts attached to them (i.e. eyes, ribbons, yarn, feathers etc.) Avoid soft rubber squeaky toys that can be chewed apart. During the holiday season, avoid using tinsel!
- Protect your home from being damaged by using sheets, tarps, and newspaper to protect carpet and floors.
- Use a wire crate for dogs when you are away from home. A wire crate may also be used with cats and kittens. Crating animals when not under your direct supervision will help prevent home damage and is recommended.



Caring for your Foster Animal – Cats and Kittens

Supplies

- Litter box, toys, 2 bowls (water & food), litter, bedding, kennel

Feeding

- Purina Cat or Purina Kitten Chow (to stay consistent with food used at PAWS will help prevent intestinal upsets)

Grooming

- Brushing- Kittens generally groom themselves and regular petting is sufficient to keep them free of loose fur. For long haired kittens brushing may be required two times a week.
- Nail trims- This is done by PAWS staff, but a kitten's nails can grow rather quickly so you may want to trim their nails. You may do so using cat nail trimmers or by calling the foster coordinator to setup an appointment. **Scissors should never be used**
- Baths- Kittens should not be given baths, they can become chilled and get sick. If they get something in their fur and need to be cleaned use a wet cloth to wipe the area clean.

Litter Box Training

- By about 4 weeks of age, kittens are ready to begin using the litter box.
- Start kittens off by putting them in a litter box and scratching the litter with their front paws. While they are learning to use the litter box, put them in it several times a day.
- Several litter boxes may be necessary depending on how many kittens are in your group.
- Make sure the kittens can easily locate their litter box by keeping them in a small room or bathroom. Once placed it is best not to move the litter box location.
- Litter boxes must be kept clean. Scoop at least once daily and completely dump out and re-fill with clean litter at least once weekly. Soiled boxes should be scrubbed with white vinegar and rinsed with water before re-filling.
- Kittens are very messy when first learning to use a litter box. They will step in their excrement and track it through the room. At this time, it is especially important to keep all household surfaces clean and covered.

Behavior

- Rough play is a common behavior in kittens. Redirection to a proper toy and taking your hand away is the best training method. **Do not strike an animal for rough play**
- Kittens are very curious and like to run, jump, hide and climb. Remove all breakable and dangerous items from their reach.
- Provide a scratching post and encourage them to use it instead of carpet.
- Kittens love to play with toys of any kind. Even a crumpled piece of paper or paper shopping bags (never plastic!) can provide entertainment.



- A single kitten will likely cry a lot the first couple of nights. Make the kitten's area as cozy as possible by providing a blanket and stuffed animal.

Caring for your Foster Animal - Dogs and Puppies

Adult dogs (age 4 months and older)

Supplies

- Dry dog food for adult dogs. To minimize digestive issues, the food should stay the same as when they are in the shelter. PAWS uses Purina One chicken and rice dry food.
- Blankets or a dog bed
- Bowls-ceramic or stainless steel is easiest to sanitize
- A large wire crate
- Grooming supplies (brushes, flea combs, nail clippers etc.)
- Toys that can be cleaned or sanitized.
- Baby gates
- Collars, harnesses, and leashes (choke chain or pinch type collars should not be used)

Feeding

- Dry food: Dogs should be fed one to two times per day based on the approximate weight use the below guide:

Weight	Dry Food Amount
5lbs	$\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 cup of food
10lbs	1 to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups of food
20lbs	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to cups to 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups of food
40lbs	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups of food
60lbs	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups to 5 cups of food
80lbs	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups to 6 cups of food
100lbs	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups to 7 cups of food

Nursing moms should receive puppy food and follow the puppies' feeding schedule listed in the next section

- Wet Food: To be fed only if needed.
- If your foster dog is unwilling to eat plain, dry food, you can mix in some water or a small amount of wet food.
- Dogs with upper respiratory infections can be offered wet food warmed slightly to entice them to eat.
- Fresh water should always be available
- If you are having difficulty getting your foster animal to eat, please contact the foster coordinator



