

OPEN DOOR

Animal Sanctuary

Thank you for your interest in fostering cats/kittens for us. Here are some questions to ask yourself to see if fostering is right for you.

- Are you aware there is a great deal of clean-up time, and there is always a possibility of damage to your home? Kittens especially can be very messy with their food, water, and litter box.
- Are you able to separate your foster cats/kittens from your own animals? Even though we conduct admissions examinations and have current medical records for our foster cats/kittens, they can harbor illnesses that do not immediately present symptoms. Therefore, it is important to keep your resident animals separated from fosters for at least 14 days.
- Are you and your family emotionally prepared for the death of an animal? As badly as we wish otherwise, death can occur. Unfortunately, some kittens are born with congenital birth defects that we cannot see. Others are just too weak to survive. Because you will feed high-quality food to your foster kittens, house them in a warm, safe place, and provide them with preventative care treatments, their chances of survival are high. Our hospice adults are already nearing the end of their life. The death of a cat/kitten can be emotionally difficult, but the majority of the time, they are not the result of your fostering skills or abilities.
- Will you and your family be able to give up your foster cat/kitten at the end of the foster period? Foster families can become attached to their foster animals and sometimes find it difficult to give them to their permanent families or return them to the shelter. You can adopt one of your foster cats/kittens (starting with your second foster), but you will need to go through the same process as anyone else. If it's a case of "empty nest syndrome", we can provide another foster opportunity for you.
- Are you aware there may be some financial obligations? We provide food and litter, but you will need to purchase toys, scratchers, litter boxes, food/water bowls, cleaning supplies, etc. However, we will work with you should you need assistance with supplies.
- Are you able to spend quality time with your foster cats/kittens? Socialization is as important as feeding and keeping them clean. We ask that you spend quality time with your fosters. We want you to play with them so they learn that hands are not toys. We also want you to snuggle them. Socialization is a big part of fostering. You are training kittens to be super cats when they grow up and adults to feel loved and comfortable in a home environment.
- Are you prepared to work within our veterinarian system? Will you be able to bring your cat/kittens to the shelter when they need to be seen? We specialize in shelter medicine and know what medications will treat illnesses we see in the shelter. Are you comfortable giving medications as directed? Will you be able to bring fosters within a given time frame for vaccinations?



636-671-3643



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- Do you feel comfortable telling people that these cats/kittens are not your animals and can only be adopted through ODAS's adoption procedures? You may need to remind family, friends, and neighbors that you are a volunteer for ODAS and cannot take your fosters out of your home for "play dates" or adopt them without ODAS's permission.
- Foster cats/kittens are your responsibility. We ask that you check on them at least three times per day throughout the day. You should also closely monitor their health and behavior. Close observation helps us better treat health issues and find appropriate permanent homes for them. Are they all playing? Is one sitting in the corner? Are they all feeling well? Is everyone pooping, peeing, eating, etc.?
- Are you able to keep your foster inside at all times? The outdoors pose a great danger to cats/kittens. Even if your fosters are leashed or in an enclosure, there is a high risk of disease. The only time your foster should be outside is when being transported to the shelter and they should always be in a cat carrier.



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