



Welcome To Our Foster Family!

Thank you for opening your hearts and homes...

... to kitties needing a little more time to grow or a little extra TLC before they can be adopted into their **forever home**. You make it possible for us to **save more lives** and provide the very best environment for the health and happiness of all the kitties we take in. Fostering is a messy, rewarding, stinky, adorable, and sometimes heart-breaking job. Your dedication allows our organization to rescue cats and kittens we would otherwise have to turn away due to limited space in our shelter! **So thank you, thank you, thank you!**

The Guiding Mission Of The Foster Program:

Provide cats/kittens with a safe, nurturing environment and individualized care.

Socialize shy or timid cats/kittens to prepare them for adoption.

Give our long-term residents time away from the shelter to keep them happy.

Provide adopters with valuable information to place cats/kittens with the right families.

Important Numbers

Shelter: 970-484-8516

Clinic: 970-484-1861

Foster Coordinator: 970-658-0793 (Hours: 9-5pm M,T,W,F and 10-6pm Th. Available weekends/after hours for emergencies)

Backup Emergency: 970-372-9053

Emergency Veterinary Clinics

Must be approved by mentor or FCCRSNC staff first

Fort Collins Emergency Veterinary Clinic
816 S. Lemay Avenue, Fort Collins
970-484-8080

CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital
300 West Drake Road, Fort Collins
970-297-5000

Your Mentor's Contact Information

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Emails/Websites

How do I ask questions or give feedback about the foster program? foster@fccrsnc.org

How do I report vaccines, dewormings, and special medicines given? foster@fccrsnc.org

Where do I send my petfinder photos/descriptions? petfinder@fccrsnc.org

How do I schedule my kittens for surgery? foster@fccrsnc.org

Where can I go to share happy stories and photos? <https://www.facebook.com/fccrsnc>

How do I sign up for Adoption Events? foster@fccrsnc.org

How do I log my foster volunteer hours?

Through the volunteer login on www.fccrsnc.org

Table of Contents

Mentors - Your New Best Friends

Foster Animal Emergency Protocol

Non-Emergency Clinical Signs

How Do I Sign Up For A Foster Group?

Picking Up Your Foster Kittens - Woo Hoo!

Your Foster Room & Kitty-Proofing

Litter Box

Food and Water

Weaning Kittens

Naming Your Foster Cats/Kittens & Socializing Your Foster Cats/Kittens- THE FUN PART!

Resident Pets and Children

Kitten Development

Scheduling Surgery

Adoption Policies and Procedures

A "Free" Kitty is Never Free

Petango

Reservations and Adoption

The Kitten Kit

Vaccines and Dewormer

Neo-Natal Care

Common Ailments

General and Emergency Veterinary Care

Cleaning Between Your Foster Groups

Logging your Foster Volunteer Hours

Expenses and Donations/Foster Incentives

Mentors - Your New Best Friends

Each foster parent will be assigned a mentor after they complete their home check based on where they live. Mentors have previous experience fostering kittens and/or veterinary medical knowledge.

Your mentor will help you with:

1. kitten-proofing your home
2. behavioral and dietary concerns
3. basic kitten care and medical questions
4. administering vaccines, de-wormer, sub-q fluids and medicines
5. kitten health emergencies

Contact your mentor with any questions or concerns you have about your kitten's health or well-being.



Gather some information together before you call:

How long have the symptoms been going on?

Is kitty eating, drinking, pooping, peeing?

Any vomiting? Diarrhea? What does it look like?

What is the kitty's temperature? Normal temperature is 100.0-102.6 F.

Are his/her eyes alert and clear? Any discharge?

Is the kitty still active and playing throughout the day? Or lethargic and unresponsive?

If you are worried, but you aren't sure about the symptoms mentioned above, call your mentor anyway - that is what they are here for.

For non-emergent situations, **please allow 12-24 hours for your mentor to get back to you.** If it is an emergency, you should try calling the shelter during business hours or the on-call emergency numbers if you cannot get ahold of your mentor right away.

