



Chicago Animal Care and Control protects public safety and ensures the humane care of animals through sheltering, pet placement, education and animal law enforcement.

FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

2741 South Western Ave.

Chicago, IL 60608

CACCFoster@cityofchicago.org

DOGS

What is isolation foster care, and why is it important?

The dog you are fostering may have been fully vetted (if medically appropriate), meaning, it has received the following medical services while at CACC:

- spay or neuter
- Rabies vaccine*
- Vaccine for Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus (DHPP)
- Bordetella vaccine
- Heartworm test
- Microchip

**Puppies who are under four months of age will not receive rabies vaccine.*

The isolation program will assist other rescues who may have placement for a dog with a permanent foster home but need somewhere for the animal to be isolated first. The isolation foster program also provides an opportunity for your foster dog to be able to be transported across state lines to a shelter or rescue organization that can immediately place the dog for adoption. Additionally, the isolation / short term foster program also allows for a dog to decompress in a home outside of shelter life, and an ability to be marketed for adoption.

Aside from necessary transport and walks, your foster dog should remain isolated for two weeks in order to decompress from shelter life. From a health standpoint, if your foster dog has been exposed to an illness, keeping the animal away from other pets will help to prevent other animals from being exposed. From a behavioral standpoint, your foster dog has just left the stressful kennel life. His / her walks outside have been limited, and your foster dog has been living in a noisy, kennel environment with other dogs barking. Taking your foster dog to a dog park, pet store, or other places where there will be a lot of people or animals is over-stimulating to your foster dog and should not be done. An easy rule of thumb is no new introductions to animals during this time period. Your foster dog and you should be working together and getting to know each other without outside distractions. Keeping your foster dog on a strict routine will help with potty training issues and other behavioral issues. Routine helps build trust. Your foster dog will know what to expect from you.

Crate training is also highly advisable. Your foster dog should never be crated as a means for punishment or correction. Your foster dog's crate is a safe place for him / her to go to rest or decompress. We advise crate training while you are out of the home or unable to carefully keep an eye on your foster dog. However, your foster dog should never be crated for more than four (4) hours at a time.

- See the attached handouts for decompression information and crate training

What do you need to care for your foster dog?

CACC will provide you with food, collar, leash, tags and microchip implant. All veterinary care will also be provided by CACC medical staff. Here are some of the items you may want to consider purchasing in order to care for your foster dog:

- Poop bags
- Training pads
- Durable toys and bones (i.e. Kongs for crate training)
- A crate
- Grooming supplies, such as brushes and shampoo (do not trim nails)
- Treats
- Pet clean up products (for carpets and floors)
- Paper towels

The most important thing to provide your foster dog is patience, routine, a warm, safe home and of course...love! And, remember, this is a short-term commitment. Understand that potty training may require some routine adjustments and patience. Many of CACC's dogs were once potty trained, but kennel life may have thrown off their schedule and training a bit. The best thing to do is to have consistent potty breaks throughout the day and have plenty of high reward treats on hand when your foster dog does his / her business outside. Some high reward treats are hot dogs, chicken and cheese. Also, praise works well like, "good potty!" "Good boy / girl!" If an accident happens in the house, don't overreact. If you catch your foster pet messing in the house, you can say "uh oh!" or "No-no" in a concerned voice, and immediately walk your foster pet outside and say "Go potty" or "Good potty." Eventually, your foster pet will catch on. Here is a good potty schedule to follow for your dog that many find helpful:

- Walk first thing in the morning when you wake up (6-8am)
- Walk around noon or lunchtime
- Walk again around late afternoon, early evening (5-7pm)
- Walk again right before bedtime (9pm to 11pm)

Feeding schedules and amounts vary depending upon the size, age and health of your foster dog. Generally, large to medium sized dogs eat twice a day (once in the morning and once in the evening), and consume approximately 1 ½ cups of food per feeding. Stick to the same diet and routine to prevent your foster dog from having tummy troubles. See attached handout for recommended feeding times and amount for your foster dog.

Your foster dog should have access to fresh water at all times. Be sure to wash out food and water bowls daily in order to keep them sanitary. If your foster dog is prone to chewing, you

should consider a stainless steel or porcelain-type food / water bowl. Elevated feeding bowls are also nice and assist in digestion, but are not required.

