

# Feline Foster Care Manual



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## Welcome

Thank you for fostering with Animal Welfare League NSW. Fostering is a rewarding experience that helps save thousands of lives each year and we could not do it without you! It involves temporarily bringing in an animal to your home until they are ready for adoption. For many people, it is your first time fostering and we hope you will love the life-saving experience. Our Foster Care Manual provides you with helpful tips to ensure success!

## Summary

- **Join our foster Facebook group:** Search '[AWL Kemps Creek Foster Carers](#)' on Facebook. Post questions, cute pics of your foster animals and to keep up-to-date.
- **Foster Mentor:** You will be assigned a Foster Mentor when collecting new fosters. Please contact the Foster Mentor with any non-medical questions or issues.
- **Promote your foster animal** on Facebook, Instagram etc and to family/friends (remember to include microchip number if promoting for adoption!).
- For **medical issues**, contact our Kemps Creek Shelter Vet Clinic on 8777 4450. **Quote the Animal ID(s)** when booking appointments. When taking foster animal(s) to a vet, **ONLY go to our Kemps Creek Shelter Vet Clinic** and don't go to your own vet or we will be unable to pay for it. See info sheet that you get each time a foster animal is collected for approved vets for emergencies.
- **Weigh kittens (<8 weeks) daily** to ensure they're putting on weight each day.
- **Foster cats/kittens** must be kept indoors at all times with no outside access and do not let them on balconies.
- Foster kittens must be **quarantined** in a room with hard floors for the first 14 days. In this time, wash your hands after patting and don't let your pets interact with them.
- Read about [common diseases](#), especially if you are fostering kittens.
- **When kittens are 800g**, healthy and friendly, call our vet clinic to book them in for desexing 2-3 weeks later. After desexing, they will stay at the shelter for adoption.
- **Naming animals:** All animals are named upon arriving at Animal Welfare League NSW. Unfortunately the names are unable to be changed as it can cause confusion with initial paperwork and other places where the names are already recorded.
- Don't give a foster animal to anyone else.
- **Adoption FAQ's & returning animals:** See [Adoption FAQ's/returning Foster Animal](#).
- If a foster animal **escapes** or **passes away**, call the Foster Care Officer immediately.
- Read the [common situations and what to do](#).

## Foster Care Resources

In addition to this Foster Care Manual, we have over [20 helpful cat guides](#) and [online forms and bookings](#) to give you 24/7 access to help.

## Supplies

AWL NSW supplies flea and worming treatment, kitten formula, bottles and teats, heat discs (for neonatal kittens), kitten mousse for weaning kittens, cat carrier and prescription diet

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food (eg. kidney/urinary/joint food etc) as recommended by our vets for specific animals as well as any medication (from our clinic) where required.

Foster carers provide other items including litter tray, bowls (1 food bowl per kitten and shared water bowls), toys, bedding and a scratching post. Foster carers also provide litter and food (where possible).

We are unable to reimburse foster carers for expenses. Upon returning your foster animals, please return any items borrowed from AWL NSW.

If you need more medication or Advocate, fill out the Medication Refill Request [bit.ly/MedicationRefillRequest](http://bit.ly/MedicationRefillRequest) as soon as possible. For prescription food, text the Foster Care Officer at least 10 days before you will run out.

## Feeding

Only feed food specifically made for cats or kittens and do not feed human food, a 'raw diet' or supermarket 'kitten milk'. Ensure it says on the packaging that it is a "full and complete/balanced diet" – ask the Foster Mentor if unsure. Some human foods can be toxic to animals so it is best not to experiment. A raw diet may not be a full and complete diet and feeding a raw diet can increase the risk of infections.

**Feeding frequency:** For kittens under 6 weeks, see the [Neonatal Kitten Guide](#).

For kittens 6-12 weeks old, feed 3-4 times per day (feed amount as per packaging unless an AWL NSW staff member says otherwise). From 12 weeks of age, feed twice a day.