Foster Animal Emergency Protocol

Protocol is as follows if you suspect you are having an emergency with your foster animal:

- call your foster mentor and the foster coordinator
- if the foster coordinator or foster mentor doesn't answer or return your *second* call, please call the shelter. **Please leave a message if no answer.**
- if you still have not made contact with any FCCRSNC staff member or your mentor:
 - during regular shelter hours (someone is in 7am-6pm M-F and 7am-5pm Saturday and Sunday) just bring the kitty into the shelter. You do not need to make an appointment for an emergency, please just show up.
 - for after shelter hours **ONLY**: if it has been **15 minutes** and you have tried to call both but have not heard back from the foster coordinator **and** your mentor and you feel like the foster kitty's life is truly in danger then you may take him or her to one of the approved emergency vet clinics on page one of the manual.

****If the foster parent chooses to use a clinic other than CSU or Ft. Collins Emergency Veterinary Clinic they will be responsible for the cost of treatment****

Please update the foster coordinator with the condition of the cat and if he or she is staying at the emergency clinic or returning home with you.

Signs Indicating an IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY:

- vomiting bloody or dark substance
- seizures
- uncontrollable bleeding
- bloody, liquid diarrhea in a **lethargic animal**
- fractured limb (part of limb is flaccid and painful to touch).
- pale, blue or white gums
- not breathing
- kitty has escaped or is lost
- straining or being unable to urinate in a **MALE** cat or kitten for more than 6 hrs
- kitten with body temperature below 98 degrees especially if accompanied by lethargy, pale gums or decreased appetite.

Non-Emergency Clinical Signs

These signs **do not** indicate an immediate emergency, but should be brought to the attention of your foster mentor and/or the foster coordinator so the Kitty can be examined in a timely manner. Please email in about these or contact during business hours.

<p style="text-align: center;">Eyes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -yellow or green discharge -uneven size pupils -red or swollen conjunctiva, including 3rd eyelid -white film or cloudiness over eye -yellowing on white part of eyes 	<p style="text-align: center;">Ears:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -dark, flaky debris -painful when rubbed or cleaned -frequent scratching at ears -unusual smell 	<p style="text-align: center;">Nose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -yellow or green discharge -bloody nasal discharge -excessive sneezing
<p style="text-align: center;">Mouth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -increased appetite -vomiting usually more than 3 times -coughing and/or gagging -trouble eating or chewing -ulcers or lacerations on gums or lips -excessive salivation -loss of appetite: in adults for more than 2 days in juvenile animals more than 1 day 	<p style="text-align: center;">Temperature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -cats or kittens with a rectal temperature higher than 102.5 at rest (outside the normal range). Animals that are playing have a higher temperature. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Gait:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -sudden lameness that does not improve within a day -kitty exhibits pain upon walking or handling -limping
<p style="text-align: center;">Skin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -lumps -hairloss -scabs -Kitty is frequently scratching or itchy 	<p style="text-align: center;">Anal/Genital Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -diarrhea -small amount of blood in stools (small/scant amount of blood in stools can indicate stress and is not an emergency) -no bowel movement for more than 48 hrs -painful urination (emergency if it is a male cat) -straining to defecate 	<p style="text-align: center;">Behavior:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -lethargic -poor appetite -increased appetite with weight loss -excessive drinking -increased urination or inappropriate urination

If you are uncertain about any aspect of your foster animal's health, please **CALL!** (There are no silly questions when it comes to foster kitty's health!)

How Do I Sign Up For A Foster Group?

Foster groups are assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis and fostering assignments can last from a few days to 3-4 months depending on which group you sign up to take (age and health are the biggest determining factor in length of stay). The Foster Coordinator will send an email to all foster homes with a description of the cats/kittens who need foster with the subject line "Placement Request". If you are interested in fostering a group reply to the email and include the soonest day and time you are available to pick them up. The Foster Coordinator will confirm with you what day/time your pick up has been scheduled for.

** Please plan ahead for vacations: Try not to take home a group that you will have to return before they are adopted because you will be leaving town, but we understand last minute things and emergencies come up and we will make arrangements accordingly.

** Please only volunteer for litters you are equipped to care for: for example new fosters with little experience would not want to volunteer for semi-feral kittens or bottle babies.

** You may choose to foster two or more groups providing you are able to keep the groups completely separate for a minimum of 2 weeks, also until all are free of any contagious disease and have tested negative for FeLV (done at shelter).

If you already have a foster group, ignore the emails you receive until you are ready for a new group.

Picking Up Your Foster Kittens - Woo Hoo!

