

Cat Foster Handbook



City of
SACRAMENTO

Front Street Animal Shelter

Updated: March 13, 2020

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The Front Street Animal Shelter Thanks YOU!

Thank you for opening your home and your heart to a kitten or cat in need.

Whether you foster a kitten that needs some time to grow, or an adult cat who needs a little extra TLC, **YOU** make it possible for us to provide the very best care possible for all our residents at The Front Street Shelter. Fostering is messy, rewarding, stinky, adorable, and sometimes a heartbreaking job. We certainly couldn't do it without valuable foster homes like yours!

From all our cats and kittens:



Thanks!

Greetings, Foster Parents!

Thank you for participating in The Front Street Shelter Cat Foster Care Program. We appreciate your willingness to open your heart and home to homeless mother cats and kittens. Your dedication allows our organization to rescue cats we would otherwise have to turn away due to limited space in our shelter.

The guiding mission of the Cat Foster Care Program is to give mother cats and kittens the individualized care and socialization they need to prepare them for adoption. Information gathered during the foster process helps us place cats and kittens in homes with families who can best meet their needs. Specific goals of the program include:

- Providing a safe, healthy, nurturing environment for mother cats to raise their kittens.
- Socializing shy or timid cats and kittens.
- Allowing mother cats to recover in a relaxing, uplifting environment.
- Giving orphaned kittens a leg up with the socializing and love a foster home can provide.

This manual outlines the responsibilities and expectations of The Front Street Shelter's foster volunteers. This should serve as a resource throughout your foster care experience.

Before taking your assigned foster cats/kittens home, please:

- Review the overview of key responsibilities and policies.
- Read and sign the foster care agreement.
- Give these completed forms to the Foster Care Coordinator. If the Cat Foster Care Coordinator isn't available, give the forms to the Supervisor on duty.
- Before you leave the shelter, schedule to come back for booster shots.

Overview of Key Responsibilities and Policies

To ensure a successful foster program, we ask that you follow our general policy guidelines to ensure that each foster home is responsibly providing a wonderful home for these kittens to grow up and explore the world in. To this effect, you will want to keep in mind the following;



1. Please follow any and all directions given to you by shelter staff (including ACT's and Interns)
2. These kittens belong to the City of Sacramento, the City is responsible for any and all medical care the kitten needs. It is against our policy's/procedures for you to seek medical advice from other foster parents (other than an approved foster mentor), the internet, friends, etc. There is a protocol to follow, if you have questions PLEASE contact the Cat Foster Coordinator.
3. Please make sure you are following proper procedure when it comes to getting you kitten medical care.
4. If your kitten is in distress and/or it is apparent it is going to pass away, please contact us IMMEDIATELY, so we may help it during its final moments.
5. If you wish to seek medical care elsewhere you must obtain permission from the shelter.
6. You are responsible for bringing your kittens to any and all appointments (vet exams, vaccines, surgery, etc), if you find yourself unable to do this, please communicate with the shelter.
7. All foster animals must be kept separate from resident animals.
8. Please only ONE litter per household, unless otherwise directed by shelter staff.
9. Please make sure you are following proper sanitation protocols (found in the manual).

Need Help? Who to Call

Foster kittens can be wonderful, but they can also have health issues and health scares.

We have a fantastic group of supportive and knowledgeable foster parents, that serve as mentors. If you have questions or concerns, please contact a foster mentor BEFORE contacting the foster coordinator.

A list of active mentors can be found on the Team Front Street Foster CATS page under the “Files” section OR on our website www.frontstreetfosters.weebly.com/fostering-cats.html

You may also find a printed copy in the cat foster office.

Please make sure you add us on Facebook to stay current with foster info! We post kittens who need fosters and so much more on this page. @Team Front Street Foster CATS

The screenshot shows the Facebook interface for the group 'Team Front Street Foster CATS'. The 'Files' section is selected, displaying a list of documents and PDFs. A red arrow points to the document titled 'CAT FOSTER MENTORS'. The list includes various files such as 'Plants Toxic to Cats ASPCA.docx', 'Cat Foster Program Schedule - June 2018.do...', 'CAT FOSTER CONTACT LIST.docx', 'Foster Cat Fillable Personality Form - NEW 2018.pdf', 'Foster Cat Personality Form - NEW 2018.doc...', 'Foster Cat Personality Form - NEW 2018.pub', 'Bottle Baby Kitten Manual 2015.docx', 'Cat Foster Manual 2013.docx', 'Socializing Feral Kittens - Ally Cat Allie...', 'FIP Handout.docx', and 'Cat Adopter Survey 11.8.15.pdf'. The 'CAT FOSTER MENTORS' document is highlighted with a red arrow pointing to it from the left sidebar.

Name	Type	Modified
Plants Toxic to Cats ASPCA.docx	Document	Samantha Burgin July 14 at 9:07 AM
Cat Foster Program Schedule - June 2018.do...	Document	Samantha Burgin June 9 at 3:36 PM
CAT FOSTER CONTACT LIST.docx	Document	Samantha Burgin June 9 at 3:34 PM
Foster Cat Fillable Personality Form - NEW 2018.pdf	PDF	Susan Tashima Toppenberg March 12 at 9:51 AM
Foster Cat Personality Form - NEW 2018.doc...	Document	Samantha Burgin January 27 at 11:28 AM
Foster Cat Personality Form - NEW 2018.pub	File	Samantha Burgin January 27 at 11:22 AM
CAT FOSTER MENTORS	Document	Samantha Burgin December 29, 2017 at 3:01 PM
Bottle Baby Kitten Manual 2015.docx	Document	Samantha Burgin December 21, 2017 at 1:20 PM
Cat Foster Manual 2013.docx	Document	Samantha Burgin December 21, 2017 at 1:19 PM
Socializing Feral Kittens - Ally Cat Allie...	PDF	Samantha Burgin November 10, 2017 at 8:34 AM
FIP Handout.docx	Document	Samantha Burgin November 10, 2017 at 8:33 AM
Cat Adopter Survey 11.8.15.pdf	PDF	Samantha Burgin November 10, 2017 at 8:32 AM

Cat Foster Contact List

Samantha Burgin – Feline Foster/Rescue Coordinator

Rebecca, Jordan & Rosie – Feline Foster Interns

(916)764-6862 call or text

CatFoster@cityofsacramento.org

SBurgin@cityofsacramento.org

Shelter Supervisor*: (916)215-4254

***Emergencies ONLY, and you cannot get a hold of the foster phone OR a foster mentor**

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY CARE (after 6pm)

*You may call one of the Cat Foster Mentors (list available in the “files” section of the Team Front Street Foster CATS page, or you may request a paper copy or one email to you)

Or (in order)

1. Jace Huggins (Chief ACO) - (916)599-5377

2. Jose Gonzalez (Kennel Operations Manager) - (916)202-3341

*Please make sure you have your foster kitten(s) animal **ID number**, we will need that to approve treatment.

