

St. Francis Society Animal Rescue

Foster Home Guidelines for Cats

Current as of 8/5/2003

Thank you for your interest in our foster home program. Here are a few guidelines for fostering. We ask that you treat your new foster cat with the same love and care you would give your own cat(s).

1. Cats are to be kept indoors at all times. If they are not fully immunized, they are to be kept strictly separated from your own pets. This is for both sets of cats' protection. Your cats are as precious as ours! The foster cat is to have water, food and shade provided at all times. None are to be kept in a non air-conditioned, poorly ventilated enclosure.
2. Litter boxes are to be kept in a sanitary condition. This encourages use of the box by the cat and reduces the risk of disease. Cats are usually fastidious, but if a problem occurs in this area, call the Cat Care Coordinator for advice.
3. Watch an uncaged cat for signs of carpet, furniture or drapery clawing. If this occurs, keep the cat isolated in a room where such damage is eliminated. Part of a foster family's responsibilities is to use behavior modification for this problem. Water spraying, verbal praise and discipline are approved. Striking the animal is NOT approved. These cats come from abused situations, and this is too traumatic for them to take. If this problem cannot be solved, the cat is to be immediately isolated and the foster family is to call the Cat Care Coordinator for discussion on returning the cat.
4. St Francis is not responsible for any damage that may occur as a result of the fostered cat if item no. 3 (above) is not followed.
5. Cats kept in crates or cages are to be let out and allowed to exercise at least twice a day for at least 30 minutes each time if at all possible.

6. The cats are the property of St. Francis Society and are to be surrendered to St. Francis Society at any time at the request of the Cat Care Coordinator.

7. St. Francis makes every attempt possible to furnish cat fosters with food and litter; however, it is the foster families responsibility to pick up food and litter at Petsmart on Sunday (only take packages that are inventoried as damaged by the store – do not take the IAMS brand). If there is nothing available at that time, the foster family is to provide food for the cat/kitten. There may be times when you will be asked to provide food and litter on your own due to lack of St. Francis Society funds. As a non-profit that relies SOLELY on individual donations we don't always have the proper funds to accommodate reimbursement. Please keep receipts in the event St. Francis can reimburse or you may use them as an itemized charitable donation for your taxes. St. Francis will be happy to provide a charitable donation document in the event we can't reimburse.

8. The cat may only be adopted out to a family that is pre-approved by a St. Francis Board member. No foster person is to place a cat himself or herself without going through the proper application procedure and interviewing to ensure the cat has a good home. All donation funds from adoptions should be put in the Petsmart safe at the Luvapet Center. Contact Cat Care Coordinator for adoption approval.

9. The foster home is to return the cat to St. Francis Society if any problems occur.

10. A foster family may only take in a maximum of 4 adult cats. Kittens still unweaned from the mother are not counted. Fully weaned kittens, at least 3 months old, are counted separately. There may be exceptions to this rule. See Cat Care Coordinator.

11. If a foster animal becomes ill and infects your pet(s), you are responsible for the veterinary care of your own pet. St. Francis will take responsibility for the veterinary care of the foster animal (situation dependent). Keep the foster cat separated from your own pets.

12. The foster family is responsible for bringing the cat to the veterinary appointments. St. Francis will pay for the veterinary bill for all pre-approved procedures. You must contact the Cat Care Coordinator if veterinary services are needed and they will in turn send approval to the veterinarian. The foster family will be responsible for scheduling their own appointment.

13. St. Francis Society Cat Care Coordinator will give FVRCP inoculations and deworming.

14. Space for cats at Petsmart is limited. Scheduling of cats to go to Petsmart will be done through the Cat Care Coordinator.

15. Emergency Care: Not all traumas require emergency care. However, in the event your foster animal needs Emergency care for a LIFE-THREATENING situation, contact Tampa Bay Vet Emergency Services at 265-4043 immediately. Prior to taking the animal to the vet please make every attempt to contact the Cat Care Coordinator first. Also, talk to the veterinarian at Tampa Bay Vet ER Services prior to driving to the vet, as they may be able to counsel you over the phone. If necessary to take the animal in let them know the animal is fostered through St. Francis Society.