At your pickup appointment you sign the Foster Agreement and then you will receive:

- A kitten kit and scale.
- A copy of the **Intake Medical Record** for each kitten: includes an approximate date of birth, gender, A-Code, description, what medical services have been done, and what and when they are due for future medical services.
- Personality Profiles and Medical Log Sheets for each kitten.
- Any special medications they are on for an illness.
- Natural Balance dry kibble, Natural Balance canned food and Litter.

Immediately when you get them home, get them settled in their room with dry kibble, water, bedding for a warm place to cuddle and a litter box. Give them some quiet time to check things out and de-stress from all the activity and ride in the car.



Use the **Foster Checklist** to stay on top of responsibilities you have while the cats/kittens are in your home.

Your Foster Room & Kitty-Proofing

We recommend using a spare bedroom or bathroom as your foster room. Garages, damp basements or laundry rooms are not acceptable areas. Rooms with some natural light are best. We all need sunshine!! The Foster Coordinator will help you determine if the room you have chosen is appropriate at your home check.

Cat-proofing and especially kitten-proofing your home is much the same as child-proofing it! Use the following tips as a guide to make your foster room and home are safe for cats and kittens.

- ❑ Keep the temperature regulated in the room avoiding any drafts. If the floors are hard-surfaced, lay plenty of towels/blankets on the floor so the kittens have somewhere to get away from the chill of a cold floor. Room temperatures above 75 degrees are ideal.
- ❑ Remove any personal belongings that could be potentially dangerous to the kittens and consider protecting your furniture and carpet with sheets or plastic table covers. Kittens can be messy, especially when they're learning to use the litter box!
- ❑ Make sure the garbage, cleaning supplies, food and Kitten Kit are out of reach. Preferably in a cupboard, closet, or another room.
- ❑ Get into the habit of checking your refrigerator, oven, washer, dryer, freezer, dishwasher, etc. before these doors get closed. These horrible accidents happen more often than you would expect.
- ❑ Be careful with clothes irons, curling irons, plants or any other heavy items a rambunctious kitty may knock down or pull down itself.
- ❑ Review the toxic houseplant list at www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants and remove all poisonous plants from your household. Remove ALL plants from their unsupervised foster room. You can deter kitties from munching on poisonous and non-poisonous plants with a product sold at pet stores for this purpose.
- ❑ Keep all small items like rubber bands, paper clips, needles, fishhooks - anything kitty can swallow - out of reach. Keep plastic bags, which can cause suffocation, out of reach.
- ❑ Never leave knives or razors in the bathroom or tub. Kitties love to play with these things and can cut their paws, tongue, or gums.
- ❑ Exposed electrical cords are a very real danger. Kitties love to chew them and end up getting an electrical shock - this can cause mouth burns or even death. Encase cords in the plastic flexible tubing sold at office supply stores. A product called "Bitter Apple," available at pet stores, can be sprayed at regular intervals on the cords to discourage chewing.

- ❑ Never leave stove burners on without a pot on them; serious burns can result if kitty gets curious. Also, pipes behind hot water heaters can cause burns if kitty hides there. Wood burning stoves and open fireplaces are also hazardous. The best way to prevent accidents is to house fosters away from these things.

- ❑ Keep doors/windows closed, unless covered with a screen that is securely in place. The window should only be open no more than 1 ½ inches with a support in place so the window cannot be opened any further. A frightened cat/kitten can escape through the tiniest holes! If a cat/kitten does manage to get outside, attempt to get the cat/kitten back inside immediately. If you delay you risk them never returning. Call your mentor immediately to determine a strategy to recapture the kitty. FCCRSNC has humane traps available for this purpose.

Litter Box

If you have a mother cat, she will clean the genitals of her young to stimulate the bowels and bladder until the age of 3-4 weeks.

Once the kittens are mobile and have been introduced to solid food, provide them with an easily accessible box - such as a shoebox lid, cookie sheet, or cake pan.

After each meal, place them in the box. They will learn how to use the litter box very quickly. Sometimes they learn how to use the litter box without any help from us, as they have been watching Mom use her box. Orphans may need a little more assistance from you.

When you bring home older foster kittens (4 weeks and up), show them where you placed their litter box immediately when you bring them home.



TIP: Keeping the kittens in a bathroom for the first few days will reinforce good litter habits and then you can move them to a larger room if you have it available.

Keeping the box clean is very important...daily cleaning is a must. Sometimes three times a day if there is diarrhea involved. No cat or kitten wants to use or smell a dirty litter box. Make sure the litter box is as far away from the food and water as possible. Place the bed near the food, not the litter box.