As for exercise and care, your foster dog must be kept in a climate-controlled home with temperatures not going below 60 degrees and not above 80 degrees (depending upon the time of year). Your foster dog should never be left unsupervised outdoors, even inside of a fenced yard. If you have a fenced yard, ensure that it is secure (no holes or gaps that a dog can fit under or between). Note that some dogs are capable of jumping over fences, so please make sure you monitor your foster dog closely. When walking outdoors, your foster dog must be kept securely on a leash at all times. For dogs who pull, a harness may be better suited for walks than a collar. Do not allow your foster dog to socialize with other animals per the Foster Agreement.

If for any reason your foster dog gets loose, do not chase it. Attempt to call the dog calmly to you and offer treats. If you cannot get your foster dog to return to you to secure it, immediately contact CACC's dispatch at 312-747-1412 during the hours of 8am to 10pm. Outside of those hours, email CACCFoster@cityofchicago.org and inform the coordinator of the exact date, time and location the dog became loose. Also, go to https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/cacc/provdrs/care/svcs/lost_pet_recovery.html and follow the recommended course of action for locating the lost dog.

CATS

What is isolation foster care, and why is it important?

The cat you are fostering may have been fully vetted (as medically appropriate), meaning, it has received the following medical services while at CACC:

- spay or neuter
- Rabies vaccine
- Vaccine for FVRCP (Feline viral rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, panleukopenia)
- Microchip

**kittens who are under four months of age will not receive rabies protection.*

The isolation program will assist other rescues who may have placement for a cat with a permanent foster home, but need somewhere for the animal to be isolated first. The isolation foster program also provides an opportunity for your foster cat to be able to be transported across state lines to a shelter or rescue organization that can immediately place the cat for adoption. Additionally, the isolation / short term foster program also allows for a cat to decompress in a home outside of shelter life, and an ability to be marketed for adoption.

What do you need to care for your foster cat?

CACC will provide you with food, collar, leash, tags and microchip implant. All veterinary care will also be provided by CACC medical staff. Here are some of the items you may want to consider purchasing in order to care for your foster cat:

- Litter box and litter
- A scratch post
- A carrier
- Grooming supplies such as brushes and shampoo (do not trim nails)
- Treats
- Cat toys
- Pet clean up products (for carpets and floors)
- Paper towels

Your foster cat should always remain indoors and be secured inside of your home. Do not allow your foster cat to access areas of your home where it may become lost (like inside of a loose ceiling tile, or in a garage). When transporting your foster cat, make sure you have the cat inside of a secure pet carrier.

Litter Box:

Litter boxes should be placed in a quiet, accessible location. In a multi-level home, one box per floor is recommended. Avoid moving the box unless absolutely necessary, but if you must do so, move the box just a few inches per day. Keep in mind that cats won't use a messy, smelly litter box, so scoop solid wastes out of the box at least once a day. Dump everything, wash with a mild detergent and refill at least once a week; you can do this less frequently if using clumping litter. Don't use ammonia, deodorants or scents, especially lemon, when cleaning the litter box. If your cat will not use a litterbox, please consult with CACC's veterinarians. Sometimes refusal to use a litter box is based on a medical condition that required treatment.

What to Do If Your Cat Eliminates Outside the Litter Box:

- Virtually all cats like clean litter boxes, so scoop and change your cat's litter at least once a day. Rinse the litter box out completely with baking soda or unscented soap once a week.
- The majority of cats prefer large boxes that they can enter easily. Plastic sweater storage containers make excellent litter boxes.
- Most cats like a shallow bed of litter. Provide one to two inches of litter rather than three to four inches.
- Most cats prefer clumping, unscented litter.

- Your cat may prefer the type of litter she used as a kitten.
- Most cats don't like box liners or lids on their boxes.
- Cats like their litter boxes located in a quiet but not "cornered" location. They like to be able to see people or other animals approaching, and they like to have multiple escape routes in case they want to leave their boxes quickly.
- Because self-cleaning boxes are generally cleaner than traditional types of litter boxes, many cats accept them readily. However, if you're using a self-cleaning litter box and your cat starts eliminating outside the box, try switching to a traditional type of litter box.

For feeding of your foster cat, please see the attached handout. You should always provide clean, fresh water at all times for your foster cat. Wash the cat dishes or cat bowls, preferably every day with soap and water. Dry cat food tends to be oily, so bacteria can collect and smell. If you feed your cat wet food, wash the bowls after each use. Locate the bowls in private areas of the house, so passersby don't stress cats out while they eat. Do not place food and water bowls by the foster cat's litter box. Cats prefer dishes and bowls that are fairly shallow and wide. When cats stick their faces too far into bowls to eat, they may experience discomfort. Plastic bowls are not recommended.