Emergency Veterinarian

Mueller Pet Medical Center, 7625 Freeport Blvd, Sacramento 95822

(916)428-9202

****If your foster kitty requires emergency care YOU MUST GET PRIOR APPROVAL**

Kitty-Proofing Your Foster

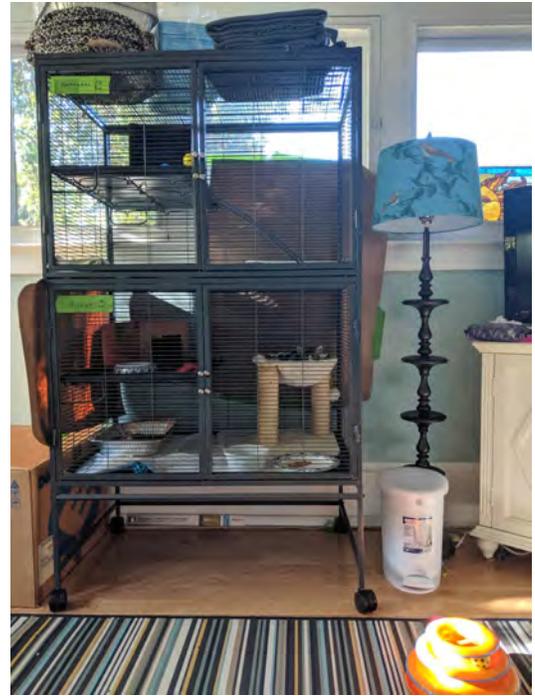
Cat-proofing and especially kitten-proofing your home is much the same as child-proofing it! That means hiding or removing cords, removing small items that kittens can choke on, etc. Use the following tips as a guide to make your foster room and home safe for cats and kittens:



- Make sure the garbage, cleaning supplies, and medicine are secure.
- Get into the habit of checking your refrigerator, oven, washer, dryer, freezer, dishwasher, etc. before these doors get closed. Kitty may have leaped in. These horrible accidents happen more often than you would expect.
- Watch that hot irons or other hot or heavy objects a rambunctious kitty may knock down aren't left out. Use non-toxic products whenever possible.
- Review the toxic houseplant list at www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants and remove all poisonous plants from your house.
- Keep all small items like rubber bands, paper clips, needles, thread, and fishhooks- anything kitty can swallow- out of reach.
- Never leave razors in the bathroom if this is where you are housing kitty.
- Keep plastic bags, which can cause suffocation, out of reach.
- Exposed electrical cords are a very real danger. Kitties will chew them and can be electrocuted. This can cause burns or death. Encase cords in flexible tubing (available at office supply stores) for just this purpose.
- The best way to prevent accidents is to house fosters away from hot items; water heaters, fireplaces, wood burning stoves can be hazardous.
- **Remember kittens = 2 year old toddlers (just with more legs)**

Housing

⇒ You must provide a clean, safe environment for your foster cats/kittens. The Front Street Shelter recommends that you use a spare bedroom or bathroom as your “foster” room.



If you are fostering a mom with kittens, keep the following tips in mind:



- Consider protecting your furniture and carpet with sheets or plastic table covers. Kittens can be messy, especially when they are learning to use the litter box! Make sure sheets/covers are securely tacked down so kittens don't get under them.
- Until the age of 3-4 weeks, the mother cat will clean the kitten's genitals to stimulate the bowels and bladder. As the kittens start showing interest in the litter box, provide them with an easily accessible box - a lower lipped box they can step over is essential.

Cleaning Up Between Litters

- Once your group of kittens have gone up for adoption, you must sanitize your fostering room or area before you can take home a new batch of kittens. Remove anything the kittens touched and clean it with a weak **bleach solution, consisting of 1-part bleach to 32 parts cold water.**
- Or you may request to be given some Accel (Rescue) cleaner from the shelter.
- If you have items that can be washed in the dishwasher, please do so since the heat will disinfect those items.



- Plastic or metal items need to be sanitized, such as litter boxes or plastic toys, should be soaked in the bleach solution for 10 minutes and then rinse off.
- Wash all bedding with bleach or Accel and hot water.
- Throw away any toys that cannot be sterilized.
- Being conscientious about sterilization will help ensure that your next foster group will not catch any illness from the previous group of kittens.

Types of Fostering

We have several different types of fostering that is needed.

- **Bottle Babies (6-8 weeks of care)**
- **Feeder/Growers (4-6 weeks of care)**
 - **Feral (socialization) Kittens**
- **Mom with Babies (6-8 weeks of care)**
- **Resbid Care (1 week – 1 month of care)**
- **Medical (depending on the animals need)**
- **Fospice (depending on the animal's needs)**

***We do limit the number of foster animals per household**



Picking Up Your Fosters

- Once you have committed to taking a litter, and have scheduled a time for pick up, please arrive at the scheduled time.
- If you are unable to keep the appointment or you are going to be late, please call the Foster Care Coordinator.

Pick Up!



- When you pick up the foster, you will also:
 1. Sign the foster agreement
 2. Get copies of the kennel card
 3. Food or litter, if needed
 4. Appointment for next check up
- If you can bring your own carrier, it is appreciated.



Cat Foster Supplies

We provide food, litter, and any medication needed. We try our best to send home as many of the supplies as we can.

Royal Canin Baby Cat Dry/Wet	KMR, kitten milk replacer
Friskies Wet, variety of flavors	2 nd Step, weaning formula
Fancy Feast Wet, variety of flavors	Fox Valley Day One, kitten milk replacer
Baby Food, chicken flavor	Pellet Cat Litter

**Make sure you are using the supply request form when you need more supplies



Bottle Babies



What you will need for raising bottle babies:

- Top loading carrier
- Heating pad and/or microwave safe warming disk
- Towels
- Baby blankets
- Wash cloths
- Baby wipes/or toilet paper
- Kitten Milk Replacer (KMR or Fox Valley)
- Kitten nursing bottle and extra nipples
- Bottle brush
- Shaker Bottle
- Small funnel
- Kitchen food scale
- Hand sanitizer
- Bleach
- Cat Foster Contact List
- Small stuffed animal
- Karo Syrup
- Unflavored Pedialyte

Bottle Babies – feeding

Sterilize the Bottle & Nipples

- Sterilize the bottle and nipples (if they are brand new) in boiling water, place on clean towels and let cool completely.

Preparing the Formula

- Use a little whisk or a shaker bottle to mix the formula.
- 2 scoops formula to 3 scoops water
- Fill several bottles at one time and refrigerate.
- Warm each as needed. Be aware the formula has a shelf life.



Steps to Bottle Feeding a Newborn Kitten

- Warm up the formula, it is best to warm up the bottle in a coffee cup filled with warm/hot water. OR in a baby bottle warmer.



***DO NOT** put the bottle in the microwave. Toxins from the plastic/rubber may leach into the milk*

- Test the temperature on your wrist.



Bottle Feed and burp the kitten

- Shake bottle to mix up any hot spots
- Put nipple in side of kittens mouth then center it, let kitten position it comfortably
- Squeeze a few drops out, then stop. You should feel the kitten latching on
- Do not overfeed – this can cause diarrhea.
- Stimulate the genitals so the kitten can urinate and defecate
- Offer more formula to the kitten
- Clean/bathe the kitten
- Place kitten back into warm, dry and clean nest/carrier

Bottle Babies – feeding

Proper Position of the Kitten for Bottle-Feeding

- **IMPORTANT:** Position the kitten properly. Raising his head may cause aspiration (inhalation of formula into the lungs), which could be fatal.
- Kitten should be feet down/head straight (as if it was nursing from its mom)
- Never feed a kitten on his/her back like a human baby
- Never hold the kitten in the air while feeding
- Kitten should be manipulating the suction. Do not squeeze or force formula into his/her mouth.