What litter to use? For older kittens (5 weeks and up) you can use any kind of litter you want: clay, clumping or pellets. For young kittens first learning (4-5 weeks) it is better to use clay or pellets to avoid a mouth full of gummy clumping litter because some will try to eat it at first.



Food and Water

Moms: Canned food should be fed 2-3 times a day as much as she'd like (up to 1/2 can). Dry kitten kibble should be left out all day for her. Nursing is very calorie intensive and she will need to eat a lot. Also, fresh water daily.

Newborn Orphans: Newborns to four weeks require bottle feeding and genital stimulation if they do not have a mom. You will need:

- Cotton balls or cut up washcloths
- Heating pad
- Kitten bottle, kitten formula, 3 mL syringe
- Thermometer

Use a pet nurser or kitten bottle to feed the kittens. The hole in the bottle nipple should leak milk slowly from the bottle without pressure. The best way to create this hole is by heating a needle and then poking it through the nipple in a turning motion. Be careful not to burn your fingers when heating the needle.

Never feed a chilled kitten: make sure he is warm prior to feeding. Body temperature should not be lower than 98°F. Make sure formula is just warm, not hot or cold (98°-100°F). Contact your mentor for step-by-step instructions and for any other questions you may have. The weight and age of the kittens will dictate how much to give at each feeding time.

Kittens 4 weeks: Kittens will start to show interest in "real" food around 4 weeks of age. Feed 3-5 meals per day. Mix a little warm water with a teaspoon of canned food and place it in a container with low sides (plate, cake pan, etc.) Expect them to step in it. No one ever said kittens were neat! After a few attempts, they will get the idea. Feed them their last meal just before bedtime. They usually eat and then go straight to sleep. You can warm the food in the microwave for about 6 seconds. Make sure to stir the food and test it with your finger. Do not give hot food to kittens.

Kittens 5-6 Weeks: Feed 3-4 meals per day of 1 tablespoon of canned food. A full dish of dry kibble should be left out all day for them. Also, fresh water daily. Make sure you see them drinking water on their own.

Kittens 6-8 weeks and older: Feed 2-3 meals per day. Reduce the canned food amount to 1 teaspoon at each meal mixed with kibble to encourage them to start eating dry kibble too. A full dish of dry kibble should be left out all day for them. Also, fresh water daily.



TIP: If your kittens are slow to be enticed by solid food, use a very small baby spoon or syringe to get food into their mouth. Once they taste it, this usually encourages them to take a few bites. You may have to do this for several days at each meal until they are eating eagerly on their own.

Overfeeding can cause digestive problems. Frequent small meals are preferred to large meals. Canned food stays fresh in the fridge for up to 5 days.

Weaning Kittens

Start offering the kittens wet food at about 4 weeks of age, or sooner if they take an interest in mom's food. Mom should have dry food available at all times, and the kittens can have access to it.

Mom's milk is infinitely more yummy than the food you are providing, so you will need to introduce them to it many times before they decide to eat it. Some ways that you can do this are:

- 1) rub some wet food on their nose so that they lick it off
- 2) gently push their nose into the plate of wet food and then quickly release
- 3) mix some wet food with water, draw it up into a syringe, and dispense a small amount into the kitten's mouth

As soon as they are committed to the wet food, start to mix it with the dry food. We want to get them eating dry food as soon as they are ready, as this is healthiest for them and can help to reduce the amount of diarrhea that you have to deal with. Once they are eating the dry food regularly, the wet food portions can be decreased to a small amount in the morning and evening (or mixed with the dry), so that it becomes a treat.

Mom cat will wean the kittens when the time is right for her. You will likely see her spending less and less time with the kittens as they get bigger and stronger. It may seem that she is not longer feeding the kittens and that she does not have any more milk. Let's be sure to confirm that, before she returns to the shelter. Separate her from the kittens for a period of time, such as overnight or during the day. You may be surprised to find how much milk she still has, which indicates that she is still feeding the kittens, just not when you are around.

We want for her to be with her kittens for as long as possible, for the health of the mom as well as the babies. If she is taken away too soon, the pressure from the milk will build up and is very painful for her and can lead to an infection. Check your moms closely for any redness, heat, or swelling around the nipples and call the shelter if you find this. It usually means she has an infection, and we want to get that taken care of quickly.

