



## **FAQ About Fostering**

### **Q: How does the foster program work?**

**A:** Our foster program provides temporary homes for animals who need extra care, a break from the shelter environment, or a place to stay until they're ready for adoption. After completing an application and onboarding process, you'll be matched with an animal that fits your home, experience level, and availability. **No prior fostering experience is required—we'll guide you every step of the way!**

### **Q: How long do I have to foster?**

**A:** Whether you can commit a month, a week, or only a couple of days, we have many different animals with different needs. They range from kittens and puppies that are too young to be adopted and need a couple of weeks in a foster home to adult dogs that can stay for a sleepover! Let us know what you're available to do, and we can work with you.

### **Q: What if I have other animals at home?**

**A:** Many of our fosters have pets of their own! We recommend having a separate space for foster animals, especially during the first two weeks, to allow for decompression and prevent the spread of illness. Neonatal kittens and puppies may require strict separation from resident pets. Before fostering, please ensure your pets are up to date on their vaccinations and flea/tick preventions, and speak with your veterinarian if you have any concerns.

### **Q: What if I find someone that is interested in adopting?**

**A:** Please contact the foster department when you have an interested party! A potential adopter will need to fill out an adoption interest form, go through adoption counseling, and pay an adoption fee before they can take that animal home.

### **Q: What if my foster animal is having behavioral issues?**

**A:** Some foster animals may have special needs that require extra care or behavioral medication. But don't worry, we have a behavior training manager on staff that can help! We ask that you be patient while your foster settles in, as it can take a few days (or longer) for the foster to show their true selves. Ultimately, it's never a problem to take a foster back if they are not a good fit for your home.

### **Q: What if my foster animal has an emergency?**

**A:** No worries! We have a 24-hour emergency call line staffed by experienced managers who are available to assist you at any time. You're never alone—we're here to support you and your foster animal whenever you need us!

**Q: Can I adopt my foster?**

A: Yes, but you must go through the same screening process as other adoption applicants.

**Q: What if I have an emergency or a vacation coming up? What if the foster animal isn't a good match?**

A: No problem at all! We completely understand that life can be unpredictable, and not every match will work out. Just let the foster manager know as soon as you can, and we'll assist you in getting the foster animals back to us as quickly as possible. You're never "stuck" with a foster animal!

**Q: Do I need to provide supplies?**

A: BRHS will provide EVERYTHING! Food, bedding, bowls, toys, litter, litterbox, "adopt me" vest, leash, collar, harness, and crate as needed. Any time you run out of supplies, contact the foster manager about setting up a time to stop by to replenish your supplies.

**Q: What are the requirements to foster?**

A: We like to make the fostering process as easy as possible:

- You must be at least **18 years old** or have a guardian to be responsible.
- Live within a **45-mile radius and/or 1 hour** of the adoption center. Our adoption center address is: **88 Centipede Lane, Hendersonville, NC 28792**.
- We require all our foster volunteers to have **reliable transportation** as foster animals may need to return for medical care, vaccinations, spay/neuter surgeries, adoption meet-and-greets, or other appointments.
- You must also respond to emails, phone calls, or texts in a timely manner.

**Q: How can I become part of the foster volunteer team?**

A: While becoming a foster volunteer may seem intimidating, you have a team that is here to support you in every way. Simply submit a foster home sign-up form on our website, and once approved, someone will be in touch with you to begin the journey of fostering!

If you have any additional questions, feel free to reach out to us at [foster@blueridgehumane.org](mailto:foster@blueridgehumane.org)—we're happy to help!

**SIGN UP NOW!**  
**(FOSTERING IS FREE)**