Bottle Babies – feeding

Burping

- Kittens must be burped after every feeding
- Hold the kitten upright against your shoulder or place one hand under his/her belly and gently pat and rub his back.



Bottle Babies – elimination

Supplies

- Baby Wipes

How to Stimulate a Kitten for Elimination

- Hold upright
- Stimulate genitals
- Rub in one direction like mom would
- Do not rub back and forth – friction is irritating
- Keep it up until all urination and/or defecation stops
- Kitten will not keep peeing when you stop rubbing, so continue until bladder is empty
- After, you can offer more formula, if he spits out the nipple the he is full!



URINE	NORMAL	ABNORMAL
Color	Pale Yellow	Dark
Odor	No Odor	Pungent (strong)
STOOL	NORMAL	ABNORMAL
Color	Yellowish/Brown	White or Green

- Kittens should be urinating almost every time you stimulate them. If no urine is produced after 12 hours, please call the Foster Coordinator.
- Normal kitten poop is mustard or brown colored, firm, and formed in tiny little logs, but still squishy, especially as a newborn. Green or yellowy watery stool usually means overfeeding.
- Kittens usually poop at least once a day.
- If they do not poop for more than two days, please call the foster coordinator. **“The kitten will poop when it wants too!” – Dr. Warner**

Bottle Babies – staying clean

Supplies

- Baby Shampoo (i.e. Johnsons & Johnsons)
- Soft towels with no holes or loops
- Blow-dryer



Bathing

- The water should be warm
- When bathing, hold each kitten tightly by the scruff of the neck
- Talk reassuringly to them during the process
- Start by getting the kitten wet
- You should only need a pea sized amount of soap, work into a good lather, spreading the later all over the kitten's body and the top of their head. Make sure you work it into their fur if your kitten(s) have long hair
- Do not immerse their head in or under water
- Don't submerge kittens in sink of water, like what you would do for a human baby
- Towel dry or blow dry on the lowest setting. If blow drying, constantly move dryer back and forth
- Place kittens back in warm nest/carrier



Bottle Babies – weaning/feeding

Transitioning your kittens to regular food is a fun and messy time!

- Start around 4-5 weeks of age
- This is where it will get messy, they will eat in/on the bowl/plate instead of from the bowl
- When you start the weaning process, start leaving out fresh water all of the time.
- Soaked dry food can help make the transition easier
- If you are offering a formula (2nd step)/canned food blend, its best to mix 2 parts canned food with 1-part formula (or 2nd step)
- You can encourage the kitten to eat by smearing some on its lips or putting some on your finger and putting it in its mouth.
- Reduce kittens bottle feeding as he starts eating more frequently from the shallow bowl
- You can start to introduce dry kitten food in a shallow bowl – some kittens will resist weaning onto the dry food. If you cut down how many times a day you are giving wet food, this will help them to start eating the dry food.
- Feed as much dry food as they will eat
- Keep in mind that changes in a kitten’s diet can cause diarrhea
- By the time the kitten reaches 6 weeks old, it should be eating dry food the majority of the time.





Bottle Babies – weaning/feeding

It is best to feed the babies, somewhere that is easy to clean.



Bathtubs work great for this!

*For picky eaters, or those that are sick and having trouble. You can try scrambled eggs, or boiled chicken (remember no bones!)



OR cardboard boxes!

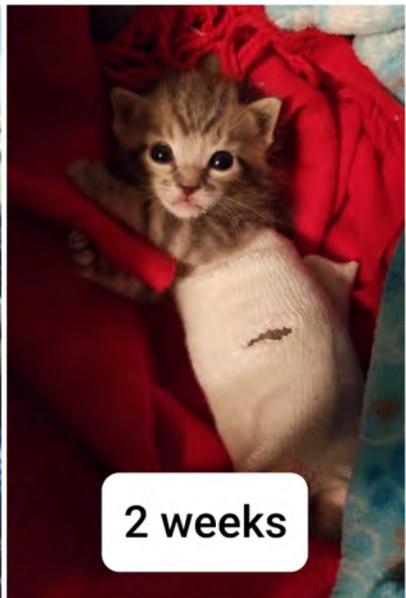
Bottle Babies – things to remember

The most important thing to remember...

There are no hard and fast rules to teach you about bottle babies.

except to keep them warm all the time

85% of it is “on the job training”



Feeder/Growers

Front Street Supplies:

- Food (dry and canned [if needed])
- Pellet Litter
- Medical Care
- Guidance
- Emotional Support



You Supply:

- Love
- Nurturing
- Safe place to grow
- Home environment
- Socialization
- Personality insight



Feeder/Growers – setting up house

- Start with a clean, safe area that is easy to clean
 - ◇ Spare room
 - ◇ Bathroom
 - ◇ Laundry room
 - ◇ Large dog kennel, ferret cage or kitten condo or pack n play
- Consider covering your furniture with old sheets or table clothes
- Shallow litter boxes with low sides are best for small kittens, learning to use the potty box
- Place litterbox in an easily accessible area
- **New kittens are required to have a 10-day quarantine away from any other foster animals and/or resident animals**



Feeder/Growers – feeding

- There should be fresh water available always
- With feeder/growers it is always better to start with dry food, if they have trouble with dry food, you can soak it in warm water.
- Of course we have wet food available if needed.
- For those picky eaters, or kittens that are battling illness, you can try feeding them chicken baby food, scrambled eggs or boiled chicken (no bones!)

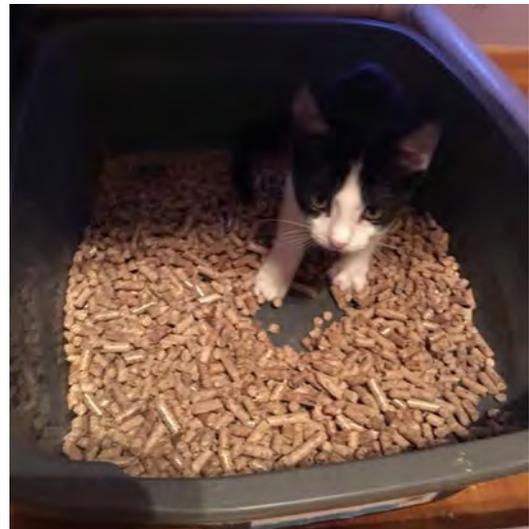
- exception: if you are instructed by the veterinarian or foster coordinator to feed these types of food(s)

**Keep in mind it can take an animal's system 6-8 weeks to get used to a diet change!



Feeder/Growers – things to remember

- It's better to put your new foster babies, in a small confined area, to start. Make sure there are litterboxes nearby.
- If they have the run of your house right away, they are more likely to have litterbox mistakes!
- Keep toenails clipped!
 - We are happy to show you how to clip nails and can even provide you with your own nail clippers if needed
- Bigger kittens need baths too



Mom with Babies

- Supplies
- Kitten food (dry and wet)
- Pellet Litter
- Nest box



- Make sure mom has kitten food and water available at all times. She will seem skinny, this is normal for a nursing mom.
- Change bedding in nest box as needed, make sure there is a heat disk or heat pad on one side of the box.
- The great thing about mom is that she does all the work!
- Mom and babies should be checked on at least twice daily. Mom will wean the kittens between 4-5 weeks. If still nursing at 6 weeks, we will need to remove mom from babies.



