

ADOPT-A-PET, INC

13575 N. Fenton Rd.
Fenton, MI 48430
(810) 629-0723

Welcome to Adopt-A-Pet's Foster Home Program. You are one of the most important parts of our organization. Without foster homes, none of the cats and dogs in our adoption program would be alive today. It is a big responsibility but we think you will find we have made it as stress free as possible. Fostering animals is very emotional but well worth it. Every animal you foster is a life you save.

When you foster, an animal will enter your home quite often after having hit the absolute lowest point in their lives. Often, they were just minutes away from being put to death, having had spent days/weeks/months in a shelter or pound or having lived in a home that no longer loved them or cared for them properly.

When they arrive, they are scared and confused. Many often have intestinal parasites, which are easily treated, have usually had poor nutrition, sometimes have illnesses or other conditions, and almost always smell bad. Very often, these are dogs that have not had any time invested in them, so being the center of attention, having rules to live by and living in the house are new experiences.

*Through it all, though, there are few experiences more delightful and rewarding than to see one of these animals light up as they realize that they get good food, in a bowl, every single day. The joy they express when they get to sleep **INSIDE**, or curl next to you in the family room, or follow you from room to room shows in their eyes and the big, goofy grins on their faces. You will be amazed as you watch the transformation as your foster begins to feel healthier, secure and safe. They are anxious to please and work hard to learn the rules of living in the house. And they love you.*

You should give your animal plenty of human contact. Because many of our pets come from abusive or unknown backgrounds, we do not know their behavior in all situations or what environment would be best for the animal. The more you can tell us, the better he/she has to find a good, permanent home.

Keep in mind that though the animal is in your care, he/she is still the property of Adopt-A-Pet; however, foster homes do have the option of adopting any animal they foster through proper channels and paying the fee. If you think you would like to adopt, please let us know asap. If a meeting is set up before you tell us your decision, we must honor the meeting.

Please do not change the name of your pet and keep the Foster Home Coordinator advised of the status of the animals in your care and your personal information. The attached guidelines should be read carefully. You can direct questions to the Center Tuesday –Saturday from 10a-3p or contact the Dog or Cat Coordinator directly.

Thanks for opening your home and heart to a homeless animal – you are saving a life!

Animal Foster Home Guidelines

Adopt-A-Pet, Inc.

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Requirements to be a Foster Home

- A Foster Application and Agreement must be filled out and signed.
- Other pets in the household must be spayed/neutered with vaccines, heartworm and flea treatment up-to-date.
- Foster Homes must have fenced-in yard or means to confine animals.
- All dogs must be leashed outside or confined at ALL times.
- Cats must be kept indoors.
- Animals should be shown for adoption at least twice a month.
- Transport pets for medical care and grooming, as needed, and keep complete medical records. All medical must be approved by Jody, the Program Director.
- All veterinary care must go through Adopt-A-Pet's veterinarian unless otherwise approved by the Program Director.
- Make sure animals wear identification at all times and kennel licenses (ID tags can be obtained at AAP). Please do not change the name of your pet.

Expenses

- Written authorization from an authorized officer is needed for vet visits and should be obtained in advance. Life-threatening treatment is the only exception.
- Donated food and litter can be picked up at the Center through the Office Manager.
- AAP provides bowls, carriers, crates, litter boxes and scoops, collars and leashes (not from our gift shop).
- AAP has heartworm preventative, wormer, antibiotics, flea control, eye drops, etc.
- Treats and toys are usually available at AAP.
- Grooming, if needed, may be donated by a local groomer. Foster should keep animal bathed and brushed.
- AAP does not pay for damage to Foster's house, property, persons or other pets done by fostered animal.

Foster Home Animal Limits

- The number of animals fostered in each home is affected by the number of personal animals living there. The total number of animals in any residence is regulated by city, county, or township laws. Considering that, one AAP dog, two cats, or one litter is considered acceptable.
- Check with your city/township/county to check on the amount of animals allowed.

Record Keeping

- All original medical information must be kept in the office at AAP. Please make a copy for your own records.
- Record special needs or behaviors that the new owner might want to know. Since the animal is in foster care, we rely heavily on the observations made by the foster family, so please record information on the animals crate tag.
- Our pets find permanent homes thanks to your human contact, your patience and your love. Your observations will give important information to help us select the right home for your animal. We're glad you have decided to accept this responsibility.

Medical Care

All routine medical is performed at AAP - Vaccinations, heartworm test, FIV/FELV tests, flea preventative, fecal exams, worming, ear mites, etc. Medical care other than routine (ie, heartworm treatment) is also performed at AAP on an as needed basis. X-rays, ultra sounds must be done offsite.

Spay/neuter must be done prior to adoption. No exceptions. Foster home is expected to transport if done while in their care.

Animals with kennel cough, upper respiratory infections, ringworm, should be isolated from other animals, treated and not shown for adoption. Exposed environments should be treated with disinfectants. Fatal conditions will be treated on individual basis.

Medical Emergencies

You can call Jody at 248-736-8599 or another Board Member for permission to treat a medical emergency. If life threatening, go to Animal Emergency Clinic in Flint.

Resignations, Termination, Inactivity and Vacations

AAP Reserves the right to deny or dismiss a Foster Home as agreed by the Board of Directors. Not adhering to guidelines, abusing or neglecting an animal, or having serious conflict of interest are some of the reasons for dismissal.

