

Foster Home Job Description

Our foster homes are the backbone of our entire program. Foster homes provide a safe, secure environment for our animals, and allow the animals to live a normal life in a home environment. Each animal is evaluated while in foster care for personality traits, behavioral and health issues, and any special needs. The foster home's evaluation is critical to determine how each animal interacts with people and other animals. Knowing each animal well allows us to choose the best home for each pet, and provides potential adopters with the opportunity to choose the best pet for their home.

As an ARCF foster home, you are responsible for the temporary care and feeding of any foster animals in your home. You can choose how many animals you foster at one time, but please be advised that you are responsible for providing food (in most cases), litter, and transportation to/from the vet for appointments.

Typically, each animal stays in a foster home between several weeks and several months. However, ARCF cannot guarantee that any animal will be adopted within a specific time period. Some animals stay longer than a few months, and we advise that you take this into consideration when deciding if you would like to participate in our foster program.

Foster home responsibilities:

- Provide food for foster animals (unless a specialized diet is required for medical reasons)
- Provide litter for foster cats
- Keep track of veterinary appointments and ensure that animals are altered (if not altered previously), microchipped, and vaccinated as needed (cats are also tested for FeLV and FIV)
- Provide transportation to and from veterinary appointments
- Evaluate animal's personality and provide recommendations for ideal permanent home environment
- Provide information regarding personality, needs, etc. (information is used for advertising and to screen for the best adoption opportunity)
- Communicate regularly with the cat coordinator regarding any changes to animal health, behavioral issues, etc.
- Present a professional appearance as an ARCF representative and provide a clean/quiet space in which potential adopters can meet a foster animal

Foster home requirements:

- Live within the greater Portland metro area
- Indoor-only environment for cats
- Willingness and ability to host animals for weeks or months, possibly longer
- Some availability on weekends and/or evenings so potential adopters can meet the cat (cat coordinator will work with you to agree on a convenient time for foster families and adopters)
- Allow potential adopters to visit your house when meeting foster cats (all adopters are pre-screened and interviewed by our cat coordinator first)

ARCF responsibilities:

- Pay for all vet care and medications
- Screen and interview all potential adopters before inviting them to a foster home
- Provide all advertising
- Provide assistance with writing foster animal biographies and taking pictures/videos if needed