- Contact foster coordinator if the kittens are crying a lot, not nursing, cold to the touch or being ignored by the mother.

Resbid Care



- Sometimes we have cats that are up for adoption, but they need a break from shelter life.
- If you would like to take an adoptable cat home for a short time, please let us know or respond to foster pleas when you see this type of foster opportunity listed.
- We of course will provide all supplies needed



Medical Foster Care

- Many times we have cats that need a foster home to go to, in order to recover from surgery or other medical issues.
- Their needs can last anywhere from 1-8 weeks or sometimes longer depending on what the issue is.
- We provide food, litter and all medical care.



Fospice Care (Foster + Hospice)

- Every now and again, we have an elderly cat that cannot be put up for adoption, but is not ready to cross the rainbow bridge.
- This is why we have Fospice care, if you think you would be able to open your home and your heart to a terminally ill kitty, please let us know.
- We will provide all food, litter and any medical care necessary.
- Fospice care can be heartbreaking, but what you are providing to the cat is priceless.



Uma went through the Fospice program in the early spring of 2015

Socializing Your Foster Kittens

- First and foremost, we ask that you treat your foster cat/kittens with the same love and care you give to your own companion animals. Daily attention (at least one full hour per day) from you and other family members or friends makes them more people-oriented, and more adoptable. This includes petting, playing, cuddling, trimming nails, and grooming.
- By spending time with your fosters on a regular basis, you can learn more about their personality, which will help in matching them to the right family.
- You should monitor for behavior problems, such as inappropriate urination or scratching furniture. **If problems arise**, contact your Foster Care Coordinator to discuss behavior modification. The Front Street Shelter is not responsible for damages that might occur to yourself, others in your household, or your personal property as a result of feline behavior while in foster care.



Socializing Your Foster Kittens Cont...

- If you have “cat friendly” dogs in your household, please consult with your Foster Care Coordinator about proper introductions. Felines who have been raised with dogs, adult cats, or children who enjoy or at least tolerate their company often have an advantage on adoption days!

Please don't rough house with kittens or use your hands as toys, because it will encourage rough play with their “claws” when they grow up.

Socializing Your “Feral” Foster Kitten

When socializing your feral foster kittens; you'll need patience and repeated quality interactions.

Common techniques such as purrito, treat reward and play socializing; introduce other humans in the socializing time. The more and different types of people you introduce to your “spicy” kitten the better. Provide shelter and hidey spots, use a toothbrush to brush kitten and get used to touch, talk with your kittens a lot, separate social kittens from ferals, especially feral moms. Keep in mind some cats and kittens prefer the solitary life and by keeping and repeat forced socializing can lead to kittens and cats not able to survive outside but not suitable to be adopted.



Be careful! Children love to play with kittens, but they may not understand how to interact with them properly. Please keep in mind that **children should not handle kittens under 3 weeks of age and you must not allow unsupervised handling of kittens by children*

Kitten Health

Illnesses are usually acquired in utero, during the birthing process or in the post-weaning stage

Fading Kitten Syndrome/Failure to Thrive

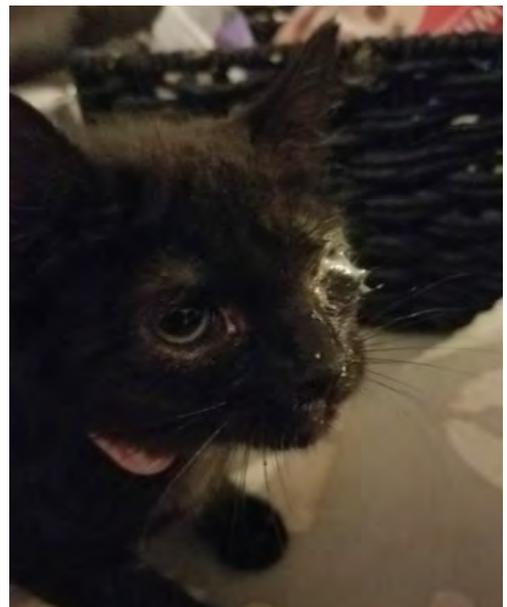
A “fading kitten” is one that appears healthy at birth, but fails to thrive (survive) beyond 12 weeks of age.

URI (Upper Respiratory Infection)

Very common in animal that have spent any amount of time in the shelter. It is usually caused by one of more viruses and usually antibiotics do not treat. Antibiotics are usually prescribed by the veterinarian to combat any secondary bacterial infection that can arise from the weakened immune system.

Symptoms:

- Green/yellow nasal and/or ocular discharge
- Decreased appetite
- Lethargy
- Coughing and/or wheezing



If your foster(s) are showing any of these symptoms, please contact the foster coordinator. Please make sure you have their animal ID numbers and are able to get current weights, so medication can be prescribed if needed.

Kitten Health Cont...

Diarrhea

This is probably one of the biggest things you will deal with when raising foster kittens. The most common causes are food change and parasite infection. It can cause dehydration, so making sure your kitten is staying hydrated is key. We recommend keeping kittens on probiotics all the time, even if the stool looks good.

Please follow this protocol when treating diarrhea;

1. Start with pro-biotics (if you haven't already) Bene-Bac, Forti-Flora, Pro-Pectalin, give that as directed for 2-3 days. You can also try adding a small amount of plain canned pumpkin puree to the food, if no improvement or the diarrhea gets worse...
2. Please email the foster office catfoster@cityofsacramento.org, make sure you have the kitten's animal ID numbers and a current weight. We can then give you a combination of three different medications that can help get rid of the diarrhea.
3. If after step 1 and 2 the kitten still has diarrhea, or it returns after treatment, please contact the foster office. We will make a veterinary appointment and a plan will be made with the medical team.

Panleukopenia (PanLeuk)

PanLeuk is a virus causing diarrhea, vomiting and sudden death in kittens. The virus is transmitted primarily by the fecal-oral route (including through exposure to objects/clothing/hands that are contaminated with the virus). The incubation period is generally less than 14 days, and cats may shed infectious virus for 2-3 days before signs are observed. Kittens are at highest risk for this disease, and adult cats with current vaccinations are at very low risk



Kitten Health Cont...

Ringworm

- This is a common illness cats and kittens can get. Ringworm is not a worm at all but a fungal infection. There are 3 types of ringworm infection.
- It is most common for cats and kittens to contract ringworm, when their immune systems are compromised and unable to fight off the fungal infection. If your foster animal does get ringworm, we have a very safe, easy way to treat it.



****Please keep in mind, that if your resident animal gets sick from your foster animals, the shelter is unable to treat your resident animal.**

This is why that 10-day quarantine period is so important. Please talk to your vet before taking any foster animals, to make sure your own pets will stay safe and healthy.

