

- Observe and report any problems to the HSOTC staff in a timely manner.
- Return animals to the HSOTC at the scheduled time(s).
- Comply with HSOTC policies and procedures for foster care.
- Return foster animals to the HSOTC should the foster parent be unable to care for them. Never turn the care of your foster animal over to a third party.

What are the general HSOTC policies regarding foster parenting?

- Please make an appointment for picking up and returning animals and call immediately if you will not be able to make the appointment for any reason.
- Call the HSOTC if a foster animal is sick or injured and follow the shelter's instructions for care, treatment, and/or transportation of the animal.
- Cats and kittens are to be kept indoors only. No outdoor time is allowed even if supervised.
- Immediately inform the HSOTC of any changes in your address or phone number.
- If you are leaving town or unable to care for your foster animal, the animal needs to be returned to the HSOTC. Please call as soon as you know of such a situation so we can arrange for their continuing care. It is acceptable



for a spouse to care for the animal but DO NOT relinquish care to a friend, neighbor, relative, pet sitter, etc.

- Arrangements for routine and emergency health care need to be made through the HSOTC by calling 209-984-5489. If you take a foster animal to a veterinarian without prior authorization from the HSOTC, you may not be reimbursed for the expenses.
- Cats, kittens, and puppies must be confined in a carrier while in vehicles. Cats and kittens must also be confined in a carrier while being carried to and from the vehicle; please do not carry them in your arms out-of-doors or let them ride loose in your car. Adult dogs must wear a collar and leash while in vehicles.
- Notify the HSOTC immediately if a foster animal gets lost. To report problems or ask questions, call the shelter at 209-984-5489.

Now is the time to step forward and make a difference in the life of an animal that has fallen victim to the economy, indifference, intolerance or neglect. For more information on how you can help, please contact us at 209-984-5489. We ask you to share this with your network of friends, family and co-workers so they, too, will be aware of the HSOTC animals currently waiting for someone to change their world.

With your help WE CAN save one tail at a time!



THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF TUOLUMNE COUNTY (HSOTC)

Foster Care Program

**BE A SHELTER IN THE STORM
FOR OUR ANIMALS...**

BECOME A FOSTER PARENT TODAY!

As our shelter fills up, you can make a difference in helping save an animal's life by being a foster parent. Please, help us to shelter some of these wonderful animals while they await their forever homes!





What is Fostering?

Pet foster parents are very much like child foster parents. They care for a homeless shelter pet as if they were your own until they are adopted. Shelter environments can be extremely stressful - especially for dogs - and much more comfortable for them to stay in a home environment. They are able to get more individualized care in someone's home, develop better socialization skills and ultimately become a more well-adjusted pet. Also as foster parents, you learn about the pet's personality - likes and dislikes - so they can be better matched to the right forever home. Most importantly, **pet foster parents save lives!**

If you join our HSOTC foster program, we will match you with a suitable pet to foster. For example, if you have a female dog who does not get along with other females, we will only have you foster male dogs. If you work full time and cannot care for young puppies, we will only have you foster adults. This way, you will experience the joy of helping a homeless animal find a loving forever family of their own.

What is a Foster Parent?

A foster parent provides a temporary home for our HSOTC kittens, puppies, dogs and cats in need. The length of fostering can vary from a few days to several months depending on the amount of care or behavioral modification that is needed. The devotion and care given during this time allows the animal a second chance to be adopted by a loving forever family. The rewards of being a foster parent are many. They include offering an animal a second chance and the added benefit of receiving the love and attention right back from the animal you nurture.

Why are Foster Parents Needed?

- The number of animals received at our shelter is sometimes overwhelming and many times we find it difficult to house all the animals that come our way. Foster homes provide shelters for these animals until they are adopted.
- Kittens and puppies need a quiet home where they can be nurtured and thrive away from the stressful environment of a shelter.
- Foster parents provide sick and injured animals with the additional time, medication, and space they need to recover. This may include time to recover from emotional, fear, or stress-based situations that the animal may have encountered in the past.



a foster family is fostering to see how a new pet will fit into the family, they must remember that this little kitten or puppy will be leaving the home eventually.



- **If you have a family pet, it is recommended that you separate the living quarters of your pet and your new foster animal.** This separation allows you time to observe your foster animal for any possible health or behavior issues. Additionally, it allows your new foster animal to adjust to you and your family before meeting your pet. Time should be set aside to socialize and care for your new foster animal.
- **Initial supplies should include the appropriate type of food, toys, housing space, newspapers, litter box and litter if needed, and food and water bowls.** Make sure to find out from the HSOTC if there are any special supply needs or instructions that your foster animal has.

Make sure you have our telephone number handy (209-984-5489) and call us should you need any advice.

What are a foster parent's responsibilities?

- Feed, socialize, medicate, groom, and train fostered animals according to the guidelines of the foster program.
- Insure the safety of all foster animals under the foster parent's care.
- Isolate foster pets from household pets as necessary for the health and safety of the animals.
- Ensure that the foster parent's own pets are currently vaccinated according to the guidelines of their veterinarian