

Foster FAQ

Will a foster animal have accidents or cause damage?

Foster animals, like any other companion animal in your home, may destroy carpeting, drapes, clothing and other valuable items. Young animals are more likely to have accidents in the home based on their age. Preparing your home and the area the animals will stay in by removing valuable items and providing enrichment items (toys, climbing towers for cats, etc.) can prevent most accidents, but not all of them. We cannot guarantee that a pet will behave or be completely housetrained. However most adult dogs do very well on a schedule. We recommend taking dogs out every 4 hours for bathroom breaks. If cats are missing the litter box, make sure you are following the litter box rule: 1 litter box per cat + 1 extra, and 1 litterbox per story of the home. So if you have 2 cats, you need 3 litter boxes. In order to make sure the cat knows the location of their litter box, keep them closed in the room with their litter box until they have used it once. Then you can let them have more access to the home.

Do I need to keep foster animals separate from my pets?

Separation from resident pets is recommended on a case-by-case basis, based on the type of fostering. Generally, we require kittens & puppies be isolated from your own companion animals for the health and safety of both the foster animal and your own companions. A separate room or enclosed area, ideally with no carpet, often works best (like a bathroom, bedroom with no carpet or a laundry room). Adult pets, however, are generally going to be introduced to the rest of your home with the proper introductions and precautions. We always suggest having a back-up plan in case the pets need to be separated or need decompression time, like a bedroom where the pet can be alone. Also we recommend feeding all pets separately to avoid conflict over food.

What do I do if I think my foster pet is sick?

First thing, please email foster@lynchburghumane.org with any and all concerns. It is really helpful to get pictures or videos of the concern that we can show our medical staff remotely. Using technology like this allows us to access the concern without bringing the pet to the center. If a vet visit is warranted we will set a time for you to bring the pet to LHS or the Lynchburg Emergency Vet. All medical and veterinary services and costs are covered by LHS, but you need our authorization before seeking treatment elsewhere or going to the emergency vet. If you have a medical emergency during the business day, 9am-5pm, bring the pet straight to the LHS center. After hours, and on holidays (Christmas, New Year Day, and Thanksgiving) please contact the Medical Emergency Number as there will be limited staff at the LHS Center. **434-473-1383**

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What do I do if the match isn't right for our family or household? What if there is conflict between pets?

We totally understand that some matches just don't work out. We would ask that you first try to separate the pet from the cause of concern. Maybe restricting them to one room or switching access with the two parties. Email foster@lynchburghumane.org to arrange the pet's return. If it is an emergency/matter of safety please reach out immediately and we will assist.

I love the idea of being a foster parent, but I'm worried about how I'll feel when it's time for the animal to be brought back to the shelter for adoption.

It can be difficult to let go once you have become emotionally attached to a foster animal. Be prepared for tears and some heartache when you bring your foster animals back to LHS, but remember foster families play a crucial part in helping unwanted animals get the permanent, loving homes they deserve. Being a part of their journey is very rewarding and the information you learn is very valuable!

What if I want to adopt the animal I'm fostering?

This can happen when foster parents fall in love with the pet they are fostering. If you wish to adopt a foster animal, please email foster@lynchburghumane.org right away to let us know and we can reserve the pet for you. If a friend or family member would like to adopt, send us their information. Once the pet is able to be adopted we can complete all the paperwork for adoption.