Grooming

- Brushing- Dogs do not generally groom themselves so regular brushing one or two times per week may be necessary, especially for long haired dogs.
- Nail trims-This is done by PAWS Humane evaluation staff and will not likely need to be done while in your care. In the event that you have a long term foster dog that requires a nail trim you may do so using dog nail trimmers or by calling the foster coordinator to set up an appointment. Scissors should never be used!
- Baths-It is likely that your foster dog will need a bath or two while in your care. Unless you have been given a special shampoo due to a skin condition, any regular dog shampoo can be used. Avoid using anything medicated unless directed by PAWS.

Behavior

- Dogs should be crated when you are unable to supervise them. The dog should be able to stand, turn around, and lie down without touching the sides of the crate.
- Chew toys should be provided to relieve boredom and alleviate stress.
- Teaching your foster dog basic manners (i.e. stay off furniture, no jumping on guests, no begging for table food, etc) will help your foster dog when it comes time for adoption.
- Dogs should not be left outside for long periods of time, unattended. They should never be left outdoors over night or when you are not at home.
- Even if a dog is housetrained, an accident upon arriving at your home is not uncommon. It can take time for them to become accustomed to a new schedule. Taking the dog out at regular intervals to establish a pattern for Potty training is recommended.



Puppies (up to 4 months)

If you have a litter of puppies it is important that you are able to identify them. Make a list of their names and any distinguishing markings so you can keep a record of their progress. Remove all paper collars before they become too snug. **Puppies should NEVER be placed on the ground outside your home!** Puppies require 4 rounds of vaccines to protect against deadly, contagious diseases that are spread through the urine and feces of other dogs. These diseases can live on the grass or pavement for several months, even after pet waste has been removed.

Supplies

- Wet and dry food specific to puppies. To minimize digestive issues, the food should stay the same as when they are in the shelter. PAWS uses plain Purina One puppy for dry and Purina Pro Plan puppy chicken and rice for wet.
- Blankets and towels.
- Paper towels and rags.
- Newspaper
- Bowls-ceramic or stainless steel are easiest to sanitize.
- A large wire crate.
- Grooming supplies (brushes, flea combs, nail clippers, etc.)
- Toys that can be cleaned or sanitized.
- Baby gates
- Collars, harnesses, and leashes (choke chain or pinch type collars should not be used)

Feeding

- Feed $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of dry dog food and 1 to 2 tablespoons of wet food per feeding
- Feedings should be done 2-3 times a day. Several feedings throughout the day will ensure that your puppies do not over eat, which can cause vomiting or diarrhea.
- It is important to make sure that each puppy is eating. If it appears that one or more is not making its way to the dish or getting squeezed out, set up another dish away from the first and closely monitor the puppy's intake.
- Never give puppies milk.
- Fresh water should always be available.

Housetraining

- Puppies will start to eliminate on their own at about 3 weeks of age. Puppies need to eliminate several times per day: when they first wake up, about 20 minutes after eating, and after playing vigorously.
- Once puppies have begun to eliminate on their own, outdoor housetraining should begin. If it is necessary to use an indoor elimination location, it should be as small as possible. Keep it consistently covered with something like newspaper or puppy pads. This will help puppies learn to keep elimination in one area and ease the housetraining in the new home.



Behavior

- Nipping is a common behavior in puppies. A loud shriek will usually get their attention so you can give them a proper toy to chew. Do not strike an animal for nipping.
- Start your foster puppies off on the right foot by keeping them off of the furniture, not letting them jump on people, etc. This will make their transition to a new home easier.
- Puppies should never be left unsupervised outside of their crate.

