



# West End Cat Rescue

## About Fostering a Cat

### Can you foster a cat in your home?

**Also known as “safehousers”**, foster parents of an abandoned cat or litter of kittens offer the TLC that can only be provided in a real home environment. If you have extra time and affection, you could help get an animal ready to find a home of their own.

### Here's what you'd need to do:

1. Complete a volunteer agreement form.
2. Receive training from a WECCR volunteer.
3. Prepare a place in your home to transition your fosters.
4. Feed, water, and clean up after your new addition.
5. Provide as much exposure as possible so the animals get used to people.
6. Bring them to adoption events.

### Some things you MIGHT have to do:

1. Picking up a cat/kitten from a volunteer or the pound.
2. Providing them a safe place to stay while you are out.
3. Administer medication if the cats/kittens are sick.
4. Take to the vet if illness occurs.
5. Being available to a potential family to come and meet them and be available to answer questions about personality.
6. Completing an adoption process should the family be a match.
7. Any additional expenses must have prior approval from a board member.

### Here's what you can expect from WECCR when you foster:

1. All food, dishes, litter box, litter, and other pet essentials.
2. Authorize veterinary care, when deemed necessary.
3. Provide vaccinations, worming medication, and any other necessary medication with prior approval from board member.
4. Provide support and answer questions.

## How You Can Help

Volunteers play an integral role within WECCR. The hundreds of animals in care have so many needs to meet, we couldn't possibly do it without the help of our volunteers. If you have some extra time and love to give, we can use your help! Below are some of the areas in which we can most use assistance:

**Adoption Counselor** - Do you try to play matchmaker for all of your single friends? Then we have the perfect gig for you. We've got hundreds of homeless animals who need to be matched up to the perfect families. Volunteer as an adoption counselor and help prospective adopters find the animal that is the best fit for their home. There's no better feeling than knowing that you helped to complete a family!

**Foster Home/Safehouse** – All of our animals need the TLC that can only be provided in a real home environment. We are looking for responsible foster homes to help out with some of these animals. Maybe we have a shy kitten who needs to be socialized and/or bottle fed, or a momma that needs a quiet place to care for her litter. If you have extra time and affection you could help get an animal ready to find a home of their own.

Underage kittens, sometimes with mothers, sometimes orphans, are placed in foster homes until ready for adoption. Animals that are ill or injured or have special needs are also fostered. They may stay for a day or for several weeks. A foster home must be able to provide a safe, warm place isolated from other pets. The animals need lots of human contact to help develop confidence and social skills and some may require medication. Supplies such as food, litter and bedding can be provided by WECR/S.A.F.E. In spring and summer many additional foster homes are needed to care for the hundreds of litters of kittens we rescue each year.

**Adoption Event Helper** – WECR often gets invited to community events to share information about our organization and responsible pet care. Help spread the word by helping staff a booth at a local event or adopt-a-thon.

**Home Visit Representative** – Do you want to help out, but have a busy schedule that prevents you from making it to the shelter often? Help us connect the dots between a homeless animal and a new home, by helping with our adoption process. We do a home visit with every adoption to make sure that it's the right home for the animal and the right animal for the home. You can stick to the areas near where you live or work and help animals find their way to the right home while saving on gas.

**Volunteer Coordinator** – If you would like to organize our volunteer contact information, volunteer duties, and coordinate activities and timing, we sure would like you to step on up.

**Transporter** –This involves picking up animals from the Hopewell Pound or elsewhere and taking them to the vet, the new foster home, or to an adoption event and back. Also you may be asked to pick up donations of pet foods and supplies. Sometimes we have as much as a day's notice, sometimes we need a driver immediately. Any animal you transport will already have its own traveling crate. You just provide the wheels and the time.

**Special Events:** Would you be comfortable speaking to a small group? Area schools, clubs and organizations sometimes ask us to come talk with them about pet care or animal rescue.

**Fundraising:** This one is wide open. Do you have a great idea? Can you organize it and get others involved to make it work? We're listening!

**Grant Writing:** If you have experience in grant writing this might be perfect for you. There are many corporation, organizations and charitable foundations with grant money available. This can be done in your home in your spare time.

These are just some of the volunteer opportunities at WECR/S.A.F.E. The first step to volunteering is to fill out a **Volunteer Application**. Once it's received, the volunteer coordinator will get in touch with you to let you know when the next new volunteer orientation will be held. Once you attend that you should have an idea of where you would fit in best at the shelter and then you can get started volunteering!

**Overview:** A foster home is a temporary home in which our cats/kittens can live like they are supposed to live – as our companions – until they are adopted. Foster homes provide a safe and loving environment for animals in our care that are either waiting for their new families to find them or while on any additional days of medication.

**More Detail:** After picking up the cat/kitten up from the pound or a WECR/S.A.F.E. volunteer, it will be your responsibility to give them a clean and comfortable place to stay, administer any needed medications, and provide love and attention. By keeping their living quarters clean, we are keeping the animals healthier. Foster homes need to feel comfortable performing an adoption to a fully screened family. That can happen at either your home or a more public location. You are even welcome to take the animal to the adopter's home if you'd like that type of interaction with the new family.

**Cats/Kittens:** Many of our foster families work full or part time. When that is the case we suggest that you take two cats/kittens so that they can entertain each other. We can provide a crate so that the cats/kittens have a save place to stay during the day.

**Who should be Foster Homes:** We look for people who love to interact with animals and truly understand that you are helping to save their lives. Our foster families have all kinds of schedules and busy lives, but they enjoy the little bit of heaven saving a life can provide.

## **THE FOSTER "ROOM" IN YOUR HOME**

All fosters must be kept indoors and separate from your pets. A kitten-proofed extra bedroom, bathroom, or laundry room are ideal. New animals brought into your home should be isolated from other household pets. Please understand that whenever you expose your personal pet to a foster cat or kitten, there is a risk of illness or infection. Wash your hands after handling your foster cat/kittens. If your fosters have a contagious condition, you might also want to wear a long-sleeved shirt while handling the fosters, then take it off prior to having any interaction with your own pets. Your pets should be current on all vaccinations for their own protection. WECR/S.A.F.E. is not legally or financially able to provide medications or treatment for any kitties except those belonging to WECR/S.A.F.E..

## **THE ADOPTION PROCESS**

You are our best source of information about your foster(s). Any information you can provide will help ensure a good placement, and will result in happy kitties and happy adopters. If you would like to adopt your own foster cat/kitten, you must qualify as an approved adopter. If you know someone who would like to adopt one of your foster kittens, the prospective adopter must go through the routine adoption procedure and pay the normal adoption fee. While we appreciate referrals from our foster homes, please do NOT promise any cat or kitten(s) to anyone. ALL ADOPTIONS MUST BE APPROVED BY A QUALIFIED WECR/S.A.F.E. ADOPTION COUNSELOR and cats and kittens should not be shown to interested adopters unless and until an approved adoption application is on file with WECR/S.A.F.E..