When socializing your foster cat, always use a calm, quiet voice and slow, deliberate movements. Get down on your foster cat's level and stay low to the ground at first, and begin by petting their head and shoulders, avoiding the underbelly. When you're ready to lift your foster cat, do it smoothly from under the chest. Remember, treats make a great reward, and positive reinforcement can go a long way. Any time your foster cat becomes overly agitated, take a break. It's important that you can be flexible. Early on, a few 15-minute sessions a day is enough to start breaking the ice with your foster cat. When introducing toys, try rod-style toys that allow for some distance between your kitty and you. Try working on socialization in a small, enclosed space such as a bathroom or a walk-in closet.

If for any reason your foster cat gets loose, do not chase it. Attempt to call the cat calmly to you and offer treats. If you cannot get your foster cat to return to you to secure it, immediately contact CACC's dispatch at 312-747-1412 during the hours of 8am to 10pm. Outside of those hours, email CACCFoster@cityofchicago.org and inform the coordinator of the exact date, time and location the cat became loose. Also, go to https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/cacc/provdrs/care/svcs/lost_pet_recovery.html and follow the recommended course of action for locating the lost animals. Also, leave some cat food outside on your porch and your foster cat's litter box to encourage it to return to your home.

FOR INFORMATION ON NEONATES AND KITTENS—SEE SEPARATE HANDBOOK.

Home Inspections

Once you have filled out a foster application, and pre-screening is completed, CACC will contact you about scheduling your home inspection. Home inspections will be completed

during operational hours. An Animal Control Inspector in uniform will arrive at your residence to inspect your home for the following, including, but not limited to:

- Other animals present
- Adequate accommodations for foster pet during the day and night
- Proper enclosure for yard if applicable
- Number of people in household, including observation of children and ages to determine appropriateness of foster pet placed in your home

When you are in possession of your foster animal, CACC may at any time request an inspection of the animal either at your home, or request that you bring the animal to CACC. CACC reserves the right to perform home checks in order to ensure that foster animals are being adequately and appropriately cared for.

Medical Care of Foster Pet

Your foster pet has been vetted by CACC's medical staff. Foster care providers are only allowed to treat foster animals with medications and supplements prescribed by CACC's medical staff, unless alternative care arrangements have been approved in writing by CACC's Staff Assistant.

If you notice that your foster pet seems ill (is lethargic, has bloody stool or excessive diarrhea, appears to be showing signs of a respiratory illness, labored breathing, is not eating or drinking, is not eliminating, etc.) please immediately contact CACCFoster@cityofchicago.org and make arrangements to bring the foster pet to CACC for a medical evaluation. Please note that medical hours are 11am to 7pm everyday. Outside of these hours, CACC does not have medical staff available. Should you take the foster animal to another medical provider, CACC will not be responsible for the costs associated with the care. See Foster Agreement terms.

CACC's staff assistant monitoring emails is available M-F from 9am to 5pm. Outside of those hours, CACC is open from 8am to 10pm everyday. If it is an emergency situation, you should bring the foster animal in to CACC from 8am to 10pm. Outside of 8am to 10pm, CACC is closed to the public.

If your foster pet bites another and breaks skin, you must immediately inform CACC by emailing CACCFoster@cityofchicago.org, and make arrangements to return the foster pet to CACC.

Flea / Tick and Heartworm Prevention:

All foster animals over eight weeks of age should be given flea/tick and/or heartworm prevention monthly. If you are fostering an adult animal whose weight has not changed, you can simply stop by CACC's front desk during regular business hours with the animal's ID# and request the medication as the due date approaches.

General Information:

What are CACC's Hours of Operation:

- CACC is open seven (7) days per week, and hours of operation are from 8am to 10pm.
- CACC is located at 2741 S. Western Ave., Chicago, IL 60608
- Primary Contact: Tasha Trask-Bobbitt, Staff Assistant: 312-747-1407 (hours: 9am—5pm, Monday through Friday)
- Foster Questions / Concerns: Email: CACCFoster@cityofchicago.org
- Secondary Contact: Animal Placement Coordinators: 312-744-1392
- If you do not reach a primary contact or secondary contact as indicated above, and you have an urgent matter, you may call dispatch: 312-747-1412 (available from 8am to 10pm)

What do I do if my foster pet is showing signs of illness or physical distress?:

- Between the hours of 8am and 10pm, please immediately bring the foster pet back to CACC at 2741 S. Western Ave., Chicago, IL 60608, and let the front desk staff know that your foster pet needs medical attention.
- Neither CACC nor the City of Chicago will reimburse you should you decide to seek medical attention at an alternate veterinary provider.
- CACC does not provide 24 hour service to the public or its animals, and animals cannot be taken to CACC after the hours noted above.

