



Guidelines for Fostering Cats

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Thank you for being a RappCats foster parent! As a foster parent, you can make an enormous difference in the lives of rescued cats or kittens that may have suffered varying degrees of emotional and/or physical trauma before coming to RappCats. Without the assistance of foster care volunteers like you, the fate of these animals might well be difficult and painful living conditions or death. We hope your foster experience will be rewarding, educational, and fun for you.

On behalf of RappCats and the vulnerable animals we rescue, we offer you heartfelt thanks!

Foster Care

As a foster parent, it will be up to you to provide a safe and loving temporary home. This will mean keeping the cat inside as long as the cat is in foster care. It will also mean feeding, socializing, medicating, and otherwise providing appropriate care for the cat, and for its physical and mental well-being.

All cats must be kept indoors, unless otherwise agreed. We ask this to minimize the risk of accident, injury, or illness.

Please note the following guidelines:

Quarantine

Unless your foster cat has already been quarantined, your new foster cat should be kept separate from your other animals for 14 days as a precaution to protect it and your other animals from potentially contagious diseases. If the foster cat has not yet been vetted, it should be immediately taken to a RappCats approved veterinarian for the following: overall checkup; FIV/FELV testing; appropriate vaccinations (distemper; rabies if old enough); deworming if appropriate; treatment for fleas, ticks or earmites, if necessary; and spaying/neutering (if old enough). This veterinarian care must be arranged with a RappCats Board member in advance.

Health Care

As the foster parent, you will be asked to monitor the cat's health, behavior, and overall well-being and to promptly report to RappCats any problems or questions that arise. It will be your responsibility to seek approval from RappCats regarding vet care, to take the cat to vet

appointments or to notify RappCats of the needed appointments, to administer medications as necessary, and to record all medications and health issues.

All medical expenses will be paid for RappCats. However, all veterinarian visits must be arranged for in advance with a RappCats Board member, who will authorize payment with the appropriate veterinarian.

In an emergency where you believe that the health or well-being of the cat is in immediate danger, contact a RappCats approved-veterinarian if possible for instructions. If this is not possible, take the cat to the nearest appropriate emergency care facility. Contact a RappCats Board member as soon as possible, but in any event within a 24-hour period.

Food and Supplies

We ask that the foster parent help defray RappCats' expenses by providing food, litter and other basic supplies whenever possible. If this is not possible, however, please let RappCats know and appropriate arrangements will be made. RappCats will advise you as to the appropriate food for your cat or kitten.

Behavior and Socialization

Part of the fun of having a foster cat is the chance to play with it, pet it, and otherwise provide it with the socialization needed to help it be a loving, and lovable, pet. You will be asked to monitor the cat's behavior and to discuss any problems or questions with RappCats.

If you have other pets in your household, integrating your foster cat with them should be discussed in advance with RappCats, and the situation should be carefully monitored. Where appropriate, it is beneficial to integrate the foster cat with family pets for socialization purposes.

Cat-Proofing Your Home

You should be aware of special issues concerning cats in your home, such as:

- loose electrical wires they may be tempted to play with;
- open doors of a washer, dryer or other appliance (a cat can get into them faster than you can imagine, and cats have been seriously injured and/or killed by being caught in dryers or other appliances);
- opening or closing doors to rooms where the cat's tail may be caught;
- potential toxins such as chocolate, xylitol (a sugar alternative common in chewing gum, toothpaste and other foods, but highly toxic to pets), etc.; and
- other special issues that your home might present.

Adoptions:

If you should find someone interested in potentially adopting the cat, please make sure they are aware of the following adoption guidelines:

- State law require RappCats to obtain the agreement of an adopting party to spay or neuter any cat(s) not old enough to have been spayed or neutered at the time of adoption
- The adopting party will be asked to fill out an adoption application, and to allow a home visit by a member of RappCats to ensure the best possible match between them and their adopted cat.
- RappCats will ask for a reference from an existing or prior veterinarian (if the potential adopter has or has previously had pets)
- An adoption fee of \$95 is requested to help defray basic medical expenses.

Foster cats, if old enough and vetted, should be available for viewing by a potential adopter with 24 hours' notice if possible (although they will not be available for actual pick-up until expiration of the 10-day quarantine period and fulfillment of all adoption requirements). RappCats requires that an adoption counselor meet with a prospective adopter before finalization of any adoption. Therefore, it is recommended that the adoption counselor be present at the time the cat is viewed at the foster home. If the foster parent prefers not to have prospective adopters come to his or her home, an adoption counselor can pick up the cat and arrange for viewing at a separate location. Under most circumstances, the foster parent is welcome to meet any prospective adopters before finalization of the adoption.

There will be times that RappCats has an opportunity to promote the organization by bringing cats to an event. A RappCats volunteer responsible for that event will coordinate with foster parent to pick up and return the cat.

Emergency Phone Numbers:*Veterinarians:*

The following veterinarians are approved by RappCats and RappCats has prior payment arrangements with them. You will be informed by RappCats as to which veterinarian your cat should be seen by:

Rose Hill Veterinary Practice:

540-987-9300

21 Christmas Tree Lane, Washington, Va. (across from the Rappahannock High School)

Blue Mountain Animal Clinic:

540-743-7387

307 Collins Avenue, Luray, Va.

Emergency Animal Hospitals:

Valley Emergency Veterinary Center:

540-662-7811,

164-4 Garber Lane, Winchester, Va. 22602

Prince William Emergency Veterinary Clinic:

703-361-8287

8610 Centreville Road, Manassas, Va. 20110

The Emergency Vet Clinic at Fair Oaks

703-591-3304

4001 Legato Road, Fairfax, Va. 22033

Southpaws Emergency Center

703-752-9100

8500 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax, Va. 22031

RappCats Contacts:

Mary Katherine Ishee: 540.987.8296

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