A single puppy will likely cry a lot the first couple of nights. Make the crate as comfortable as possible by providing a blanket and stuffed animal

Caring For Your Foster Animal

Nursing moms and weaning puppies and kittens:

Certain times of the year we have a large number of mothers that have nursing babies. While fostering nursing babies is extremely helpful to PAWS and results in saving the lives of these young animals, it can also be difficult and should not be taken lightly. The information below is very important to remember when you have decided to take in nursing moms and their babies.

- Puppies and kittens younger than 4 weeks are usually not fostered without their mother. Most mothers do a very good job of feeding, cleaning, and caring for their newborns. However, it is important that you be observant to ensure that no problems arise. A puppy's or kitten's condition can change very quickly.
- Nursing mothers with their litters should be kept separate from other animals in the house. The mother may be protective and can attack other animals or people if she feels threatened.
- Use towels or blankets for bedding. Bedding should be changed daily (or more frequently if necessary). The mother will try to keep the area clean, but it can be a difficult chore, especially with a larger litter.
- The mother will take care of the babies' elimination needs by frequently cleaning/licking them. Puppies and kittens fostered will have their follow-up appointment about 8 weeks of age as long as no other problems have arisen.
- The area where you keep your foster puppies and kittens must be clean, dry, warm, and free of drafts. Puppies and kittens younger than 2-3 weeks cannot maintain their own body temperature and may die if they become chilled.
- One or more puppies or kittens in a litter may begin to "fade" and begin to lose weight, stop growing, and stop nursing, crawling. They may cry continuously and lose the ability to stay upright. There is no clear cause for the condition. Puppies and kittens fade very quickly and often do not recover, even with intensive care. Contact an MHS staff member immediately if you suspect a problem.
- Some moms will need "free time". This is a short period of time that mom should be separated from her babies in order to have some peace and quiet. This is best done about half an hour before she is due to feed again. They feed every two to three hours on average.
- Starting at about 3-4 weeks of age, most puppies and kittens will begin trying to eat on their own from their mothers dish (remember mom is eating their food, so this is fine). At this time, make sure the dish is large enough for the litter to gather around or use multiple dishes.



- Some puppies and kittens may need to be introduced to the food. Place a small amount of wet food on your finger and allow the puppy or kitten to lick it off or place a small amount on their lips. Slightly warming the food makes it more palatable. You can also mix dry food with water and a small amount of canned food to make a semi-solid mixture.
- Remove the mother during puppy and kitten feeding times so she will not eat their food. It is also helpful to remove the mother 1-2 hours prior to feeding time to stimulate the puppies' and kittens' appetites once they have reached 3-4 weeks of age.
- Puppies and kittens will continue to occasionally nurse during this time.
- Beginning at 3 weeks of age, it is important to begin handling puppies and kittens frequently. Make sure each puppy and kitten is handled and played with regularly.
- Gradual exposure to new and different things, people, sights, and normal household sounds is important to ensure that the puppies and kittens are well adjusted.
- Puppies and kittens learn to play by wrestling with their littermates.

Routine Care & Re-check Appointments

The majority of animals that are in your home for foster care will need an appointment of some sort scheduled. These appointments are divided into two categories:

- **Evaluation Appointment:** These appointments take place in the shelter and are generally fairly quick, but we do ask for patience as emergencies can happen which will increase your wait time. Evaluation appointments are any appointment that does not require a veterinarian, such as:
 - Vaccinations
 - Weight checks
 - Diagnostic tests
 - Feline leukemia/FIV tests
 - Heartworm tests
 - Intestinal parasite exams
 - Skin scrapes
 - Returns
- **Veterinarian Appointments:** These appointments will take place with a licensed veterinarian in the shelter. **The foster coordinator must be notified for all appointment requests.** Veterinarian appointments are any appointment that require a veterinarian, such as:
 - URI (Upper Respiratory Infection) re-checks
 - New URI symptoms
 - Ear infection re-checks
 - Stitch removals
 - Heartworm treatments
 - Vomiting/ diarrhea
 - Not eating