What do I do I am having behavioral issues with my foster pet?

- Contact CACCFoster@cityofchicago.org. Describe the specific issue you are having with your foster pet. Please be sure to leave your contact information (full name, address, telephone number and email address) so that CACC staff can contact you.

What happens if I want to adopt my foster pet?

- Congratulations! Email CACCFoster@cityofchicago.org and let us know. Then, schedule a time to come in to CACC to process the adoption. Foster Caregivers will get the first option to adopt his / her foster pet. Remember, there is no requirement to do so.

What if someone else wants to adopt my foster pet?

- You can have someone fill out an adoption application online at https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/cacc/PDFFiles/Adoption_Application.pdf and email it to CACCFoster@cityofchicago.org. The potential adopter must complete the application at CACC. Arrangements must be made to pick up or deliver the foster pet to the adopter. Work with CACCFoster@cityofchicago.org to arrange this.

How do I market my foster pet for adoption?

When fostering an animal for CACC, **you** can be the animal's number one advocate! By acting as an adoption ambassador, you won't just be a foster care provider. You will be a photographer, videographer, biographer, a marketing specialist, and an adoption counselor!

- Take at least one clear, landscape-oriented (horizontal), photo and one clear, short video of the foster animal and email it to the foster coordinator and to the CACC Adoptable Pets Team caccadoptables@gmail.com to be added to the shelter's website and Facebook pages
- Promote the foster animal on your own social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Nextdoor
- Create and post an ad for the foster animal on community pages
- Create and put up flyers for the foster animal in appropriate locations

For additional tips on marketing foster animals, please visit the links under "Marketing Foster Animals for Adoption" in the required reading sections in this manual.

Please be aware that animals in our foster program are not on a first come, first served basis. As the foster caregiver, you may take several applications and/or meet with different potential adopters before deciding which would be the best fit for the animal(s) in your care. However, foster care providers should check their email inbox, and spam folder daily for inquiries from potential adopters about the animal(s) in their care, and respond to all inquiries within 48 hours.

For tips on effective adoption counseling, please visit the links under "Effective Adoption Counseling Tips" in the required reading sections in this manual.

What happens in the unlikely event that my foster pet passes away at my home?

In some cases, sick or weak pets may die in foster care. If your foster animal passes away, please contact CACC during regular business hours and email CACCFoster@cityofchicago.org You will be asked to provide detailed information as to what happened at the time of the death so that we can determine if other foster animals in your care may be at risk. You will be asked to bring the body back to CACC.

Required Reading and Helpful Resources

Required Reading and/or Viewing for Puppy/Dog Fosters

Safety and Behavior:

Review the “Public Outings and Walks - Safety Tips for You and Your Foster Dog” section on page 12 <https://www.aspcare.org/pet-care/dog-care/common-dog-behavior-issues/aggression>

<https://www.aspcare.org/pet-care/dog-care/dog-bite-prevention>

<http://drsophiayin.com/blog/entry/kids-and-dogs-how-kids-should-and-should-not-interact-with-dogs>

<https://positively.com/articles/dog-child-safetyguide/>

Training:

http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/tips/dog_training_positive_reinforcement.html

http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/tips/training_nothing_in_life_is_free.html

House and Crate Training for Puppies and Dogs:

http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/tips/housetraining_puppies.html

http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/tips/crate_training.html

Enrichment and Exercise:

[https://positively.com/dog-](https://positively.com/dog-wellness/dog-enrichment/)

[g-wellness/dog-](https://positively.com/dog-wellness/dog-enrichment/)

[enrichment/](https://positively.com/dog-wellness/dog-enrichment/)

[https://positively.com/dog-](https://positively.com/dog-wellness/exercise/)

[g-wellness/exercise/](https://positively.com/dog-wellness/exercise/)

How to Introduce Dogs to Each Other:

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steffen-baldwin/chill-](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steffen-baldwin/chill-out-decompression-t_b_8331986.html)

[out-decompression-t_b_8331986.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steffen-baldwin/chill-out-decompression-t_b_8331986.html)

[http://bestfriends.org/resources/introducing-dogs-each-](http://bestfriends.org/resources/introducing-dogs-each-other)

[other](http://bestfriends.org/resources/introducing-dogs-each-other)

How to Introduce a Dog to a Cat:

