



ALLEGANY COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in fostering one of the many orphaned animals available at the Allegany County Animal Shelter. By offering your time, energy and home to an animal in need, you prepare the animal for adoption into a permanent home as well as help prevent overcrowding in our shelter. The Shelter is always looking for more foster homes, especially throughout the busy spring and summer seasons.

Why Foster?

Fostering is a wonderful experience for you and your family; you can feel good knowing you have helped save a shelter animal's life. Even better, you've created space in the shelter to accommodate other homeless animals. Foster animals provide companionship and purpose. Your act of kindness is repaid in rewards that are beyond words.

PROGRAM SPECIFICS

By agreeing to foster, you provide temporary care in your home for companion animals who are not ready to be put up for adoption or when the shelter is full. Some animals only need a home for three days; others may need a home for three months. By offering your time, energy, love, and home to an animal in need, you help prepare the animal for adoption into a permanent home, as well as prevent overcrowding in the shelter.

Paramount to all we do, the foster home is integral to making the best possible permanent placement for the animal(s) in its care. As you represent this organization, please remember that you are fully accountable to the Allegany County Animal Shelter, local authorities and the community at large. You may not intervene in any way with established public or private contracts and/or associations unless invited to do so by, and not without prior approval of the Allegany County Animal Shelter.

How the Program Works

- Foster parents feed, groom, socialize, train, and medicate the animal during its stay in the foster home.
- Foster parents are responsible for providing food, water, time, and tender loving care.
- When the animal is healthy and ready to be adopted, foster parents use one of the shelter's many programs to get their animal adopted.
- While foster parents can adopt their foster animal, and are given first choice, we highly encourage serial foster parenting. It's addictive!
- Shelter adoption guidelines are followed at all times and shelter staff has final approval of all adoptions.

Foster Qualifications

- Foster parents must be able to provide a safe, loving and stable environment for the foster animal until he is adopted.
- Foster parents must be over 21 years of age.
- Experience with animal behavioral or medical issues is a plus, but is not necessary.
- Foster parents must have patience, as well as be willing to nurse any injury and/or illness — with the understanding that some animals will not recover from their injury.
- Foster parents must be able to transport their foster animal to and from the Allegany County Animal Shelter and the veterinarian during business hours, should the need arise.

Guidelines

- Foster parents must agree to pre-fostering home visits as well as home visits during fostering if requested.
- Foster parents may need to take their foster animal to the vet. The Allegany County Animal Shelter will be responsible for vet costs; however, these costs must be approved in advance by Shelter staff. If a foster parent wishes to take the animal for elective vet care, they must agree to cover the costs and must notify the Foster Coordinator prior to the vet appointment.
- Foster parents are responsible for administering any medications as necessary and providing post-surgical care as necessary.
- Foster cats must be kept indoors at all times.
- Foster dogs must be kept indoors or in a secure kennel when you are not home.
- Foster homes for dogs should have a secure fenced yard or you must agree to take the dog out on a leash at all times.
- No off-leash park visits for foster dogs.
- All vet visits must be pre-approved by calling the Shelter at 301-777-5930.
- Foster parents must respond within 24 hours to communications from shelter staff, the Foster Program Coordinator or potential adopters.
- Foster parents must agree to either let prospective adopters visit the fostered animal in their home or at the Allegany County Animal Shelter.
- Animal Shelter staff may remove a foster animal from a foster home for any reason they deem necessary.

Foster applications are available at the Allegany County Animal Shelter, 301-777-5930, or by emailing trafferty@twrwifi.net. For a list of animals available at the Shelter, visit our [Petfinder page \(www.petfinder.com/pet-search?shelter_id=MD203\)](http://www.petfinder.com/pet-search?shelter_id=MD203).