**Dry or wet cat food?** A combination of both dry and wet cat food can be good but only feeding dry or only feeding wet food is ok, unless an AWL NSW staff member says otherwise. Feeding dry food only or a combination of both is preferred.

## Medical

*Please do not self-diagnose or Google treatment options for your foster animal. Always speak to our vet clinic or Foster Mentor before providing treatment or withholding treatment if you notice any health issues, no matter how minor the issue may be.*

**Non-emergencies** that will require a call (and likely a visit within 24 hours) to our Kemps Creek vet clinic (8777 4450) include the following. Contact our clinic ASAP (and quote the Animal ID[s] when booking appointments) during opening hours if your foster animal:

- Is a kitten that loses weight or weight plateau's in 24 hours
- Has vomited more than once
- Has continuous diarrhoea for more than 24 hours
- Has a lack of appetite (eg. not eating in 18 hours or eating small amounts)
- Has a small amount of blood in the stool or urine, or is limping
- Is sneezing and/or has runny eyes, fleas, swollen limbs, is bleeding or losing weight.

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- Has patches of fur missing or has new or growing lumps
- Repeatedly shakes head and/or has blackish build-up inside ears
- Any other abnormal symptoms or signs of illness that is not life-threatening

**Do NOT take an animal to a vet that isn't an approved vet as per below. We are unable to reimburse vet bills to foster carers or other external vet clinics.**

**EMERGENCIES:** In a life-threatening emergency (eg. animal is lethargic or another medical emergency), call our Kemps Creek Shelter Vet Clinic immediately. If it is outside of opening hours (8am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat), but it's a Sunday or public holiday 8am-midday, contact Great Western Animal Hospital (469 Great Western Hwy Wentworthville NSW 2145) on 9631 9322. For other times, contact one of the below approved emergency vets:

Emergency Vet Clinic	Address	Available Times (only when Kemps Creek vet is closed)	Phone no.
SASH Prospect	1 Rowood Rd, Prospect	24/7	8609 9444
Animal Referral Hospital (Homebush)	250 Parramatta Rd, Homebush	24/7	9758 8666
SASH Alexandria	5/476 Gardeners Rd, Alexandria	24/7	8913 4000
VECA Campbelltown	5/10 Blaxland Rd, Campbelltown	24/7	9129 5888
Animal Referral Hospital (Minchinbury)	5/1 John Hines Ave, Minchinbury	Mon-Fri: 8am - midnight Sat: CLOSED Sun: 8am - midnight	8610 3400
Animal Referral Hospital (Baulkham Hills)	19 Old Northern Rd, Baulkham Hills	Mon-Fri: 6pm-7am Sat, Sun, public holidays: open 24 hours	9639 7744
VSOS (Miranda)	106 Parraweena Rd, Miranda	24/7	8376 8767

\*opening hours are subject to change, contact the emergency vet when on your way to confirm they are open.

These are our only approved after hours vets and we will not reimburse anyone for taking a foster animal to another vet. You must show the vet the foster sheet (emailed to you at time of fostering) to verify that the animal is a current AWL NSW foster animal in order for the animal to be treated at AWL NSW's cost. From 9am the next day tell the Kemps Creek vet clinic what happened and transport the cat to our Kemps Creek vet clinic ASAP if this is suggested (it is in most cases).

## Before you collect your foster animal & things to know

Before you bring your foster pet(s) home, make sure that you have a suitable place for them to stay. The room/area should adhere to the following guidelines:

- The space has been and can be disinfected between foster groups.
- Separate from other household pets
- Can withstand messes: spilt water or food, vomit, litter, urine, faeces, etc.
- No breakable items or small items within reach.
- Items on counters need to be safely stored away. Cats like to knock things off!

