



Foster Program Overview

Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in the Foster Program at the Bay Area Humane Society. Fostering is a wonderful way to contribute to the shelter and its mission by providing love and care to shelter pets in need. The individualized attention you provide your foster pets is priceless - you are making a lasting impact on their physical and emotional wellbeing.

We have three foster care programs for families and individuals – you may participate in multiple programs.

- TLC Foster Program - helps shelter pets become ready for adoption. These pets may be too ill, too injured, too young, or too shy to place up for adoption, yet. With your care and guidance, these pets will become healthy, happy, and ready for a home.
- Almost Home! Canine Companions - places adoptable dogs that present poorly due to the stresses of the shelter environment with foster families who will care for and promote these foster dogs until they are adopted. The foster families will take these dogs out in the community and share their stories on social media.
- Rainbow Path Hospice - places shelter pets with a terminal illness or advanced age (but with a good quality of life) in foster homes where they can spend the remainder of their lives in comfort, surrounded by caring and loving families.

Foster Process

To apply, complete the application and return it to the Foster Coordinator via fax (920-469-3114), email tania@bayareahumanesociety.com, mail Bay Area Humane Society, 1830 Radisson St., Green Bay, WI 54302, or drop it off at the front desk during open hours (Monday-Friday 2-7pm, Saturday 12-5pm). Your application may take up to 3 business days to be processed. Once approved, you will be contacted to schedule a 45-minute orientation. At the orientation you will receive a foster guide for the types of foster pets you are interested in, and the Foster Coordinator will go over the program in detail, answer your questions, and take you on a behind-the-scenes tour of the shelter.

BAHS staff determines which shelter pets require foster care and matches. All foster pets are evaluated for health and behavior prior to foster placement. Adult dogs are tested for heartworm and receive formal behavior evaluations. Adult cats are tested for FIV and FeLV, and kittens are tested for FeLV. Once we have determined the shelter pet's medical and behavior status, we can match them to a suitable foster home.

While in foster care, BAHS retains control over the animal's future. At any time, BAHS may make the decision to adopt out, transfer, or euthanize any foster pet based on the health and/or temperament of the pet. BAHS will always involve the foster family in this decision. If you receive inquiries about adopting your foster pet, please ask them to contact an adoption counselor at BAHS. BAHS must re-evaluate an unavailable foster pet before it can be deemed adoptable; Almost Home! foster dogs have been cleared for adoption but we must make sure the match is a good one for both adopter and foster pet. Adoption counselors will be able to guide the potential adopter through the adoption process to provide the best experience for both the pet and the adopter.

An email address is required for fostering, and a Facebook account is highly recommended. We utilize email to efficiently and routinely contact all of our foster families (over 100!) to provide additional care information, schedule appointments, and to share any program updates. While the Facebook account is not required, it will provide you access to the BAHS Foster Families Facebook Group. This group, for TLC and Almost Home! foster families, is made up of over 130 individuals who are all approved foster parents and/or BAHS staff. Foster families can easily ask questions about their foster pet, share animal care tips, and help support each other. Also, the Facebook group is used by the Foster Coordinator and BAHS supervisors to post shelter animals in need of foster care. A similar, but separate, Facebook group has been set up for Rainbow Path Hospice foster families.

Taking Your Foster Pet Home

Once you have completed the process to become an approved foster parent, the fostering can begin! The Foster Coordinator will match you with a pet in need that fits your availability. An appointment will be made to pick up your foster pet from BAHS. If you will be fostering a dog and have dogs of your own at home, you will need to bring your

dog in to meet the potential foster dog to make sure it's a good match. You will be contacted when the foster pet is due for a wellness check. A tentative date will be set for you to return your foster pet to BAHS to be placed up for adoption (if pet is in the TLC Program). This date is flexible based on your availability, shelter surgery schedule, shelter space, and the foster pet's progress. If you are fostering for the Almost Home! Program, you will keep the foster pet until he/she has found her adoptive home – which can be 4 days, 4 weeks, or longer.

BAHS can provide the basic supplies (dishes, crates, litter pans, litter, dry food, toys, leashes, collars, canned food, etc.) and any necessary medications. Because of financial limitations, BAHS requests that the foster parent provide additional treats, scoopable litter (we provide basic clay litter), and additional supplies at his/her expense. BAHS has some equipment, like tie outs, microwavable heating pads, and digital scales, that can be loaned out on a limited basis. Supplies you purchase for foster pets are considered tax-deductible donations! Ask the Foster Coordinator for more information.

Remember, you should keep all unavailable foster pets separate from your own, or anyone else's pets, at least for the first week or two. We understand that this may not be possible with foster dogs. Even with our best efforts, incubating disease or potential behavior issues may not be apparent during the pet's stay at BAHS. For the Almost Home! Program, these dogs may be integrated into your household. Please do not introduce any foster dogs to other dogs on your own; we want to make sure dog meets are conducted at BAHS to ensure everyone's safety. Foster dogs should never be brought to dog parks. At the orientation, the Foster Coordinator will explain why this is important. And of course, please treat your foster pet with the same love and care you show your own pets.

Medical Guidelines

In order to ensure the best care of your foster pet, BAHS requires that all foster pet medical issues be handled by BAHS. In most cases, the Foster Coordinator or BAHS supervisors will be able to diagnose the issue and offer proper treatment. In cases that require additional medical care, BAHS will arrange care to be provided by the shelter vet, and/or the veterinary technicians. Also, BAHS will make arrangements for the foster pet to be spayed or neutered here at BAHS. You will be provided contact information for after-hours emergency care at your orientation. Any unauthorized veterinary care will not be reimbursed.

Foster Care Principles

- Make sure your own pets are current on vaccines before bringing home a foster pet.
 - Bordetella (kennel cough), distemper combo, and rabies vaccines are required to be administered to your own dog(s) at least 10 days before bringing home a foster dog.
 - Distemper combo and rabies vaccines are required to be administered to your own cat(s) at least 10 days before bringing home a foster cat.
- Most diseases are not transferable to humans; however, a foster animal may become ill at any time during the foster period, and the illness could be contagious to people and other pets.
- BAHS is not liable for any injury, illness, or damage to persons or property, including owned animals, caused by a foster pet.
- Foster families do get first chance at adopting their foster pets as long as there is not an adoption hold pending on that pet. All adoption fees and benefits apply.
- Taking breaks between foster pets is encouraged. Whether your foster one pet or a dozen, you are making a difference!

Reminder

Have fun! Thank you for giving a pet a second chance to find a loving home. Please keep track of the foster pet's likes, dislikes, and personality traits. We can then add that information to the pet's file to share with potential adopters. We can also add photos and a video clip to their adoption profile. Helping potential adopters picture your foster pet in a home setting greatly decreases the amount of time it takes your foster pet to be adopted.

Even though we may not be able to save them all, you can make sure that they are all loved. Every pet placed in foster care is getting a chance they never would have had without you. You **ARE** making a difference in their lives! Enjoy fostering!

Questions

Contact Foster Coordinator, Tania Huycke-Phillips, at tania@bayareahumanesociety.com 920-469-3110 x104.