



Foster Care Program: Everything You've Wanted to Know

Thank you for your interest in Helping Strays of Monroe County Foster Care Program. We are seeking individuals who are interested in becoming foster parents. After reading this information, if you have questions, contact us at 618-939-PETZ (7389).

What is the Foster Care Program?

The foster care program is a program by which Helping Strays is able to place temporarily animals into the homes of foster care volunteers to allow them the necessary time to become adopted. Potentially adoptable animals are given a temporary home, care, and love while they are waiting for a permanent home.

What Does a Foster Parent Do?

Foster families provide the loving attention required until we can place these animals in a new home. Volunteers take in dogs, cats, puppies, kittens, etc. These generous people provide a hands-on lifesaving service to homeless animals.

Who does the Foster Care Program benefit?

The animals: Foster care for shelter animals has a direct impact on the number of homeless animals saved each year. Animals that otherwise may have been euthanized can be adopted into permanent, loving homes. These animals also start out with a stronger training background and wider socialization, which will help them become the best possible pet.

The volunteers: Although foster care can be difficult, it is an incredibly rewarding experience. Each time a foster animal is adopted, you gain the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped another animal find a lifelong home when it may have otherwise been euthanized. It is a flexible volunteer position that allows you to choose the type of animal you are comfortable sharing your home with.

The community: Foster care provides the community a larger segment of healthy, socialized animals. In addition, as a result of foster care by volunteers the public becomes more educated on animal health and care issues.

The shelter: Since we do not have a facility this is the only way we can help to save the unwanted animals in Monroe County.

What are the Requirements to become a Helping Strays Foster Care volunteer?

To become a volunteer, you must first:

- Fill out a specialized foster care application, and have them approved by the Helping Strays adoption committee.
- Have landlord approval if necessary.
- Host an annual home visit completed by Helping Strays adoption committee member.
- Have adequate space and time to care for foster animals.
- Be willing to spend a large amount of time and energy with an animal that will be returning to the shelter for adoption.
- Upon approval you will be requested to pay a \$25 Illinois Department of Agriculture foster home licensing fee, done through Helping Strays.

Responsibilities of a Helping Strays foster care volunteer:

The basic responsibilities you would be expected to fulfill as a Helping Strays foster care volunteer are to:

- Provide food, water, socialization, training, exercise, and administer medication for foster animals.
- Provide a secure home for the animal(s).
- Ensure that all household animals are healthy and current of vaccines.
- Observe foster animals and report any problems or questions to the Helping Strays. Also, understand that veterinary care cannot be sought without receiving approval.
- Return all animals to Helping Strays as scheduled or requested by Helping Strays.
- Make a commitment to the foster care program and the animals it helps.

Foster Care Application

Personal Data

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (Day): _____ (Evening or Cell) _____

Email Address: _____

Over 18 years of age: Yes No

(If no, parent guardian must also sign application – page 2)

Household Information

Living Arrangements:

Do you live in a(n): Apartment _____ Mobile Home _____ House _____ Condo _____

Do you: Own _____ Rent _____

Does your lease allow pets: Yes No

Landowners Name: _____ Daytime Phone: _____

Do you have a securely fenced yard? Yes No Height of Fence: _____

Do you have screens on your windows? Yes No

How many adults in your household? _____

How many children? _____

What are their ages? _____

Have they handled animals before? Yes No

What species? Dog Cat Other: _____

Any allergies? Yes No If yes, how will you handle? _____

Personal Pet Information

Do you have any pets now? Yes No How many? _____

Name	Breed	Sex	Spayed/Neutered	Age
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Who is your current veterinarian? _____ Phone Number: _____

Are your pet's vaccinations current? Yes No

Do your pets have any behavioral problems or chronic illnesses? Yes No

Explain: _____

Where do your pets stay: _____

How much time to do devote to your pets on a daily basis? _____

If you have no pets now, have you had pets before? Yes No

Type? Dog Cat Other: _____

Where are they now? _____

General Information

How did you hear about the Helping Strays Foster Care Program? _____

Would you permit a Helping Strays representative to visit your home? Yes No

Can you attend scheduled meeting or occasional training sessions related to the Foster Care Program?

Yes No If no, why not? _____

Have you ever administered medications to a dog or cat before? Yes No

Have you ever participated in canine obedience training? Yes No

Where? _____

What pet supplies do you have? (i.e. litterbox, crate, grooming tools) _____

- Please note that veterinary services, medications, and special diets are provided by Helping Strays.
- Remember that any additional supplies that you provide are tax deductible due to our non-profit status.

Foster Information

For what length of time can you foster an animal? (days/weeks) _____

How much time daily would you have for a foster animal? _____

Do you have an indoor area to confine/isolate the Helping Strays animal? Please describe:

Why do you want to be a foster parent for Helping Strays?

Do you or have you fostered for other groups? Which ones?

What kind of animal(s) are you prepared to foster? (Please check all that apply)

_____ small dogs _____ medium dogs _____ large dogs _____ puppies
_____ cats _____ kittens _____ birds _____ elderly
_____ ill or injured _____ bottle fed babies _____ mom and litter

Additional Questions

How would you feel if it were decided that the animal that you were fostering needed to be euthanized?

Is there anything that you would like us to know about you and your family or resident pets?

Things to Consider

- All animals will need to be returned to Helping Strays at the end of the foster care period.
- Animals brought into your home may have contagious diseases that can infect your own animals.
- Realize that foster animals may have behavioral issues that need to be corrected and for a time may be destructive.
- We will need frequent updates, by phone or email throughout the foster care period.
- The Helping Strays staff, as well as other resources, is always available when you need to ask questions.
- Would your work schedule allow you to take home an animal that may need medications during the day? Are you able to make trips to the veterinarian for appointments?

I confirm that all the information supplied on this profile is true and correct. I also understand that foster training will be provided for me before I am able to begin fostering animals for Helping Strays. I understand that Helping Strays is not responsible for any property or personal damage, wounds inflicted, or illnesses caused by the foster animal(s). Completion of this application does not necessarily guarantee acceptance into the program.

Volunteer Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

The Illinois Department of Agriculture requires us to license all foster families. The license fee is \$25.00. Check or money order should be made payable to the Illinois Department of Agriculture and returned to:

Helping Strays
4221 Hanover Rd
Columbia, IL 62236
618-939-PETZ (7389)
www.helpingstrays.org