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- Electrical outlets and wires are blocked or out of animals' reach.
- Secured windows (closed or with a secure screen) and appliances, toilet seat down.
- No access to toxins, chemicals, food, plants or flowers that may be harmful to pets
- Provide safe, disposable or easily sanitized toys such as ping pong balls and toy mice.
- Children under the age of 18 should not be left unsupervised with any foster pets.
- Foster carers are expected to follow & abide by all guidelines & protocols regarding proper care of foster pets including giving proper food, access to water at all times, daylight, socialization and health care. Foster pets must be kept in climate-controlled homes where the temperature is kept between 18-27 degrees Celsius.
- Only treat foster pets with medications prescribed by Animal Welfare League NSW veterinary staff. Do not use your own treatment.

## Fostering cats & kittens

***All foster cats and kittens are required to be indoors ONLY and must not be let outside at all. Please ensure all windows are closed in any room that the foster cat/kittens can access and do not let them on the balcony.***

### Cats & kitten setup & quarantine

Cats/kittens must spend their first 2 weeks in care 'quarantined' in case they appear healthy but are incubating an illness. Most illnesses will show symptoms within the first 2 weeks.

During the quarantine period, they should remain in a single room with hard floors (not carpet, fabric, rugs etc) such as a laundry or bathroom as they're easier to clean. Make sure the room is not too hot or too cold throughout the day and night.

They should have a bed, litter tray, toys and access to water permanently as well as food during mealtimes and a scratching post. Keep litter tray as far away as possible from the bed/toys/bowls and have multiple litter trays if you're fostering more than 1 cat or kitten. Each cat/kitten should also have their own food bowl and they can share water bowls. As a general rule, clean litter tray daily and completely replace litter at least weekly.

Wash your hands after touching the quarantined foster kitty without touching anything else, or wear gloves and don't let your pets interact with them in this time.

### Bringing the cat/kitten home and introducing to your house

Bringing a cat or kitten home from the shelter is a day for celebration! However, from the cat's point of view, they have just left the shelter and is travelling in a car with people they don't know to a place they have never been to. The cat will usually be scared (particularly adult cats and timid kittens) and anxious for the first few hours, days or weeks.

A common mistake that people make is they open the carrier door in the middle of the house and let the new cat explore on their own but this can stress them out, resulting in it taking longer for them to settle into your home. Even if you don't need to quarantine the cat, they should be slowly introduced to your house by being given access to a single, quiet room initially for a few days (or weeks, depending on how the cat responds).

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The new cat will most likely want to hide for the first few days and it is important that if they are hiding, not to force them to come out. Provide him or her with safe hiding places such as a cardboard box turned to the side or a cat carrier with a towel or blanket inside.

If the cat is hiding, wait a day or two. Then sit or lay on the floor to talk to kitty quietly and offer some tasty treats. Cats will do anything for warm BBQ chicken! Ensure you are helping the cat by always providing something yummy at each visit. Try using an interactive toy, such a long string with feathers on the end, to tempt the cat to come out of the hiding place and play. Play is a good bonding tool as there is no physical contact involved so it can seem less invasive. It also can relieve stress and provide mental stimulation. If the cat seems very scared or is always hiding, check out our [Timid Cat Guide](#).

After the 2 week quarantine period (if applicable) or after a few days (if no quarantine required), the cat can go to other rooms in the house and the best way to do this is to simply open the door of the room and let the cat choose when and where to explore.

Remember, even after a 14 day quarantine period, it does not guarantee the foster pet will always be completely healthy. Consider keeping the foster felines separate from your own pets, as some felines may carry illnesses which are transmittable, even to grown cats. If you choose to introduce the foster cat/kittens to your own animals, it is done at your own risk. If you'd like to introduce the foster cat to your existing cat(s), please follow [our guide](#).

When the foster cat begins to venture into other parts of the house, they will now also have a familiar "safe" room to return to if they become frightened or stressed.

## Socialising kittens

The first 10 weeks of a kitten's life are vital to ensuring the kitten is well-socialised and ready for their new home! It's important to expose them to things that they might experience in a home to ensure they will be comfortable in a new environment when adopted. Properly socialising a kitten will decrease their stress for the rest of their life, decrease the possibility of urine-marking (a sign that a cat is unhappy) and reduce the chance of anxiety, fear-related and behaviour issues. Some of the tips should be done after quarantine period.