Sometimes a mom cat will decide she has had enough of her kittens and will growl and run from them. If that happens, contact the foster coordinator at foster@fccrsnc.org.

Naming Your Foster Cats/Kittens

Each cat/kitten will be assigned a shelter A-Code which is listed on their medical record. This will be the primary way of identification, until you have named them. Please do so within a few days of their arrival and email their names matched with their A-Codes to foster@fccrsnc.org so we can add it to the medical file. You may ALWAYS change the name of your foster cats or kittens if they come with names already, but please let the foster coordinator know what you've decided.



TIP: Theme your kittens' names for easier marketing. The "Cheese-Group," were named Cheddar, Provolone, Gouda, Parmesan, and Mozzarella!

Socializing Your Foster Cats/Kittens- THE FUN PART!

Give your foster cats/kittens the same love and attention you would give your own companion animals. Daily attention (at least one full hour a day) from you and other family members makes them people-lovers and more adoptable. Kittens that run to the front of the cage will get adopted first! So have a blast with them! We want you to handle them, pet them, play with them, snuggle with them and groom them (including trimming their nails).

By spending time with your foster cats regularly, you will not only increase their chances of being adopted quickly, but you will also be able to determine their likes and dislikes - this helps us place them in homes with families that best meet their needs.

You should also monitor your foster cats for behavior problems, such as inappropriate urination or scratching furniture. If problems arise, contact your mentor to discuss behavior modification strategies. Please note: FCCRSNC is not responsible for damages that might occur to yourself, others in your household, or your personal property as a result of feline behavior problems while in foster care.

Resident Pets and Children

Keep your foster cats/kittens quarantined from your own animals under most circumstances. Our cats/kittens come to you as healthy as we know about, but can harbor illness for up to two weeks and can make your resident pets sick. FCCRSNC is not responsible for any medical care your animals require because of this.

Kittens are very vulnerable to illness and disease and your own pets may put the kittens at risk.

Dogs can exhibit unpredictable behavior around cats and especially kittens. Even if you think you own a very gentle dog, instinct is hard-wired and horrible accidents can occur in a split second. For this reason, please keep kittens separated from dogs. If you have "cat-friendly" dogs in your household and an adult foster cat or mom cat, please consult with your mentor about proper introductions. Adult cats who have been raised with dogs or who enjoy (tolerate) the company of canines, often have an advantage on adoption days.

If you have children under 10 years of age, please supervise every interaction between them and the cats/kittens. Children love to play with kittens, but they may not understand how to properly handle them. Please note: children should not handle kittens at all under three weeks of age.

Kitten Development

Newborn	Completely dependent on mother. Eyelids closed, ears folded forward, cannot see, or hear. Sense of smell is the first to develop completely and is the most developed sense at birth.
2-3 Days	Umbilical cord falls off.
One Week	Eyes begin to open - all kittens have blue eyes. Kittens huddle together for security and warmth.
10 Days	Ears unfold, hearing will develop. Can move along with belly on the ground, "paddling" limbs for movement.
Two Weeks	Begin to play with litter-mates, learning how to socialize. Can stand and balance, but cannot walk easily. Teething begins. Eyes are fully open.
16-18 Days	Incisors (tiny front teeth) break through.
20-24 Days	Canine teeth break through.
Three Weeks	Mobile and eager to explore, making mock-aggressive rushes and stalking litter-mates. Should be played with and handled at least 1 hour every day for good socialization.
24-28 Days	Molars begin to break through.
Four Weeks	Introduce solid food in 4 small meals per day. Begin litter box training. Will begin wrestling with litter-mates.
Five Weeks	Learning to hunt by pouncing on toys and each other.
Six Weeks	Adult eye color begins to appear. Very mobile and ready to explore. Play biting needs to be discouraged- do not use your hands as toys. Begin grooming them and trim their nails.
Eight Weeks and Older	Teenagers with loads of energy and personality. Should be very comfortable with human companionship by now. Will play hard and sleep hard. Provide plenty of stimulation from toys and different kinds of play. Introduce them to various stimuli (i.e. vacuum, T.V., etc.). Ideally should weigh 2 lbs and are ready to be spayed/neutered.