Helpful Online Classes about Kitten Health

Taking the Temperature in Kittens and Puppies

<https://www.maddiesfund.org/taking-the-temperature-in-kittens-and-puppies.htm>

Emergencies in Kittens/Puppies (0-4 weeks)

<https://www.maddiesfund.org/emergencies-in-kittens-and-puppies-0-4-weeks.htm>

Emergencies in Cats/Dogs (5 weeks and over)

<https://www.maddiesfund.org/emergencies-cats-and-dogs-5-weeks-and-older.htm>

URI in Kittens/Cats

<https://www.maddiesfund.org/upper-respiratory-infection-in-kittens-and-cats.htm>

Important Supplements



Bene-Bac is a probiotic and can help with diarrhea. It puts good bacteria back into an animal's digestive system.



FortiFlora is another probiotic, it is in powder form and you can mix it with kitten's food (you can mix it with formula as well). It puts good bacteria back into an animal's digestive system.



Pro-Pectalin is also a probiotic and can help with diarrhea and upset stomachs. It puts good bacteria back into an animal's digestive system.



Supplicol AKA Nutrical, this is a dietary gel that has lots of extra vitamins, minerals and calories. This is great for animals that need extra supplements and to help them gain weight.



L-Lysine, this is a dietary supplement that helps support the immune system. It is a great thing to add to the animal's food, especially if they are fighting an URI.

Important Supplements Cont...



Karo Syrup— This is a great way to raise a kittens blood sugar. To be used in emergency situations only. Please touch base with a mentor **BEFORE** giving to your kitten.

Cat Attract— This is a litterbox additive to be used for those kittens that are having trouble getting used to using a litterbox or having accidents.



****If you want to use any other supplements, you must get pre-approval from the foster coordinator, foster mentor and/or the shelter veterinarian**

Veterinarian Appointments

- We have two full time, one part time and one volunteer veterinarians, and usually have someone here 7 days a week.
- In order for your foster animal to see the vet you must contact the foster coordinator and schedule an appointment during vet hours. Vet hours are everyday between 3pm – 4pm, keep in mind the medical team can usually only see 2-3 cat appointments per day, they also have to help and treat the canine fosters, as well as all the animals on shelter grounds.
- We have more availability for vet appointments on the weekends, someone from the foster team will assess the urgency of your kittens need to see a vet sooner or later.



Foster “Shot Clinic”

- When you pick up your foster kitten(s) you will schedule the next “shot clinic” appointment.
- Your foster will come in every 3 weeks, until it is adopted, for a vaccine, deworming and flea control.
- After adoption it is the responsibility of the new family to follow up with their vet for any further vaccinations

Vaccines:

- Your foster kitten will receive a FVRCP vaccines every 3 weeks.
- If your kitten is 4 months or older, it will need a Rabies vaccines.



Foster “Shot Clinic” Cont...

Deworming:



- **Pyrantel** is for Round Worms. You might see these and they will look like spaghetti.
- **Cestex** is for Tape Worms. You will see rice-looking segments in their stool.

Flea Control

- **Advantage Multi for Cats** is for flea control. It also prevents and gets rid of: Heartworm, Roundworm, Hookworm and Ear Mites
- **Frontline Topical Spray:** Prevents and controls fleas and ticks, we also use this for lice in cats.



Vaccination Reactions

Vaccine reactions can include, but are not limited to:

- Limping
- Not eating or drinking the normal amount for 1-2 days
- Lethargy.
- Pain at injection site
- Unwillingness to play
- Low-grade fever

If any of these symptoms persist beyond 48 hours after the injection, contact your Foster Care Coordinator.

Some cats or kittens have an immediate reaction to vaccines, including severe vomiting, diarrhea, facial swelling, and difficulty breathing. IMMEDIATE vet attention is required!

Grooming

- Most adult cats are good at cleaning and grooming themselves. However, it is still necessary to groom them regularly. This action accustoms a cat/kitten to being handled and allows you to check for any health problems. Regular grooming can make it easier for the vet to examine the cat/kitten.
- Longhaired cats will require much more frequent grooming. Regular grooming will prevent snarls and tangles on the abdomen and around the inner thighs.
- Rest the cat in your lap and gently groom it with a comb or brush, depending on the coat. Paws, toes, ears, and mouth should be checked as part of the grooming. Keep sessions short (about 5 minutes). If a cat/kitten is less than thrilled with this routine, you may need to hold them by the scruff of their neck. This will prevent its leaving or offering too much resistance. Offer treats to reward them for tolerating grooming.

Ears

Check foster's ears at least once a month, orphans more often. Carefully clean wax deposits with a cloth wrapped finger or a cotton swab dipped in baby oil.

Be alert to inflammation or foul odor. Observe if the cat/kitten shakes its head repeatedly, rubs it against the floor, tilts it to one side or scratches at its ears.

Eyes

Keep eyes clear of any discharge.

Trimming Nails

Nails grow continuously. Before trimming nails, get it accustomed to having its paws handled. Gradually increase pressure on the paw so that petting becomes squeezing, as you will need to extend the claw.

You should be able to see the "pink" or "quick", which is a small blood vessel. You DO NOT want to cut into the pink portion, as it will bleed and be painful.

If you cut just the sharp tip of the claw, it will dull the nail and prevent damage from scratching.

Nails can be trimmed weekly.

Protocols & Procedures

Foster To Foster Transfers

We allow a foster parent to transfer or give their foster kittens/cat to another foster parent to continue care. In order for this to happen, several steps **MUST** be followed.

1. Both previous and new foster parents need to come into the shelter and complete paperwork. The paperwork needs to happen **BEFORE** the transfer occurs. Once paperwork is completed the kittens can be handed over to their new foster parent.
2. The new foster needs to be made aware of upcoming shot clinic appointments, veterinary appointments and any medication or special needs of the foster kitten.cat.

When to Contact the Cat Foster Team

- Sneezing and/or congestion with green or yellow discharge from nose or eyes.
- Coughing, wheezing, or heavy breathing.
- Diarrhea or vomiting- This can be life threatening to kittens!
- Straining to urinate or defecate - This can be life threatening, especially in males!
- Bleeding from any part of the body
- Lethargy
- Fever
- Temperature too low (below 98*) or too high (above 104*).
- Paralysis.
- Extreme change in attitude or behavior.
- Not eating or drinking.

Please contact a foster mentor FIRST, they can help with most of these kitten issues. If you have a general question, need a shot clinic appointment, put kittens on the fix it list, etc please email catfoster@cityofsacramento.org

Protocols & Procedures Cont...

Requesting Supplies

If you need more supplies (i.e. food, litter, supplements, etc) please fill out a supply request form which can be found on the foster website or

<https://forms.cityofsacramento.org/f/AnimalCareFosterSupplyRequest>

- Please give us **48 hours** to get your requested supplies ready.
- Because of the number of foster care providers, we generally do not call to tell you the supplies are ready for pick up. Just come in to pick them up from the Cat Foster Office
- We will call, text or email if we are out of anything you have requested.

Incident Reports

California State Law requires any animal that bites and breaks the skin be placed on a 10 day quarantine to observe for rabies.

Handling a Bite Incident

- Clean and flush wound immediately with soap and water.
- **Report the incident to a staff member.** State which animal was involved and the circumstances of the bite.
- **See your doctor.** The doctor may recommend a tetanus shot and antibiotics.