Some tips to help your kitten live his or her best life include:

- Let the kitten walk on different inside surfaces (tiles, carpet, floorboards etc).
- Regularly and gently handle the kitten: touch head, stroke head/neck/back/tail.
- From about 4-5 weeks: place in pet carrier, put carrier in vehicle, groom with soft brush, introduce scratching post, introduce various toys (wand toys, toy mice, ping pong balls, string etc), turn over and stroke belly, lift kitten and cuddle.
- Introduce to sounds (can play on computer) such as: radio/music/TV, dog barking, hairdryer, vacuum, phone alarm, rain/thunder, baby crying, talking loudly etc.
- Let the kitten meet strangers in your home so the kitten is used to new people. This includes children (for 5+ week old kittens) and make sure they are supervised at all times and stay close by to ensure that the child is gentle whilst interacting with the

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kitten. Give strangers treats to give the kitten (from 5 weeks of age) so the kitten associates strangers with a positive thing!

- Let the kitten go to the stranger rather than the stranger coming to the kitten.
- If anything is too much for the kitten (eg. if the kitten becomes scared of a loud noise or stranger getting too close), remove the kitten from the situation or remove the scary thing. Then when the kitten is settled again, expose the kitten to a small amount of the scary thing (eg. if it's a vacuum, turn it on in another room rather than the room the kitten is in) and give the kitten his or her favourite treat or toy. Then gradually re-introduce the scary thing until it's closer and closer, whilst giving the kitten a treat or toy until the kitten is comfortable with it.
- Contact with other pets ONLY if the other pet is known to be friendly with kittens.

For **shy kittens** 8+ weeks old, check out our [timid cat guide](#) and follow the advice in it instead, until the kitten is comfortable.

## Daily kitten weighing – IMPORTANT!

It is very important that kittens are weighed each day, from birth until 8 weeks. Record the weight and progress in the [Neonatal Kitten Monitoring Table spreadsheet](#). Kittens should gain about 14g daily. If a kitten is not putting on weight or loses weight for 24 hours, contact the Kemps Creek Vet Clinic ASAP.

## Vaccination, flea treatment & worming

Kittens are vaccinated every 4 weeks, from 4 weeks of age (up to 16 weeks) then yearly. Cats from 16 weeks of age receive 2 vaccinations 4 weeks apart then yearly. Please book in these appointments with the Kemps Creek Shelter Vet Clinic at least 5 days before they are due. It is essential for the cat/kittens health that you do not miss a vaccination appointment.

Kittens are wormed every 2 weeks from 2 weeks and treated for fleas every 4 weeks from 2 weeks. From 12 weeks, 1 dose of Advocate should be put on the back of the neck of the foster cat/kitten on 1st of each month which covers both flea and worming.

*Quote the Animal ID of each cat/kitten when booking in appointments at our vet clinic.*

## Common diseases

We receive cats and kittens from many different places and situations. While they may appear healthy, there is a possibility that they could be incubating a disease. This is why it is so important to [quarantine](#) for 14 days. Some of the possible diseases are outlined below:

### Cat Flu

Cat flu is similar to a cold but for a cat. The symptoms can include sneezing, runny eyes and/or crackly breathing. It can spread to other cats (but not other animals or people) and is common at animal shelters. For more info, check our [cat flu info sheet](#) and if your foster cat or kitten is displaying flu symptoms, please call our vet clinic.

### Ringworm



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Despite its name, ringworm isn't caused by a worm. It's a fungus that can infect the skin, hair and nails. This highly contagious disease causes patches of fur loss on cats/kittens and people can catch it too. Whilst not serious or life-threatening, it can stay in the environment for a long time. A small percentage of cats and kittens that arrive at our shelter may have ringworm. It is a good idea to check kittens for fur loss regularly in the first 2 weeks, especially around their face and ears.