All appointments should be scheduled through Friday 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. by phone or



through the foster coordinator Monday email

All fosters returning to shelter ready for adoption and spay/neuter must be at Paws Humane Society by 9am, unless otherwise approved by foster coordinator or management

- There are some signs that you should watch for that would require you to call the foster coordinator to get the animal in for more immediate care. These signs are:
 - Sneezing and/or coughing, gagging (if animal is not yet on medication)
 - Green or yellow mucus from the nose or eyes
 - Wheezing or heavy breathing
 - Tiring easily
 - Vomiting (withhold food until vomiting symptoms leave or seen by vet)
 - Diarrhea (withhold food but not water until diarrhea symptoms leave or seen by vet)
 - Straining to urinate or defecate, or crying when urinating/defecating
 - Bleeding from any part of the body, including bloody stool or urine
 - Twitching or moving abnormally
 - Loss or decrease of appetite
 - Change in attitude or behavior, especially being lethargic or depressed
- There are a limited number of Vet Center appointments available for foster caregivers each day. It is critical that you keep any appointment you make.
- Not all veterinarian exams will take place in exam rooms. Please be respectful if you are in a staff-only area of the facility for your foster exam. You should wait to enter any staff-only areas until you have been invited.
- If you have questions or concerns about the medical care or treatment after your visit, please contact the foster coordinator.
- Unfortunately, some emergency cases occur in the facilities when you are there for your appointment that must be seen immediately. This can cause unexpected days in the appointment schedule on any given day. Please be prepared in case this happens with your foster appointment. We recommend allowing at least 1 to 2 hours just in case. If your appointment is significantly delayed and you must leave the clinic, please let the facility staff know and call the foster coordinator to reschedule or make other arrangements.
- It is best if you have the following information available at your appointment:
 - Is the animal eating regularly?
 - Is the animal drinking regularly?
 - Any diarrhea?
 - Activity level
 - Date of last medications given
 - When were the last signs of illness observed?
- For URI cases, your re-check appointment will be scheduled the day or day after medications are completed. You may be asked to take your foster animal back home for one more week to shed any residual symptoms. In this case, the next appointment you will schedule will simply be for the return of the animal, as long as all symptoms have cleared.



Returning Your Foster Animal

- Your foster animal may be cleared for adoption at any of their follow-up or re-check appointments. When an animal is cleared for adoption they are able to be returned to the shelter the very same day.
- If you are asked to take the animal back into foster (and you agree and are able to do so) you should call the foster coordinator to schedule the date and time of return. You may be asked to continue to foster the animal for any of the following reasons:
 - To shed symptoms of URI or other illnesses
 - The facility is under quarantine
 - The facility is running low on available healthy areas
 - To gain a few more pounds
 - For a bit more socialization
- Once returned, the animal will be scheduled to be spayed or neutered (if they are not yet altered) and then they will be placed up for adoption as soon as possible.
- A day or so before you are scheduled to return your foster animal (or if you suspect they will be cleared for adoption at their upcoming vet visit) you should complete a “Foster Evaluation” about your animal. These questionnaires are kept on file with the animal’s information to help potential adopters decide if that is the right animal for them.

Foster animals must be returned to Paws by 9 a.m. on scheduled day

Adoption

- If you have a friend or family member that has met your foster animal and wants to adopt it, you should contact the foster coordinator to let them know. They will need to fill out preliminary adoption paperwork and bring it to Paws. The potential adopter will meet with an adoption counselor to help them process their adoption.
- In the event that you fall head-over-heels with your foster animal, you most certainly can adopt them! The same process mentioned above will be followed. We do, however, ask that you consider the fact that each and every caregiver is valuable to our fostering efforts. Every animal fostered is another life saved!
- Can I keep my animal in my home until they are adopted? While it is great to give animals time out of the shelter, we must utilize our foster homes for the animals that are in the most need of foster care. Unless there is a need for the animal to be in a foster home, the animal will need to be returned to the shelter.

