

Some Things To Consider Before Fostering

PAWS Animal Rescue is looking for more fosters to help homeless animals. We desperately need them as we do not have a shelter in the Flint area. However, we do have some things that you should consider before you agree to foster a dog or cat.

What is the reason that you are considering fostering an animal? Are you looking for a shelter dog to save its life? Do you want to foster a dog first before you adopt it? Or are you looking to foster an animal that will go to a new permanent home and then take another animal after that? If you are looking for a shelter pet to adopt and not become a permanent foster home then we can help you. We give each adopter a two week trial period. That means if the dog or cat does not work out within two weeks and you want to return it you will get your money back minus \$25. **If you are thinking about becoming a permanent foster home** then we ask you to read over the following information before making a final decision.

Many of the animals are not in good health. This means, they may have parasites, kennel cough, fleas, injuries, heartworm, or parvo virus.

What do we do with the animals that have health problems?

PAWS Rescue will de-flea, worm and vaccinate and give heartworm treatment (if necessary) to all dogs and cats coming into our homes. If they have injuries, they will be seen and evaluated by a veterinarian. If they have parvo, we try to treat them in foster homes that have had experience with this, and then to a veterinarian if necessary.

Will my own animals be put in danger of contracting diseases? We hope that all of your animals have been previously vaccinated so that it will lessen the danger of them contracting a virus or parasite. Before we send the animal to a new foster, we try to make sure routine vet care has been taken care of, like worming, defleaing, etc. However, sometimes the animals of fosters do contract kennel cough or upper respiratory. We try to make sure that if they need medical care they will get it.

Some of the animals are abused, neglected and unsocialized! We need people who love will love them and be willing to put forth the extra effort to make them more adoptable.

What does PAWS Rescue supply for the animals? We will supply the pet food and litter for the cats and any meds that the animal will need. We will also pay for any visits to the veterinarian.

What will be your out of pocket expense? The main expense you will have is gas for transporting the animals to and from adoptions sites or to the veterinarian.

What are the drawbacks of fostering? It takes time to rescue an animal. Time taken to the vet, to adoption sites and time for socializing. Of course there is always the danger that the dog or cat could destroy objects in your home. Chewing, scratching and pooping and peeing. Many of the dogs are not housebroken. There is also the possibility that if you have a dog or cat of your own, that they may not like the new animal. Your cat may react by peeing outside the litter box

Is there any danger in getting hurt by a foster dog or cat? We try not to give inexperienced foster homes animals that are aggressive in any way. Of course we can never be 100 percent sure but we have a lot of experience handling animals and we have a good track record of knowing an animal's temperament. New fosters are given only those animals that are gentle and friendly.

What is expected from me as a foster? **A.** If you are fostering a dog, you are expected to keep it on leash at all times, or in a fenced area. If you go away, the dog should be in your house safely in a crate. **B.** You are expected to bring it to adoption days at least 3 out of 4 weekends. **C.** You are expected to keep up on any health problems that may arise and report it to an experienced volunteer. **D.** If you are fostering a cat, it has to be kept strictly indoors and in a safe place. It also should be brought to adoption days in a cat carrier and any illness reported to an experienced volunteer. **E.** Most of all, all fosters owned pets **must** be **spayed/neutered** unless they are under age. We advocate spaying and neutering of all animals and we must make sure that our fosters do not let their own animals reproduce.

What are the rewards of fostering a dog or a cat? The rewards are so great that you just cannot understand until you have done it. The pleasure that we get from taking an animal that has been abused, neglected and in ill health, and then using all of our skills and love to bring it around to a happy healthy animal cannot be described, or getting a healthy animal from the pound that would otherwise be destroyed, and finding it a great new permanent home.

What should I think about if I decide that I want to keep the animal instead of adopting it out? This happens quite often, if you decide to keep this animal because you just cannot give it up, we will try and talk you out of it. For every animal you decide to keep, it will be one less animal you will be able to help in the future. The best thing you can do for the animal is to let it go into a new home that has been approved by the experienced, qualified people that are PAWS Rescue. If that approach does not work and you simply cannot give up the animal, then you will be expected to adopt it by signing the PAWS contract and paying the standard fee.

People to Contact if you decide to foster:

Glenda Beatty- (810) 247-0356 or (810) 635-9649

Tiffany Daniels (810) 591-8960