During this time the cat/kitten may be quarantined in your home, unless you are uncomfortable with this arrangement. The cat/kitten may be returned to the shelter and placed in quarantine.

If a bite is not reported, it creates a hazard for others handling the animal and we may release a rabid animal into the community.

My Kitten is in the Fix -It Pile, Now What?

- This is the moment you've been waiting for or maybe even dreading, you've grown your foster kitten to 2 pounds and they are ready for their spay/neuter surgery. With so many kittens in foster around the same age they tend to reach weight at the same time which means there are a lot of kittens waiting for surgery so it may be a few weeks before they are scheduled for surgery. Please be patient, we will get them scheduled as soon as possible.
- If you know there are dates that you will not be able to bring in your kittens for surgery (you will be on vacation, etc.), please put a Post-it note on the kennel card so Samantha can schedule accordingly.
- The kittens will remain with you until surgery. You will pick them up after surgery so they can recover in familiar surroundings.
- Once the kittens are in the fix-it pile it is time to start thinking about the biography for your kitten. The bio provides information that helps potential adopters choose the pet that is right for their family. There is a quick "About Me" form you can choose. You can also find samples under the "documents" section on the Facebook group.
- You will receive an email when your kitten(s) have been scheduled for surgery. You will be instructed to bring the kittens to Front Street the day of surgery between 7 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. It is crucial that you are on time. If you cannot make the appointment, you must call [Cat Foster Team \(916\)764-6862](tel:9167646862) or the [Supervisor Phone \(916\)215-4254](tel:9162154254) to let them know so that another cat may use the spot. You may NOT substitute a different kitten without prior approval from the foster coordinator.

Pre-surgery instructions:

- **ADULTS:** No food or water after 12 midnight
- **KITTENS:** Food and water ok, they can have a SMALL amount of breakfast that morning.

Kittens can be picked up between 5:00 – 5:30 p.m. the day of surgery so they can recover at your home.

Post-surgery instructions: You will keep your kitten(s) in a nice quiet area for the night, they can have food and water. It is normal for them to be anywhere from very quiet to hyper after surgery.

Adoption: Whether you have an adopter lined up for your kitten or not, you are going to contact out Adoption Coordinator, Shari Crum at scrum@cityofsacramento.org

She will get you through the adoption process.

If your kittens are made **AVAILABLE** in our system, they will show up on our adoption website, when this happen potential adopters will send an email to the foster coordinator expressing their interest in the kitten(s). The coordinator will then forward the email onto you. Your job as the foster parent is to contact that person and arrange for them to meet the kitten. This can be done at the shelter, during normal adoption hours. That way if everything works out, shelter staff can help facilitate the adoption.

Congratulations and thank you for growing a wonderful future family member for a very lucky adopter.

Your foster must be spayed/neutered before going to their new adoptive home.



Pictures

By appointment only through our Foster Care Coordinator, we have a professional photographer at the shelter volunteering her time on Tuesdays. **Again by appointment only!** Good photos can help get your babies adopted.

You are welcome to email catfoster@cityofsacramento.org with an updated picture of your foster.



Being an Ambassador for the Front Street Shelter:

As a Foster Volunteer, you are an ambassador for the shelter. You are the face of the shelter to those that you meet and talk to. Please remember to always be a good ambassador. Read up on the shelter and keep current with what is happening. Follow us on Facebook. Read your volunteer newsletter. Become familiar with our website (www.sacpetsearch.com) and the different programs we offer, so that you can properly represent the shelter to those that ask. CUSTOMER SERVICE IS KING! It is very important that any potential adopter is treated with respect and dignity, and has a great experience with our shelter.

What to do when you have an adopter:

As a foster family, you may have family members, friends or co-workers that are interested in adopting your foster kitten(s). That's great!

- Kittens are not available for adoption until **AFTER** they have been spayed/neutered. Once that is complete your potential adopter may complete the adoption process, please contact Shari Crum scrum@cityofsacramento.org
- Once the adoption paperwork is done and adoption fee paid, the adopter can then take possession of their new kitten(s)
- If you receive an email from the cat foster team that there is someone interested in your kitten, please reach out to the person within 24 hours. See if they would be a good fit for the kitten. If it sounds like they are, then you can arrange for them to meet the kitten. Please get in contact with Shari Crum, and she can help facilitate the adoption.



- Once your foster kittens are all adopted and you have cleaned your foster area and supplies. You can go to the foster website <http://frontstreetfosters.weebly.com/fostering-cats.html>
- And fill out the Ready-To Foster (Foster On Deck) form to let us know you are ready for more foster kittens!

Offsite Adoption Locations

- You have spent a lot of time and energy into raising these babies, good job! Because of this, we would prefer they go to one of our offsite adoption locations when the time comes.
- Once they are fixed, Shari Crum will arrange for them to go to one of our several offsite Petco locations for adoption!



Shelter Transfers

We have the privilege of working with several no-kill humane societies.

- Tahoe-Truckee Humane
- Oregon Humane
- Nevada Humane
- Yolo SPCA
- Silicon Valley Humane
- PAWS (Washington State)

We will call you or email you to let you know when we will be sending your kittens out to these places.



Team Front Street Foster CATS

- Great community resource for all cat volunteers and fosters
- Private Facebook group for our approved foster parents ONLY
- Once you have taken one or more of the cat classes and/or foster classes, you may request



Make sure to follow the rules! They are posted at the top of the group page.

This is a discussion forum for Front Street Animal Shelter's CAT volunteers! Please use this forum to discuss issues and ideas specific to cats at the shelter or in foster, praise for volunteers and staff, and provide positive support for each other.

Rules to remember:

1) This forum is for sharing information on shelter cats only. Please do not post anything that is not directly related to Front Street cats in the shelter or in foster. Using this forum to promote or sell products is strictly prohibited.

2) This is not a medical advice forum. Please contact the cat foster team for medical questions and go through the proper channels. No Google vets allowed! If you are not a licensed veterinarian, please do not diagnose or prescribe ANYTHING for our cats.

3) No bullying! This is not a forum for venting frustration or for being disrespectful to any staff or fellow volunteer. Keep it positive and supportive for the whole group. Thank you.