## Diarrhoea

Diarrhoea is not an illness itself but it could be a symptom of an illness. There are many different causes and sometimes the cause can be hard to confirm. It could be from a simple change of food, worms or a symptom of an underlying health problem. If your foster kitty has diarrhoea, see further info [here](#).

## Worms

There are many types of worms (such as roundworm and hookworm) and they vary in how they infect animals and people. When cats and kittens come to our shelter, they are wormed right away and those with an initial heavy worm burden may have worms in their poo. It can take some time for them to be completely eliminated and it is important to stick to the worming schedule that you are provided with.

## Panleukopenia

Panleukopenia (also known as feline parvovirus or feline enteritis) is not very common but it is a highly infectious and deadly disease. The symptoms may include lethargy, vomiting, liquid/bloody diarrhoea, loss of appetite or other symptoms. They can also be symptoms of many other diseases and this disease is very rare.

Panleukopenia spreads easily to other cats (but cannot spread to humans or other animals) through infected bowls, litter tray, saliva or other surfaces (including humans) that the infected cat has come in contact with, as well as direct contact with the infected cat. It can stay in the environment for over 12 months. There is no cure for panleukopenia and in many cases, the disease is fatal.

The standard F3 vaccination for felines is highly effective against panleukopenia but vaccinations can take about 14 days to fully 'kick in' and felines require boosters to increase their immunity. This tragic disease is one of the reasons why it is a requirement for all new foster kittens to be quarantined for the first 14 days.

## Children and foster cats/kittens

Whilst fostering a new pet is a very exciting event for children, their enthusiasm must be supervised and controlled. It is essential that the new cat/kitten is not crowded by children or forced to interact with them until the stress of being somewhere new has worn off.



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Initially, ensure the interaction is with one child at a time in the room. Have the child sitting still with a small treat on the palm of an open hand. Let the cat come to them and when this happens, teach the child the correct way to gently pat and stroke the cat.

Even the friendliest cat will defend themselves if pushed or pulled too much so be sure to teach them that the cat is not a toy. Avoid letting children pick up your foster kitty in the early stages and wait until the kitty has settled in properly. Babies and young children should NEVER be left alone unsupervised with any animal.

## Cleaning Up Between Litters

After returning foster kittens, sanitise the fostering room(s) before putting in new fosters. Remove everything they slept on, ate from, played with and toileted in. Scrub everything they could reach (don't forget the walls) with a weak bleach solution (1 part bleach to 10 parts cold water). For any surface you don't want to risk potentially discolouring, put a drop of the bleach solution (mixed with water as per above) on the surface and check.

Food and water bowls can be washed in the dishwasher. Clean/Spray the litter box and any reusable toys with the bleach solution. Wash all bedding using bleach and hot water. Throw away any toys made of cardboard or other non-cleanable materials. This should prevent any new litters from contracting anything that the previous kittens may have been harbouring.

***After cleaning with bleach solution, remove with water. Read and follow safety and first aid information on product packaging for any chemical that is used. Additionally, wear gloves and protective glasses, keep out of reach of children, and don't inhale fumes.***

## Booking the animal in to the vet & appointments

When you collect foster animal(s) you'll be told when they need vet work. Call the vet clinic on 8777 4450 to book in appointments then text the Foster Mentor to advise.

If the appointment is for vaccination, microchipping, flea treatment, worming, ringworm culture or to diagnose/treat a sick or injured animal, you'll need to stay at the vet clinic for the appointment. Appointments are available every weekday and Saturday mornings.

Surgery days are Monday-Friday and the animal(s) will need to be brought in at 8-9am (and not fed from 10pm the night before) on the day but they can be brought in the day before as long as you tell the vet team upon booking. Book early as vet appointments can sometimes be booked out well in advance.

