



Foster Care Application Kit

Thank you for your interest in helping animals by becoming a foster carer for Animal Welfare League NSW (AWL).

AWL has been caring for surrendered, neglected and abandoned animals for over 50 years, and we rely on the support of the community to keep our doors open. By becoming a foster carer, you can help us save more lives.

Foster caring involves caring for a shelter pet in your own home for a set period of time, while they await permanent adoption. It is a truly rewarding experience, and a win-win for both the carer and the animals. You will be giving so much to a pet that is in need of help and you will be rewarded with love and appreciation in return!

Foster caring can also be an ideal solution if you are unable to make the long-term commitment of adopting your own pet, but would like to have the companionship and love that a pet brings into your life. It's also a great test run if you're wanting to trial whether you're ready to adopt a four-legged family member permanently.

Steps to becoming a Foster Carer:

1. Read this document first (the Foster Care Application Kit)
2. Complete the **Foster Care Application Form** and return it to AWL via email, fax or post
3. Our Foster Care Coordinator will contact you to discuss your application
4. A property inspection will be arranged for your residence
5. If your application is approved, you will then be matched with a foster pet to suit your circumstances
6. Our Foster Care Coordinator will provide you with advice and guidance on caring for your foster pet, including any special requirements you need to know, to ensure you can provide the best possible care.

Why do animals need foster care?

The reasons vary for each individual animal, but common examples are:

- Orphaned or abandoned kittens and puppies who are underage or underweight. These little ones need extra care and time to grow before they're ready to be desexed and adopted to their new home.
- Cats and dogs that have suffered illness, are underweight or recovering from injuries and need some extra loving care and a quiet place to recuperate and be ready for adoption.
- Animals that are shy, afraid or need some extra socialisation or training. You can make a huge difference to their chances of being adopted by helping them adjust to family life.
- Animals that are waiting for available space at the shelter, or who have been with us for a while and need a holiday from the noise and activity of the shelter.

What type of animals can I foster?

We need foster carers for litters of kittens, litters of puppies, mother cats with kittens, adult dogs and adult cats.

How long will I care for my foster pet?

It varies for each case, and can range from one week up to several months. For kittens and puppies it's usually 2-3 weeks, however for some adult dogs and cats it can be longer term. You can let us know how long you are able to commit, and then you will be matched with a suitable foster pet.

Do I need experience?

You will be matched with the right foster pets based on your personal experience. The most important thing is that you want to love and nurture these pets, and have the time to dedicate to their care. Some animals will require more experience, such as very young kittens or puppies, or cats and dogs that are recovering from illness or needing socialisation. In other cases, limited experience won't be an issue - as long as you have the passion and interest we can provide you with the guidance and information.

What do I need to supply?

AWL will supply all food and medication for your foster pet. The AWL Vet Clinic will provide required veterinary treatment for your foster pet at no cost to you, and urgent veterinary treatment can be provided elsewhere by agreement with our Foster Care Coordinator.

It's greatly appreciated if you're able to supply additional items such as toys, soft bedding, towels, litter tray and cages/puppy pens as required.

Are there any special requirements my home needs to meet?

Cats and kittens must be kept inside at all times, and your house needs to be kitten-proof! That means securing doors, windows with screens, and ensuring any escape routes are covered. For dogs and large puppies, you will need a fully fenced, secure back yard with appropriate shelter. For small puppies they will need to be kept inside at all times, in a puppy-proof environment.

An inspection of your home is part of the application process so we can ensure that your home is appropriately set up and secure for foster caring. Our Foster Care Coordinator will provide advice on changes (if any) you might need to make to the environment.

Can I foster care if I already have my own pets?

Yes you can. As part of the home inspection we will meet your pets, and discuss suitability of matching your pets with potential foster pets. You will need to ensure your own pets are fully vaccinated and desexed prior to foster caring. Depending on the situation you may need to keep your foster pets isolated from your own pets, and you will always need to keep their food, litter boxes etc separated during their stay.

How much time do I need to dedicate to my foster pet?

The more time you have to spend with your foster pet the better. However the amount of time needed each day will vary based on the needs of your individual foster pet. Our Foster Care Coordinator will ensure that you are matched with the right foster pet, to suit the amount of time you are at home on an average day.

Do I need transport?

Yes, ideally you will need your own transport, so that you can transport your foster pet to and from the shelter, and to the Vet for any required appointments such as scheduled vaccinations and emergency treatment.

What happens at the end of the foster care?

Once your foster pet is ready for adoption, they will come back to the shelter so that we can find their forever home. Saying goodbye to your foster pet is often the hardest aspect of foster caring, as it's natural to become emotionally attached to them. You need to prepare yourself that you will be letting go of your foster pet, but remember that without your love and care they would not have had a second chance. Knowing that your foster pet has found a forever home will be the best reward, knowing that you have made their happiness possible.

How do I get started?

The first step to foster caring with AWL is to fill out the [Foster Carer Application Form](#). Our Foster Care Coordinator will then contact you to discuss your application and answer any further questions you may have.



Animal Welfare League NSW
PO Box 137 North Ryde NSW 1670
T: 02 8899 3333 F: 02 8899 3344
www.awlnsw.com.au

ABN 88 000 533 086 CFN 10416