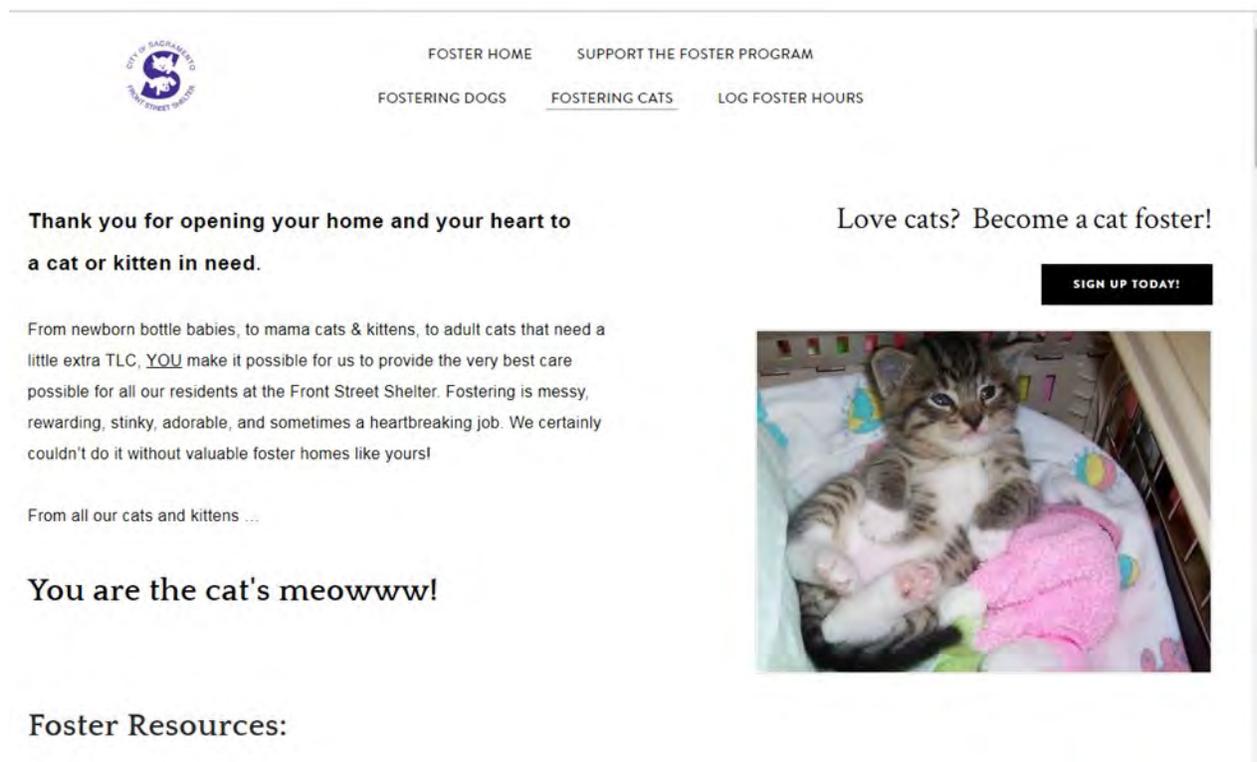
4) This is a professional work forum for volunteers and staff - that means that any inappropriate posts will be removed. The poster may be given one warning or may be removed from the group immediately solely at the discretion of the group administrators.

Foster Website

www.frontstreetfosters.weebly.com/fostering-cats.html

A great resource for foster parents.

- Cat Foster Manual
- Foster Supply Request Form
- Cat Foster Mentor List
- Ready-to-Foster Form
- Foster Contact List
- Foster Cat Personality Form
- Several online classes for different foster kitten issues that may come up



The screenshot shows the website's header with the City of Sacramento logo and navigation links: FOSTER HOME, SUPPORT THE FOSTER PROGRAM, FOSTERING DOGS, FOSTERING CATS, and LOG FOSTER HOURS. The main content area features a thank-you message to foster parents, a call to action to become a foster parent, and a photo of a kitten. A 'SIGN UP TODAY!' button is visible next to the kitten photo.

Thank you for opening your home and your heart to a cat or kitten in need.

From newborn bottle babies, to mama cats & kittens, to adult cats that need a little extra TLC, YOU make it possible for us to provide the very best care possible for all our residents at the Front Street Shelter. Fostering is messy, rewarding, stinky, adorable, and sometimes a heartbreaking job. We certainly couldn't do it without valuable foster homes like yours!

From all our cats and kittens ...

You are the cat's meowww!

Foster Resources:

Love cats? Become a cat foster!

SIGN UP TODAY!



A “Free” Kitty is *Never* Free!

A “Free” Kitty:

A Kitty From Front Street:

–Average Costs –

- New Patient Vet Exam - \$42-\$48
- Spay/Neuter - \$150-\$300
- FeLV and FIV Testing - \$65
- Microchip (and Registration) - \$75
- FVRCP, Rabies, other Vaccinations - \$200
- Treatment for Parasites (Fleas, Worms, Etc.) - \$120
- Collar - \$8

– Included in the Adoption Fee –

- Veterinary Exam
- All Medical Care Prior to Adoption
- Spay/Neuter
- Microchip
- FVRCP Vaccination
- Rabies Vaccination
- Treatment for Parasites (Fleas, Worms, Etc.)
- FeLV/FIV test (6 months and older)
- Collar/Nametag
- 30-day Return Policy

TOTAL

\$650 or more

TOTAL

\$65



Being a Foster Volunteer – a word from Janice Wagaman, Volunteer Coordinator:

As a Foster Volunteer for the Front Street Animal Shelter, you are an important part of our volunteer team. Even if you never come to the shelter to do anything other than pick up your foster babies, you are still part of Team Front Street! As a valued volunteer, we ask that you be part of our volunteer system. We will need you to complete an online volunteer profile and log your hours. We also ask that you attend a regular volunteer orientation and shelter basics class, if you have not already done so, so that you are familiar with the volunteer program and the shelter itself.

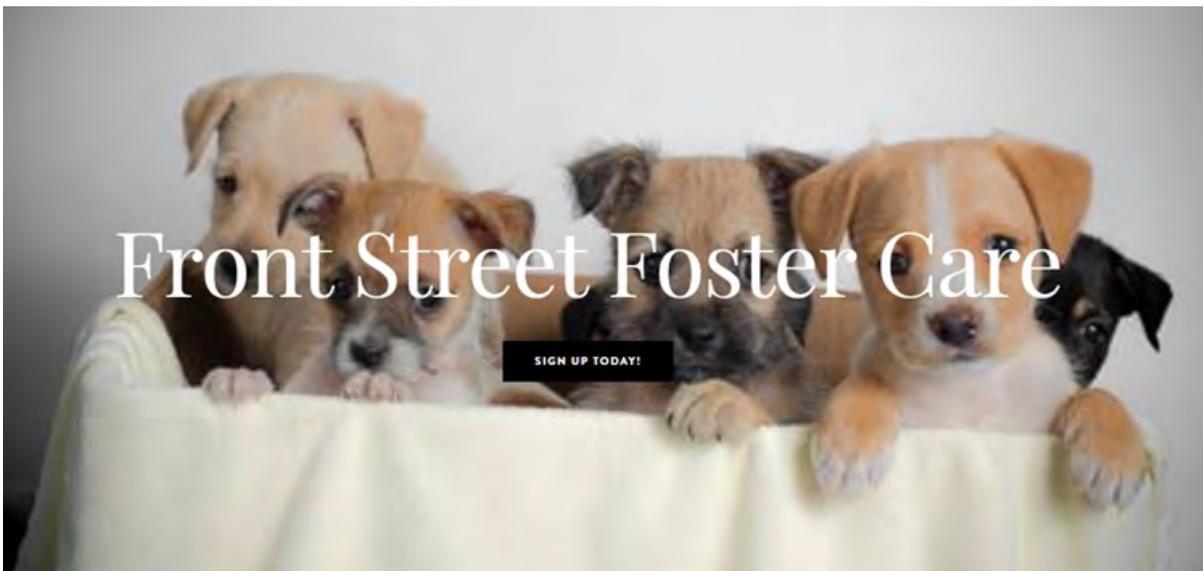
Our volunteer program is now online! We ask that you regularly log your foster hours on your volunteer profile. You are such an important part of our team – your hard work should be counted and celebrated. If you have any questions about the volunteer program or the online volunteer system, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Janice Wagaman, directly at 916-808-8166 or frontstreetvolunteers@cityofsacramento.org.

