

## **Frequently Asked Questions about Safehousing/Fostering**

### **What does a foster parent do?**

Foster parenting is a wonderful way to enjoy the love and attention of an animal without making a permanent commitment. Because we don't have a permanent facility, Much Love's foster program is one of the most crucial elements of our rescue organization. By taking an animal into your home, you are allowing it to become accustomed to a safe and loving home life. Although we can't guarantee how long it will take to find the animal a home, the average is several weeks, however it could be as little as a few days or as much as a few months. If at any time you would like to discontinue fostering, you are always given the option to stop.

### **Do I get to choose which animal I want to foster?**

Yes, whether you're looking for a mellow kitty cat that sleeps all day or an active, ball-chasing dog that you can take on jogs, our goal is to place an animal with you that fits your needs and wants and is compatible with your lifestyle. We will help determine which of our pets fits that description.

### **I don't think I could be a foster parent, I'd become too attached.**

This is one of the most common phrases we hear each week at our adoption sites. And we share the sentiment whole-heartedly. Because we take these needy animals and rescue them from dire situations, nurse them back to health if they are sick, rehabilitate and train, and discover and love each of their individual personalities, we know how hard it is to separate from them when they go to new, permanent homes. But because of this strong bond, we also know how rewarding it is when watching their new owner shower them with kisses and love, and know that we had a hand in saving a life and creating a new family unit. Foster parenting is an integral part of the process, and we can only tell you that it is one of the most rewarding things around, and the reason we all work tirelessly to make it happen!

### **What if the animal I am fostering doesn't work out for me?**

If at any time the fit of the animal in your care is not working for you, we will be happy to take the animal back and try a different animal in its place. Just like people, animals all have different personalities, and our goal is to help find the right animal for your situation.

### **Do I have to pay for food for animals in my care?**

Thanks to the generosity of Science Diet, we currently have a generous amount of donated food for our foster care needs. If you are able and willing to supply the animal you are fostering with food on your own, we welcome your generosity.

### **What about veterinary fees or emergency care?**

WECR gives all foster parents a list of veterinarians with whom we have associations with and pays for all veterinary fees and inoculations for animals that are fostered by our kind parents.

### **If I have other animals in my home, can I still be a 'foster parent'?**

Absolutely, as long as your pets are comfortable with their new short or long-term visitors.

### **If I have children, does that rule us out as a foster family?**

Absolutely not, although if you have toddlers in your family, we are careful in the choice of animal for your situation.

### **But how will the animal find a permanent home if it is living with me?**

WECR requires the animal to be available for weekend adoptions where we show our animals to the public.

### **How long will I be required to foster?**

Because our animals have been shuffled from the street or shelters, to vet offices and then to different boarding situations, we prefer that foster parents remain in your care until we find a permanent home. Although we can't guarantee how long it will take to find the animal a home, the average is several weeks, however it could be as little as a few days or as much as a few months. If at any time you would like to discontinue fostering, you are always given the option to stop.