During vacations, please make your own arrangements for care of your animals. If unable to continue fostering them in your home, please give a two-week notice so the animals can be relocated. We do not allow foster animals to go out of town with you.

What to Expect

- The length of fostering time varies with each case. Animals can be in your home from a week to a month or more depending on the animal's circumstance as well as your desire and ability to continue fostering. The length of stay can be approximated prior to a fostering commitment to allow for personal plans.
- Many animals go through an adjustment period and behaviors you see in the first few weeks are not always indicative to their actual behavior. Please be patient and understand their world was just turned upside down.
- All animals need boundaries but understand that some have never had any. We are proponents of positive reinforcement. Please read Karen Pryor for tips.
- Most new foster animals are not fully house trained and if they are they still may have accidents. Treat dogs like a puppy and have frequent trips outside with positive praise to help them understand what you expect of them.
- Some animals might be very scared and might nip at first. Please don't give them the opportunity – don't invade their personal space if they are not ready, don't grab them if they are growling, etc.
- Please confine your new foster animal. They may be destructive and AAP is not responsible for any damage a foster animal does while in your care.

Contact Information

Jody Maddock, Program Director/Dog Coordinator – (248) 736-8599 or jodydogger@gmail.com

Dave Zarko, Cat Coordinator – dsz63@aol.com

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Please keep this section for your records.

TEN COMMANDMENTS OF RUNNING A RESCUE

1. Always put the animals' needs first.
2. Expect to work hard and have your heart broken.
3. Don't assign your level of commitment to others.
4. Realize you can't save them all – but work as if you can.
5. Choose your battles. Become deaf and dumb to critics and nay-sayers.
6. Never lose sight of your goal.
7. Don't become a zealot. Make a conscious effort to remain on an even keel.
8. Pass it on. Give back to others the help you've received.
9. Know your limits. Learn to say "No".
10. Be of good cheer – but if you should become bitter – quit!

Author Unknown



Adopt-A-Pet, Inc.
Foster Application

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Fax No.: (____) _____ Email: _____

Please answer the following questions:

1. How much time do you work outside your home per week on average? _____
2. Do You presently live in a house, apartment, condo or other? _____
3. Do you own or rent your own living space? _____
4. If renting, are animals permitted? _____ NOTE: A copy of your present lease or written consent if your landlord must be provided for verification.
5. How many individuals presently live with you? _____ IF there are children under 18, please list their ages: _____
6. Are there individuals currently living with you are allergic to cats or dogs? _____
7. Is an adult home during the day? _____ If not, what is the average length of time the foster animal will be alone? _____
8. Are other members of your household willing to assist in the care of foster animals?

9. Do you have a reliable means of transportation? _____
10. Are you willing to transport foster animals when necessary? This includes veterinarian visits, special events and adoption days at least twice a month? _____
11. Are you willing to attend training seminars? _____
12. Do you have a means of confining of animals? _____ If yes, please describe: _____
13. Have you ever cared for a sick or injured animal? _____ If yes, please describe: _____
14. Please list the name, species, breed and age of any household pets. If more room is needed, please use the back of this sheet.

15. Are your household pets current on vaccines and spayed/neutered? _____
Please enclose veterinarian's records or name and number.

All Adopt-A-Pet, Inc.'s foster cats are to remain and be housed indoors

If you are interested in fostering dogs and/or puppies, please continue with questions 16-18

16. Do you have a fenced in yard? _____ If no, what means do you have to confine a dog while it is outside? _____

17. Are there shaded areas in your yard? _____

18. Have you ever house trained a puppy? _____

I would like to foster:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Cats | <input type="checkbox"/> Kittens | <input type="checkbox"/> Both |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Dogs | <input type="checkbox"/> Puppies | <input type="checkbox"/> Both |

How many animals are you able to foster at any one time? _____

Are you available for emergency over-night fostering? yes no

Are you available to foster pregnant or nursing females? yes no

Are you available to foster puppies or kittens needing to be hand-fed? yes no

Are you available to foster animals with special needs? yes no

Please list any limitations, such as breeds, ages, special needs or other that you are not willing to foster: _____

I acknowledge that I have answered the above questions honestly. I understand that a representative of Adopt-A-Pet, Inc. may contact me by telephone and/or complete a home visitation to verify this information. I understand that based on this information, Adopt-A-Pet, Inc. will determine the number and type of animals I may house as a foster home. Furthermore, I agree to the policies and procedures that Adopt-A-Pet, Inc. implements for Foster Homes and will follow them to the best of my ability. I understand that the animals I foster are under my care and I am responsible for proper food, shelter and water. I agree to give Adopt-A-Pet, Inc. at least a 14 day notice to make arrangements for the animals in my care. I agree that in no way am I to dispose, drop-off or "get rid" of any of the foster animals in my care except to screened and approved adopters.

THE INDEMINTY RELEASE

I fully understand that as a Volunteer or Foster Home provider for Adopt-A-Pet, Inc there are certain risks and exposure to personal injury and/or damages to my real or personal property that may occur. It is my desire and intent in signing this application to indemnify and hold harmless Adopt-A-Pet from any claim, cause of action or demand for any loses that may occur to me as a result of such activities in my capacity as a Volunteer or Foster Home Provider.

Signature

Date

Adopt-A-Pet, Inc. Authorized Signature