

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I become a foster with OK Humane?

We do not have a foster application you need to fill out. Simply email us at foster@okhumane.org to get started. We will plan a time for you to come in for an orientation where we will go over all the details and any questions you may have. If you are interested in fostering kittens and puppies under 6 weeks of age that need bottle feeding, or fostering moms and litters, please email nursery@okhumane.org.

Why is there such a great need for foster homes?

There are many dogs and cats that end up in the streets and shelters due to irresponsible pet ownership and pet overpopulation. These pets are ready for a loving, second chance, but we cannot take them into our program without a foster home lined up, as we are completely foster based. Fostering a pet will not only save their life, but also open up a kennel space for the shelter to save an incoming pet.

Where do the foster pets come from?

75% of pets that enter our program come from Oklahoma City Animal Welfare, our partner shelter. The remaining percentage comes from a mixture of owner surrenders, returned adoptions, and other Oklahoma shelters.

What does OK Humane provide for the foster pets?

-  OK Humane covers all costs associated with veterinary care.
-  OK Humane provides all food for foster pets.
-  Based upon donations, we provide fun and useful supplies such as dog beds, toys, treats, and more,

What do foster families need to provide?

-  A healthy and safe environment for their fosters.
-  Transportation to and from the adoption center and vet appointments.
-  Socialization, training, and exercise.

Can I foster even if I have a full-time job?

YES! We will match you with the right pets for your schedule. The amount of time a pet requires will vary depending on the energy level and needs of the pet. It is ideal to spend around two hours a day exercising, playing with or cuddling with with your fosters to ensure that he or she receives adequate socialization and stimulation.

Can I foster a pet if I don't have a fenced yard or live in an apartment?

YES! Even if you do have a fenced yard, we request that you supervise all outdoor activities with the foster dog, and always keep him or her on a leash when you're on

walks. Foster cats must remain indoors since they are so quick to escape. We will match you with the right pets for your lifestyle and housing situation.

How long will the pet need to be in foster care?

The average foster commitment for cats is 1-2 weeks. The average foster commitment for dogs is 2-3 weeks. There are special behavior and medical cases available that can be longer term.

When is my foster dog ready to go to the Adoption Center?

All animals up for adoption are spayed or neutered, up to date on vaccinations, microchipped, and deemed healthy by our medical staff. When you pick up your foster, the foster coordinators will go over the medical records for your pet and determine what medical appointments the foster needs before he/she can be made available. Once available, the foster coordinators will reach out and let you know your foster is cleared for adoption.

Once available, how often does my foster need to go to the Adoption Center?

Once a foster has been cleared medically and behaviorally for adoption, we ask that foster families begin to schedule adoption center visits. Our center is open every day but Monday. For cats and kittens, you will schedule a time to drop them off at the adoption center, and they will stay the night until adopted. For dogs and puppies, you will schedule days on which you can take them to the adoption center in the morning and pick them up in the evening if not adopted. Think of it like a doggie day care! We also have outreach events you can choose to attend every Saturday at a different location. Even on days your foster isn't present at the center, they will still be on our website for everyone to see. Because the adoption center has such a high volume of foot traffic, almost all of our fosters find homes from there within a few visits.

Can I let my foster play with my personal pets?

This will be up to you! We can give you tips on pet introductions to set you and your pets up for success. We do advise that you visit your veterinarian and ensure your pets are healthy, spayed/neutered, and up to date on their vaccines before you bring in a foster pet. *If you need a low cost option for your personal pets, schedule a visit at our clinic, OK Humane Place.*

What if I want to adopt my foster?

If you want to adopt your foster, let the foster coordinators know so we do not begin to advertise your foster to others. We will put your pet on hold, and you will then be able to visit the adoption center and complete the process.

Who will take care of my foster dog if I need to go out of town?

If you have a planned vacation, we ask that you do not pick up a foster pet right before your vacation. If you have a current foster pet and need to leave town, please give the foster coordinators as much notice as possible (preferably a week) so we can work on alternate placement while you are out of town. If an unforeseen emergency arises, we can always take our foster pets back immediately.

What if my foster is not working out?

We have many resources available for you if you are experiencing any issues with your foster such as house training, separation anxiety, etc. Please let us know if you have a concern, and we can get you the resources you need and help you solve the issue. If it is still not working, you are not required to continue to foster if you are uncomfortable doing so. We will work on moving your foster out as soon as possible, but ask for your understanding and patience.

How can I help my foster find a great home?

As you get to know your foster, we ask that you stay in contact with the foster coordinators so that they can update the pet's biography online to reflect accurate information about their preferences and quirks. Some people write their own biography for their foster, which we encourage, though they may be edited. We also welcome any quality photos that you take of your fosters. Great photos and bios are key in getting your pets adopted and helping them find a good match! After all, you know them best.

In addition, we suggest getting some adorable "Adopt Me" bandanas, leashes, collars or vests from Amazon. Simply put the gear on before a walk, outing, or photoshoot, and everyone who sees him will know he's looking for a home. We also encourage the use of social media and word of mouth. Please keep in mind that anyone who shows interest in adopting your foster pet will need to go through the adoption process with a staff member before taking the pet home.

What do I do when my foster is adopted and I am ready for a new foster?

When you are ready for a new foster, you will be able to reach out to the foster coordinators and let them know what you are interested in fostering, and when you would like to pick up. Once signed up to be a foster with OK Humane, you will also be a part of our biweekly foster emails and foster Facebook groups.

Will it be hard to say goodbye to my foster?

Saying goodbye can be the most difficult part of fostering, but keep in mind that many more pets in shelters need wonderful foster homes like yours. Each time you foster, you are saving a life. *You are playing a crucial role in helping to save them all. Thank you.*