Scheduling Surgery

- ❑ Email foster@fccrsnc.org when your kittens reach 1lb 12oz to get placed on the surgery schedule 2-3 weeks in the future. Include their names, A-Codes and exact weight in your email.
- ❑ Kittens must be 2lbs by their surgery date or it will be cancelled, so contact the Foster Coordinator as soon as possible the week of their surgery if your kittens may not make weight. (A healthy kitten usually gains 4oz /week, however this is an AVERAGE).
- ❑ If you need to cancel your scheduled surgery appointment because of a conflict, please give the Foster Coordinator as much notice as possible.
- ❑ On surgery day, put collars from the Kitten Kit on your cats/kittens while still at home. Make sure to write on the DULL side of the collar and include their names and A-Codes. Collars should be put on tight enough so the kittens don't get the collar stuck in their mouth, which can happen, but loose enough so the kittens can still breathe easily. If you can still fit two fingers between the collar and the kitten then it's the right fit. Also, please cut off any of the excess collar as kittens will chew on them.
- ❑ Feed a small breakfast in the morning, about the size of a tablespoon of wet and dry mix per kitten first thing in the morning.
- ❑ Drop your kittens off at in the morning to the FCCRSNC, 2321 Mulberry St, **UNIT #9**. You should have received a reminder call a few days before your appointment for what time to drop off. Typically drop off time is between 7:00am-8:00am **It is also an option to drop them off the night before at the shelter if you have a scheduling conflict.
- ❑ Pick them up from the clinic in the evening to allow them to recover overnight in your home.
- ❑ The following day you are able to start signing them up for adoption days in-shelter or at mobile sites at least once a week. Respond to the weekly adoption sign up emails from the foster coordinator or email foster@fccrsnc.org to get on the shelter schedule ahead of time.
- ❑ **If your kitties are reserved**, work with the shelter staff to arrange a time to drop off the kitten for the adopters.

Adoption Policies and Procedures

Kittens are eligible for adoption after they are 8 weeks of age, 2 pounds, healthy, and spayed/neutered.

Potential adopters **must meet** kittens prior to adoption either in the shelter, at an off-site adoption location, or in the foster home - NO EXCEPTIONS. The potential adopter must go to the shelter to complete the adoption paperwork with a shelter staff member. A kitten is not considered adopted until the adopter completes paperwork and pays the adoption fee. This is on a first-come, first-serve basis. If two potential adopters view a kitten the same day, the first to complete paperwork and pay the fee will receive the kitten.

Foster parents who wish to adopt a foster kitten will have to pay the adoption fee and go through the FCCRSNC adoption process.

FCCRSNC adopts to indoor only homes because we believe cats live longer, safer lives indoors - and because we believe cats can live happy, active lives indoors.

FCCRSNC will not adopt to a family that is planning on declawing a cat. Declawing a cat involves the removal of the claw up to the first knuckle joint. If someone is interested in a declawed cat the staff or adoption counselor will direct them to the cats in our care that have been previously declawed.

A “Free” Kitty is Never Free

A “Free” Kitty	A Kitty From FCCRSNC
<p>Average Costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> New Patient Vet Exam \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Spay/Neuter \$125-\$250 <input type="checkbox"/> FeLV test \$45 <input type="checkbox"/> Microchip and Registration \$25-\$50 <input type="checkbox"/> FVRCP Vaccination \$15-\$25 <input type="checkbox"/> Treatment for Parasites \$10-20 <p style="text-align: center;">\$270-395 or More</p>	<p>Included in the Adoption Fee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Veterinary Exam <input type="checkbox"/> All Medical Care Prior to Adoption <input type="checkbox"/> Spay/Neuter <input type="checkbox"/> Testing for FeLV <input type="checkbox"/> Microchip Including \$20 Registration <input type="checkbox"/> FVRCP Vaccinations <input type="checkbox"/> Rabies Vaccination <input type="checkbox"/> Treatment for Parasites (Worms) <input type="checkbox"/> Collar (adults only) <input type="checkbox"/> FCCRSNC Booklet <input type="checkbox"/> Samples of Food <p style="text-align: center;">Adult Cat or Teenager: fee waived - \$50</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kitten (under 6 months): \$125 - \$175</p>

Petango

Petango.com

Petango is an online gallery of pets that are available for adoption nationwide. Users can search by location, age of pet, breed, etc. It's a handy tool for adopters that allows them to browse online before visiting a shelter or off-site adoption location. FCCRSNC's Petango list is linked to our website adoption page. Your contact information (email or phone) will be provided to allow approved adopters to ask questions about your cats/kittens and arrange to meet them either in your home, in-shelter, or at a mobile adoption event.