If an animal is posing a risk to staff or is suffering, Paws reserves the right to make an immediate decision to humanely euthanize



What to do if a Foster Animal Dies While in Your Care

- Many animals are fostered for illnesses, and not all of them recover. While Paws seeks to place animals with reasonable chances of survival into foster care, it is impossible to predict the course of a disease in any particular case. In the instance that your foster animal dies in your care, please contact the foster coordinator immediately for guidance and support.
- You should not bury the body of the deceased animal in your yard. You may wrap the animal in a towel or blanket and/or place the body in a plastic bag to ensure that any bodily fluids do not get onto your personal belongings.

Sanitizing Your Home after Each Animal

The best way to prevent disease and parasite infestations in your home is to thoroughly clean all foster animal areas and bedding after each foster animal stay. It is recommended that foster caregivers take a week or more off before taking on a new foster animal and use this time to thoroughly disinfect the home using the following steps:

- Wash bedding in hot water, detergent, and bleach
- Clean urine/feces-soiled areas with an enzyme cleaner immediately to avoid residual odor. (Natures Miracle and Bissell works well)
- Disinfect all washable surfaces and floors with a mild bleach and water solution. (4oz of bleach per gallon of water)
 - Bleach solutions should be prepared as needed, because they lose their effectiveness after 24 hours. Bleach is also inactive in the presence of organic matter such as dirt, hair, urine, and feces so all areas should be void of these before using bleach to disinfect. Bleach solution must stay in contact with the surface being sanitized for at least 10 minutes to be effective. Remember to rinse and dry all bleached surfaces well before introducing any new foster animals.
- Scrub and bleach all crates, carriers, scoops, food bowls, and litter boxes.
- Discard any toys that cannot be properly sanitized. All others should be soaked in bleach water for 20 minutes.
- Vacuum all carpeted areas

Quarantine Periods

Sometimes an animal is sent into a home before evidence of a serious disease has manifested. Quarantine periods are used to allow infectious diseases to die off in the environment. This protects future foster animals from being infected with the virus or disease. Specific quarantine periods are as follows:

- Feline Leukemia/FIV 3 days
- Sarcoptic Mange 1 week
- FIP or Canine Distemper 3 weeks

- Ringworm 3
- Panleukopenia or Parvovirus 6



months
months

If a foster animal is infected with one of the above illnesses, the foster parent will not be allowed to bring another foster animal of the same species into the home for the designated quarantine period.

Zoonotic Diseases

A zoonotic disease is a disease that can be transmitted to humans from animals. These include:

- Ringworm (fungal skin infection) passed by direct contact with the skin, lesions, or infected skin/hair.
- Leptospirosis (bacterial disease) passed through infected animal urine.
- Bartonella “cat-scratch fever” (a bacterial disease) passed by the cat scratches or bites.
- Toxoplasmosis (parasite) passed by infected feces of cats.
 - **If you are pregnant, you should NEVER scoop a litter box. Toxoplasmosis can cause great harm to unborn fetuses.**
- Rabies (rare, but fatal virus) passed by saliva from infected animal.
- Some intestinal parasites passed by infected feces:
 - Giardia
 - Roundworm
 - Hookworm
 - Coccidia

Paws will make every effort to avoid sending an animal with an untreated disease that can be transmitted to humans into foster care; however, some do not become apparent until the animal is already in foster care. The best form of prevention is washing your hands with soap and water for 2 minutes after handling animals, feces, urine, and to avoid being bitten or scratched.

Foster caregivers must understand that there is a risk of contracting such a disease from a foster animal and that Paws will not be responsible for the treatment of humans in the home if this happens. Foster caregivers are advised to seek medical attention from a professional if they suspect that they have been exposed to a zoonotic disease and alert the foster coordinator immediately.

If a person in the foster home is immune-compromised, fostering animals may not be advised. Check with a medical professional.

Thank you for all of your hard work and loving care for our animals.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Foster Coordinator at Paws Humane Society.



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