<http://bestfriends.org/resources/how-introduce-dog-cat> - **Option 1:**

Slow and steady desensitization Marketing Foster Animals for

Adoption:

<http://www.aspcapro.org/resource/saving-lives-adoption-marketing-foster-care/tips-presenting-your-adoptable-animals-well>

[http://bestfriends.org/resources/for-shelters-and-rescuers/animal-shelter-dogs-](http://bestfriends.org/resources/for-shelters-and-rescuers/animal-shelter-dogs-promoting-them-adoption)

[promoting-them-adoption](http://bestfriends.org/resources/for-shelters-and-rescuers/animal-shelter-dogs-promoting-them-adoption) [http://bestfriends.org/resources/for-shelters-and-](http://bestfriends.org/resources/for-shelters-and-rescuers/pet-profiles-how-write-animal-bios-get-your-adoptables-homes)

[rescuers/pet-profiles-how-write-animal-bios-get-your-adoptables-homes](http://bestfriends.org/resources/for-shelters-and-rescuers/pet-profiles-how-write-animal-bios-get-your-adoptables-homes)

<http://www.animalfarmfoundation.org/pages/Marketing-Best-Practices>

Effective Adoption Counseling Tips:

<http://www.animalsheltering.org/how-we-help/strengthen-your-shelter/adopters-welcome/>

<http://www.animalfarmfoundation.org/pages/Adoption-Counseling>

Additional Resources for Puppy/Dog Fosters

Nursing Dog and Puppy Care:

http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/Foster_Care_Manual/Nursing_Mother_Dogs_and_Their_Puppies.pdf

Basic Puppy Care and Socialization:

http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/Foster_Care_Manual/PUPPIES.pdf http://www.whole-dog-journal.com/issues/16_12/features/properly-socializing-your-puppy_20878-1.html

Heartworm Disease:

<https://www.heartwormsociety.org/pet-owner-resources/heartworm-basics>

Ringworm:

http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/Foster_Care_Manual/Ringworm.pdf **Demodectic (Demodex)**

Mange:

<http://www.vcahospitals.com/main/pet-health-information/article/animal-health/mange-demodectic-in-dogs/741>

Sarcoptic Mange:

<http://www.vcahospitals.com/main/pet-health-information/article/animal-health/mange-sarcoptic-in-dogs/839>

Required Reading and/or Viewing for Kitten/Cat Fosters

Safety and Behavior:

<https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/cat-care/common-cat-behavior-issues/aggression-cats>

Fading Kitten Protocol:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UGU51hRal0G30iYxi4w006McMp01W_fRwU46CXSm93A/edit?usp=sharing **How to Make Gruel for Syringe**

Feeding Kittens/Cats:

<https://youtu.be/6feWmWAu-48>

How to Syringe Feed Gruel to Kittens/Cats:

<https://youtu.be/-4d3-Ge7TyA>

How to Introduce Cats to Each Other:

http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/cats/tips/introducing_new_cat.html **How to**

Introduce a Dog to a Cat:

<http://bestfriends.org/resources/how-introduce-dog-cat> - **Option 1:**

Slow and steady desensitization Marketing Foster Animals for

Adoption:

<http://www.aspcapro.org/resource/saving-lives-adoption-marketing-foster-care/tips-presenting-your-adoptable-animals-well>

<http://bestfriends.org/resources/for-shelters-and-rescuers/animal-shelter-dogs-promoting-them-adoption> <http://bestfriends.org/resources/for-shelters-and-rescuers/pet-profiles-how-write-animal-bios-get-your-adoptables-homes>

<http://www.animalfarmfoundation.org/pages/Marketing-Best-Practices>

Effective Adoption Counseling Tips:

<http://www.animalsheltering.org/how-we-help/strengthen-your-shelter/adopters-welcome/>

<http://www.animalfarmfoundation.org/pages/Adoption-Counseling>

Additional Resources for Kitten/Cat Fosters

Nursing Cat and Kitten Care:

http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/Foster_Care_Manual/NURSING_MOTHER_CATS_AND_KITTENS.pdf

Basic Kitten Care and Socialization:

http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/Foster_Care_Manual/KITTENS.pdf

Unsocial/Feral Kitten

Handling and

Socialization:

<http://www.alleycat.org/document.doc?id=526>

Litterbox Problems:

<https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/cat-behavior/litter-box-problems>

Feline Upper Respiratory Infection (URI):

http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/Foster_Care_Manual/Feline_Upper_Respiratory_Infection.pdf **Ringworm:**

http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/Foster_Care_Manual/Ringworm.pdf