## Foster animal involved in a bite/attack

Call the Foster Care Officer immediately if a foster pet bites or attacks a person or pet (or gets attacked by another animal), fill out our Incident Report Form and send to the Foster Care Officer ASAP. Download the form here -> <https://bit.ly/AWLIncidentReport>

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## Common situations and what to do

Situation	What to do
Sneezing or other 'cat flu' symptoms (gunky eyes, half closing eyes, crackly breathing etc)	<p>If <u>only</u> sneezing and no other symptoms, just monitor. If gunky or discharge from eyes, clean eyes with saline solution or warm water and call our Kemps Creek vet clinic on 8777 4450. Also call if eyes are half-closed.</p> <p>If crackly breathing or kitty sounds blocked up (put ear to cats mouth to listen), steam up bathroom by putting on hot shower. Then bring kitty in for a few minutes (do not put kitten in the shower or wet the kitten!). Call our vet clinic.</p>
Has diarrhoea	<p>If diarrhoea is liquid or seeping out, kitty is less than 4 weeks or no improvement in 48 hours, call our vet clinic.</p> <p>It can take about 3 days for felines to adjust to new food. Sticking to a single food (rather than lots of different brands, types and treats) can help. Try another brand, or dry food if currently giving wet food. <u>Only</u> feed commercial cat/kitten food. If kitty is less than 12 weeks old, give a quarter of a Fenpral worming tablet if not done in the last 14 days. If this hasn't helped, follow this:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Feed cooked chicken (without flavour, skin or bones) only for 24 hours.</li> <li>2. In morning of 2<sup>nd</sup> day, feed 2/3 cooked chicken and 1/3 kitty food. At night, feed half cooked chicken and half kitty food.</li> <li>3. In morning of 3<sup>rd</sup> day, feed 3/4 kitty food and 1/4 cooked chicken. Then feed normal kitty food ongoing. If there is still diarrhoea, call our vet clinic.</li> </ol>
Isn't eating	Offer different brands of dry/wet food. Can heat up wet food in the microwave for 25 seconds and try to hand-feed to encourage eating. If not eating for 24+ hours, call our vet clinic.
Limping	If limping without other symptoms, keep kitty in a small room/enclosure for the next 3 days (with, food, litter, water etc) and away from other animals/littermates. Ensure there is nothing kitty can jump on/off for this time, even if the leg seems better. If no improvement in 24 hours OR leg/foot is swollen OR other symptoms OR if not completely better in 3 days, call our vet clinic.
Lost/not putting on weight	If kitten loses 20g+ in 48 hours (or 10g+ if under 300g) or has lost weight for 2 days in a row, call our vet clinic when next open.
Lethargic	If kitty is less active than normal, monitor for other symptoms. If kitty is lethargic and cannot walk properly as a result, doesn't have the energy to stand and feels 'floppy', call our vet clinic ASAP. Follow " <a href="#">Emergencies</a> " process.
Vomiting	If 1 vomit, monitor. If 3 in less than 24 hours, call our vet clinic. If 4+ vomits in less than 5 hours, follow " <a href="#">Emergencies</a> " process.
Hasn't urinated/defecated	Cats will often not toilet for the first 1-2 days. If it's been 48 hours and no urination (or 3 days for defecating), call our vet clinic.
Multiple symptoms	If 3+ of the following symptoms, follow " <a href="#">Emergencies</a> ": Vomiting, diarrhoea, losing weight, (less active than normal or not eating will count as '1 symptom' for this criteria)
I, or someone I know wants to adopt my foster animal	See <a href="#">Adoption FAQ's &amp; Returning Foster Animals</a> .

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## Adoption FAQ's & Returning Foster Animals

### Can I promote my foster animals on social media?

Absolutely! There may be rare cases where we don't allow it and if so, we'll let you know. If you promote an animal for adoption, you must include the microchip number. It can be found on the paperwork sent to you before collecting the cat or kittens from the shelter.

### How much is the cat or kitten adoption fee?

It includes desexing, microchipping, vaccination (up to the adoption date) and will be up-to-date with flea and worming treatment. You will also be eligible for free lifetime registration.

