

Humane Society of the Palouse

Foster Parent Responsibilities

Give your foster animal lots of attention and affection:

The animal may have had a difficult life before coming to your home. Your love and attention will help heal the animals’ psychological wounds and help them learn to trust people again, or for the first time.

Learn as much as you can about pet care:

Before you bring your foster animal home, learn as much as you can about caring for that particular type of animal. Read about feeding, grooming and training. Study HSoP guidelines and Foster Parent Manual carefully and know the warning signs that may indicate the animal needs veterinary attention.

Make your home pet friendly:

Before you bring your foster animal home, make sure you pet-proof your home. For example, remove poisonous plants and protect furnishings. Keep the animals’ room warm and comfortable. Also, take steps to prevent the animal from escaping.

Keep your owned pets up to date on their vaccinations:

All animals should be current on vaccinations that protect them from diseases. Before you bring home a foster animals, consult your veterinarian to make sure your own animal(s) have received the preventative treatment they need to keep them safe.

Have your owned pets flea and tick treated and de-worm them as needed.

Keep foster animals away from your owned pets at least initially:

A foster pet may come into your home harboring contagious diseases that they are not actively showing symptoms of. Even though your pets are vaccinated against many diseases, it is best practice and recommended by HSoP volunteer veterinarians to practice caution and keep the foster animal’s way from your owned pets for at least one week as an added precaution.

Recognize your limits:

Fostering requires a great deal of time and energy, both emotional and physical. Don’t overextend yourself by fostering animals too frequently or you may burn yourself out.

Return the animal to the shelter on time:

HSoP depends on you to make this program work. If you have an animal that must be returned to HSoP at a

specified time, make sure to do so. Should an emergency arise, you must contact HSoP in a timely manner.

If you decide to adopt an animal(s) you foster, you must go through the shelters normal adoption process. If a friend or relative wants to adopt the animal you are fostering, that person must also go through the shelters’ process as well.

Understand that some foster animals will not survive:

Many animals that arrive at HSoP come from unknown backgrounds. Despite your best efforts, the animals you foster may develop a severe illness that cannot be treated. Do the best you can to help the animals, but accept the fact that you cannot save them all.