Online Volunteer System

The Front Street Animal Shelter uses the “MyImpactPage” program. As an FSAS volunteer, you are expected to use the scheduling, training, and hours log appropriately.

To register as a foster volunteer: (new)

- Go to our website www.frontstreetshelter.org
- Click on the Volunteer tab
- Click on the Foster-care volunteer link
- Click on Sign Up
- Create a user name & password
- Complete your volunteer profile



To register as a foster volunteer: (if you are already a Front Street volunteer)

- Go to our website www.frontstreetshelter.org
- Click on the Volunteer tab
- Click on Registered Volunteers Sign In Here button on the right
- Click on Log In
- Enter your user name & password
- Click on My Profile and then on Additional Info – scroll down and complete the foster questions (don't forget to hit Save!)
- Click on Interests and be sure Fostering Cats is checked

To access the volunteer system:

- Go to our website www.frontstreetshelter.org
- Click on the Volunteer tab
- Click on "Registered Volunteers Sign In Here"
- Click on Log In and use the username and password you created when you completed your online application. If you forget your username or password, please email me at frontstreetvolunteers@cityofsacramento.org and I will send you the information. DO NOT create an additional profile!

To access the "MyImpactPage" system on your smart phone, go to MyImpactPage.mobi. or download the My Impact app.



To log your hours:

- Log in to your volunteer profile
- Click on the Hours Log tab
- Select the appropriate activity
- Select the appropriate date
- Enter the hours you worked on that activity
- Enter your accomplishments as indicated
- Please use this formula to determine the number of hours to log for foster care:

1-2 Cats/Kittens: One hour per day per cat/kitten

3+ Cats/Kittens: 3 hours per day total

Bottle babies: 4 hours per day total

City of SACRAMENTO
Front Street Animal Shelter

Volunteers help save lives!

HOME OPPORTUNITIES SCHEDULE **HOURS** REPORTS CONTACT MY PROFILE

Hours

? Help ⇐ Switch to Administrator View 🔴 Log Out

Log Hours

Activity Show these activities Active Inactive
Cat Foster

Date Volunteered 03/12/2020 🗓 Hours 0 Minutes 0

Feedback	Response
Foster Care Calculations Information - click on the "i" icon for information (no need to enter anything in this field)	<input type="text"/>
Number of cats/kittens in my foster care	<input type="text"/>

Keep Feedback Fields Populated ⓘ

To sign up for shifts/training opportunities:

- Log in to your volunteer profile
- Click on the Sign Up tab
- Click on the activity or training opportunity you are interested in
- Check the box next to the date you would like to attend
- Click SAVE!
- Only opportunities that you are qualified to participate in will be available for you to sign up
- We ask that you sign up for the shifts that you want to work so we will know who is coming in when

To update your profile:

- Log in to your volunteer profile.
- Click on the My Profile tab.
- Click on the Qualifications tab.
- Update the trainings you have taken
- Update other information as needed – basic info, additional info, interests, availability, and goals

Foster Care Profile—Cat/Kitten

Cat/Kittens Name: _____

How long have you had your foster? _____

Where does your foster spend the majority of their time?

Is your foster litter box trained? _____

Do you have other pets in your home? _____

Does your foster get along with (check all that apply) Men Women Children Dogs Cats Other

What brand of food is your foster on?

How often is your foster fed? Morning Afternoon Evening Food is available all day

Where does your foster sleep at night?

Did you allow your foster on furniture?

Personality Traits:

Favorite Toys:

How would you describe your cat/kitten (check all those that apply) One person pet Curious Friendly
A Loner Shy Skittish Outgoing Active Demanding
Easygoing Moody Quiet Playful Good Companion for a child
Companion for another animal

Does your foster (please check):

Claw Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Claw on Drapes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Use Scratching Post	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Spray in House	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Chew Plants	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Meow Excessively	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Dig in Plants	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Like to be Held	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Foster Volunteer's Name/Contact Info (optional): _____

Foster Care Agreement

Please Read and Sign

1. I understand the goals and mission of Front Street Shelter and, as a Front Street Shelter volunteer, agree to work toward these goals and to represent this mission within the community on behalf of the organization. My commitment includes abiding by The Front Street Shelter foster care guidelines, as outlined in Front Street Shelter Foster Program Manual, which I have received. This includes, *but is not limited to*:
 - A commitment to keep Front Street Shelter's foster cat(s)/kitten(s) indoors and not expose them to other cats that have access to outdoors.
 - A commitment to follow Front Street Shelter's instructions with regard to medical care. Moms and kittens must be housed separately in their own room.
2. I understand that only Front Street Shelter's Foster Coordinator, Front Street Vet and the Supervisor have the authority to make exceptions/changes to program guidelines.
3. I understand that Front Street Shelter is the sole guardian of cats/kittens in foster care and that fostered cats/kittens must be returned to Front Street upon Front Street Shelter's request. I understand that Front Street Shelter has the right to terminate this foster care agreement and relationship at will.
4. I understand that if I, as a foster volunteer, want to adopt any of my foster cat(s)/kitten(s), I must go through the standard Front Street Shelter's adoption process. I also understand that I cannot send any of my foster cat(s)/kitten(s) to an adoptive or *potential* adoptive home until the cat(s)/kitten(s) has been altered, the adoption process has been completed by a trained Adoption Counselor and the Foster Coordinator has been informed. Furthermore, I must have permission from the Foster Coordinator before sending my foster cat(s)/kitten(s) to another approved Front Street foster home. I also understand that expenses for food, litter, treats, scratch posts, etc. cannot be applied toward adoption fees should I adopt a cat(s)/kitten(s).
- 5. I understand that foster cat(s)/kitten(s) need to be taken to Front Street Shelter's on-site Veterinary Hospital for any medical care and can be reached at 916-764-6862. The Front Street Shelter funds all medical care, and in the event of a medical emergency after hours or on the weekend approval is needed by the Foster Coordinator, Foster Mentor, Front Street Shelter's on-site Vet or Vet-Tech, and only if the medical care is provided at a Front Street Shelter approved veterinary clinic or hospital. I understand that if I choose to take my foster cat(s)/kitten(s) to a non-approved veterinary clinic, or if I take my foster cat(s)/kitten(s) to an emergency veterinary hospital without prior approval, The Front Street Shelter will not reimburse me for the expenses incurred.**

- Further, I agree that as a Foster Care Provider that Front Street Shelter shall be held harmless from any and all claims, liability, judgments, losses, damages, expenses, or cost of any kind arising out of any injury related to The Front Street Shelter Foster Care Program.
- I understand that I will be asked to bring my kittens who are 6 weeks or older to one of our offsite adoption centers once a month during their regular adoption hours. This will only apply while I am actively fostering and have healthy kittens that meet the requirements to be eligible for adoption at our offsite adoption centers.
- I understand that if I need to leave town during my foster period that I will need to give a two-week notice when possible to the Foster Coordinator and use the resources available to find a new permanent or temporary foster home.

Name of Foster Parent

Signature

Date

Foster Coordinator

Date