Kittens (6 months and under)	\$270
Adult Cats (7 months to 8 years)	\$230
Senior Cats (8 years and over)	\$170

### Can I adopt my own foster pet?

Yes, in most cases. (*for kittens under 4 months, skip to the section below*). The animal may need to be desexed or have other vet work done first. If a member of public contacts our shelter wanting to adopt an animal available for adoption from foster, they will have first preference so to avoid disappointment, contact the shelter on [kempscreek@awlsw.com.au](mailto:kempscreek@awlsw.com.au) or 8777 4445 ASAP if you would like to adopt. Our standard adoption fee will apply.

### What is the adoption process and does my animal have to go back to the shelter?

#### *Kittens under 4 months*

When kittens are 800g, healthy and friendly, contact our vet clinic to book them in for desexing 2 weeks later then text the Foster Mentor to advise. After desexing, they will stay at the shelter for adoption.

If you or a friend/family member wants to adopt a kitten you're fostering, **the person wanting to adopt MUST read this. Ensure it is sent to person wanting to adopt if it's not you.** Then after the above information is read, the adopter must make an adoption booking for 1-3 days after desexing here -> [bit.ly/kittenadoptionbooking](http://bit.ly/kittenadoptionbooking)

(optional) Fill out the [Foster Animal Information Form](#) at least 3 days before returning kittens. This will help us promote the kitten more accurately and we can also pass on the info to the new owner when the kitten gets adopted so you can get updates.

#### *Animals currently available for adoption (excluding kittens under 4 months)*

Animals available for adoption are on the 'Adopt' section ([www.awlsw.com.au/animals](http://www.awlsw.com.au/animals)) of our website. Send updated information about the animal and new photos to your Foster Mentor to help promote the animal.

#### **Family/Friend wants to adopt**

1. They're encouraged to meet the animal at your home. They must also call our shelter on 8777 4445 for information about the history of the animal, check to see if the animal may be suitable and to confirm that the animal is still available.

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2. If everyone is happy for the adoption to go ahead, contact the shelter on 8777 4445 to arrange a day/time to come to the shelter to process the adoption.

## **Enquiry from member of public (eg. from AWL NSW website)**

Our trained shelter staff will review adoption applicants to ensure that it may be a suitable match. It could take a day, weeks or months for a suitable applicant to contact the shelter. When a possible forever family has spoken with us, our shelter staff will contact you with the applicants contact details so you can contact them to discuss your foster cat, send pics/videos etc. Then you can book here [bit.ly/FosterCatMeet](https://bit.ly/FosterCatMeet) to arrange a day/time (ideally within the next few days) with the applicant to meet at our shelter with the cat. If the meet is successful, the cat will be adopted and go home with the new owner. Note: we adopt animals to the first suitable applicant so if another person interested meets the animal sooner, the animal may be adopted to them.

*Once a member of the public enquires to adopt a foster animal, the member of the public (and not the foster carer) will have the first choice to adopt as per our process above. If you would like to adopt your foster animal, contact the shelter on 8777 4445 or [kempscreek@awlsw.com.au](mailto:kempscreek@awlsw.com.au) beforehand (for kittens under 4 months, use the online booking link).*

***All animals fostered for Animal Welfare League NSW (AWL NSW) are microchipped to AWL NSW. All ownership rights and decision making of the animals welfare, adoption process and veterinary needs will be made by AWL NSW. If you wish to adopt your foster animal, contact AWL NSW (if a kitten then use the online booking link above). Once the animal is made available for adoption to the public online, the public will have first priority to adopt the animal if deemed suitable by us.***

## ***Animals NOT yet available for adoption (excluding kittens under 4 months)***

Animals that haven't been desexed, are recovering from surgery, awaiting other vet work or needing extensive behaviour work are not yet available for adoption. We try to make animals available as soon as possible, when they are ready medically and behaviourally. If unsure, ask the Foster Mentor when the animal may be placed up for adoption.

## ***I am returning a foster cat/kittens***

Please [reserve a spot here](#) at the shelter if the cat is 6+ months of age. For younger kittens, no need to fill out the form. If you suddenly can't care for kittens under 6 months, please tell your Foster Mentor.

**Foster Carers Save Lives.**