



BROOKLYN ANIMAL ACTION
FOSTER GUIDEBOOK

WE SINCERELY APPRECIATE YOUR INTEREST IN WORKING WITH BROOKLYN ANIMAL ACTION

This guide has been created to help prepare you for your foster experience. If you have any further questions, please contact:
foster@brooklynanimalaction.org



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RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES



CAT FOOD

Wet food is preferred.



TWO CAT BOWLS

At least one for food and one for water. We recommend stainless steel or ceramic.



A SOFT PLACE TO SLEEP

Old towels or blankets can be used if you don't have a cat bed.



LITTER BOX

An uncovered box may be easier for a new cat to use.



CLUMPING LITTER

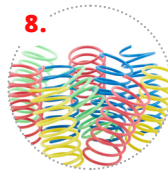


SCRATCHING POSTS OR TRAYS



CAT TREATS

Giving treats is a good way to help train and build a positive relationship with your foster cat.



CAT TOYS



GROOMING SUPPLIES

A brush and nail cutters.

WHAT FOSTER FAMILIES NEED TO PROVIDE

- **A healthy and safe environment** for their foster cats.
- **Transportation**, if possible, to adoption events and vet appointments when needed.
- **Socialization and cuddle time** to help teach the cats about positive family and pet relationships.
- **Lots of exercise and positive stimulation.**
- **Screens on all windows** (this is extremely important, as falls from unscreened windows are a common cause of cat injury and death)
- **NO poisonous plants** in the home (common poisonous plants include philodendron, jade, aloe, marigold, snake plant, all lilies, and chrysanthemums. [More information here](#))



DAILY ROUTINE

- **Try not to overwhelm your new foster cat** with too many new experiences at once.
- It will help the cat adjust if you **establish a daily routine** of regularly scheduled feedings and play times.
- **Be aware of your foster cats' appetite and energy level.** If they show signs of having issues with appetite or low energy, something may be wrong medically. Try different types of food, pate vs. saucy foods, dry on top of the wet, different flavors, etc.
- You may want to **record your observations** to make it easier to notice any health issues.

Note: Most cats eat less or not at all the first day or two in a new home.



LITTER BOX HABITS

To prevent litter box issues, **keep the litter box as clean as possible.** Scoop out each litter box at least twice daily, and empty it completely to clean it every two weeks. You can use a mild soap (such as dishwashing soap) to clean the litter box. Don't use strong-smelling detergents or ammonia.

If your foster cat is not using the litter box, please notify the foster coordinator immediately so you can work on resolving the issue before not using the box becomes a habit. Keep in mind that a cat may miss the litter box if she has a medical issue like diarrhea, or she may avoid the box if she has a urinary tract infection, which causes pain when urinating.

If your foster cat has an accident, don't discipline or punish him. It will only teach him to fear and mistrust you. Clean up all accidents with an enzymatic cleaner. Nature's Miracle and Simple Solution are two products containing natural enzymes that tackle tough stains and odors and remove them permanently.

Note: Febreze and perfumed products like scented laundry detergents are too strong for a cat's nose and will often cause cats to pee on items treated with them. Remove all strongly scented items, and wash anything that has perfume on it at least twice with a non-scented laundry detergent.

If the cat has peed on something that can be washed, wash it twice with a non-scented laundry detergent. A cat's sense of smell is 1000x stronger than ours, and they will still smell scents after the first wash.



GROOMING

- **A clean and well-groomed cat has a better chance of being adopted**, so brush your foster cat regularly, especially if he has longer hair.
- If you are comfortable doing so, **you can trim your foster cat's nails**. But please be careful, because trimming the nails too short can cause pain and bleeding.
- **Cats don't generally like being bathed**, so please don't give your foster cat a bath. Instead, if you feel the cat is particularly in need of a wash, try wiping her down with warm water on a paper towel. This will encourage her to clean herself.



EXERCISE

Mental stimulation and exercise:

- We recommend that you provide your foster cat with at least one play session every day. Playtime provides stimulation, encourages socialization and releases excess energy. Try a variety of toys such as balls, squeaky toys and feather toys to see which ones your foster cat prefers. Cat toys don't have to be expensive; cats enjoy simple things such as paper bags, aluminum foil balls or a box with holes cut in the sides.

Safety around toys:

- Don't leave your foster cat alone with any toys that could be easily ingested or cause harm to the cat. Examples are string toys, yarn and toys with feathers dangling from a string and wand. Toys such as ping-pong balls and toilet paper tubes are safe. Discourage your foster cat from play-biting your hands and feet, as this will teach him that biting is acceptable behavior and make adoption more difficult.



SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- **Foster cats must live indoors.** If your foster cat seems curious about the outdoors or is constantly at the door waiting for the right moment, please take extra precautions to ensure that he doesn't accidentally sneak out when you are coming or going.
- **Please do not allow your foster cat to go outside** under any circumstance!
- **If your personal cat has access to the outdoors, she cannot interact with your foster** cat due to the possibility of contracting fleas, parasites or disease. You'll need to keep their living quarters separate.
- Finally, **please do not let your foster cat ride loose in a car.** Use a carrier at all times to transport your foster cat to and from appointments



FAQS

1. When the animal arrives, will it be vetted?

The animal will have had basic vetting (de-worming and de-fleaing, testing for serious diseases, vaccinations) when he comes to you. We may need to take him to the vet for additional shots and spay/neuter while you are fostering. If you are unable to transport the animal to these appointments, we can help.

2. Typically how long does it take for an animal to be adopted?

It usually takes anywhere from a couple of weeks to half a year. You can continue to foster animals after one is adopted. If you can't keep the cat any longer, we can move her to another foster situation, as long as you give us sufficient notice.

3. Is it okay to have other pets and foster at the same time?

You can have pets while fostering (with our approval), but especially if they are the same species, you should make sure your pet is tested and up to date on shots (FVRCP and rabies shots for cats). Your cat(s) must also have tested negative for FeLV/FIV. Also, it's best to keep the foster cat in a separate space (even a bathroom) for a few days so that your pet can get used to the foster cat and the foster can become accustomed to the new environment.

4. Is there financial help from the organization for basic care expenses?

We prefer that fosters pay for day-to-day expenses such as food and litter, but we can help if necessary.

5. Is fostering tax-deductible?

Expenses you incur through fostering an animal from BAA are tax-deductible. Just make sure you keep your receipts, and note that expenses over \$250 will require a letter from BAA for the deduction (which we will happily provide).



6. Can I name the animal?

Animals will usually come already named, but we can talk about it!

7. What happens if the foster gets sick?

We cover all vet expenses if the cat gets sick or hurt as long as it is seen by one of our approved vets. You must let us know that the cat is sick and needs to be taken to a vet so that we can set up an appointment. If you take the cat to a vet without letting us know, you may be responsible for covering the expenses.

8. What if the foster situation isn't working out?

We will seek an alternate foster home for the animal. We only ask that you give us sufficient notice, to give us time to find a new situation.

9. What if someone wants to adopt the animal?

If a potential adopter expresses interest in the animal, they must first fill out an adoption application, including references. If they seem like a good fit, we ask that the foster make an appointment with the potential adopter to meet the animal. The animal does not typically go home with the adopter after that first meeting. Once the adoption receives final approval, we will bring the animal to his or her forever home.

10. Can I end up adopting my foster animal?

You are always welcome to adopt your foster! In that case, the normal adoption procedures apply.



CONTACT INFORMATION

The rescuer with whom you worked directly is always your best contact. If you have a problem reaching them, please email the following:

Information: **info@brooklynanimalaction.org**

Questions regarding fostering:
foster@brooklynanimalaction.org