How do I get my foster kitties posted on Petango?

Once your cats/kittens reach 6 weeks old and are healthy, email your photos and description to petfinder@fccrsnc.org (yes, it is indeed petfinder@fccrsnc.org. Petfinder was being used before Petango). Please send one email per cat/kitten so we can keep all your information straight and our staff will upload the info and photos to Petango for you.



Descriptions should include the following and write them from the kitty's perspective:

Name and A-Code

Gender and Color

Personality Likes/Dislikes, Favorite Toys, Activities, etc...

A few details about your foster home and how well they like it there and like you.

What qualities the adoptive home might have that would be best for that cat/kitten.

Your contact information you would like listed (name and either email or phone or both)

What kind of photos should I send?

Digital images in .jpg format, preferably resized to less than 250kb for speedy upload times. If this is too technical for you, just send what you have and we will take care of it from there. Please make sure your images are taken with enough light in the room so they are bright and clear, window light is always best.



Face Shot



Body Shot



Sibling Shot

We can post up to three photos per cat/kitten, so try to include a face shot, a body shot and either a sibling shot or action shot doing something cute.

If you do not have a digital camera or do not feel confident in your abilities, we have a volunteers who can make house calls to take photographs for you. Great images do make a difference. Please contact foster@fccrsnc.org if you want assistance.

Reservations and Adoption

In-Shelter Adoption Days

After your kitten is at least 8 weeks of age and 2lbs, your kittens will be spayed/neutered and then will be eligible for official adoption. Respond to the weekly adoption sign up emails from the foster coordinator or email foster@fccrsnc.org to get on the shelter schedule ahead of time. This is first come-first serve and based on availability of space. Adoptable kittens can stay up two days and nights at a time. You will need to pick up any cats/kittens that have not been adopted after their stay to take them home for a rest period before you bring them back for another round of adoption days in-shelter. You can call near the end of the day to see if your cats/kittens have been adopted or if you need to pick them up or shelter staff will call you.



NOTE: If your cats/kittens have been reserved, the shelter staff will notify the adopter after they are fixed and will ask the adopter to come in to the shelter to finish the remaining paperwork. Your contact information may also be provided to arrange a pick up. They will need to bring a carrier to pick up their kitten.

Mobile Adoption Days

We schedule mobile adoption events every weekend around Fort Collins, Loveland and Greeley at several different locations. Respond to the weekly mobile adoption sign up emails from the foster coordinator or email foster@fccrsnc.org to get on the schedule ahead of time. This is first come-first serve and based on availability of space. Drop off and pick up is at the location and they are generally scheduled from 10am-3pm and you are welcome to stay and visit with potential adopters.



NOTE: YOU ARE WELCOME BRING A COMPLETED PERSONALITY PROFILE for each cat/kitten the first time you bring them for adoption. The profile will be filed in a binder for potential adopters to read until they are adopted. If you have already submitted the information to petfinder@fccrsnc.org, this will be printed by the shelter and brought to the adoption event.

The Kitten Kit

FCCRSNC wants you to feel empowered by the knowledge and supplies we provide you. The Kitten Kit holds all the medical supplies you will need and is a good place to keep your medical records and log sheets.

Remember to clean and restock your kit after each litter.

You should always find these supplies inside:

- Fecal Kit With Gloves
- Alcohol
- Paper Collars
- Baby Shampoo and Washcloths
- Thermometer with Lubricant
- Scale
- Syringe Pack
- Pyrantel Dewormer
- Medicine Bag - Mentor Approval Required**
 - Probiotic Pack (for Diarrhea)
 - L-Lysine (for Upper Respiratory Infection & Conjunctivitis)
 - Doxycycline (for Upper Respiratory Infections ****must keep in fridge****)
 - Kaolin (for Diarrhea)
 - Karo Syrup (for hypoglycemic emergencies)
 - Terramycin Ointment (for Conjunctivitis)

You may also find these supplies inside depending on the health and age of your litter:

- Kitten Formula
- Nursing Bottle
- Ear Mite Treatment
- Other Medications
- If you are an approved vaccine foster home, future vaccines may be sent with you. This vaccine pack must be stored in the fridge immediately and transported on ice.

Fecal Kit With Gloves

Some folks have trouble with the "EEEWW" factor; these will help. Let us know if you want more. Directions for collecting and storing a fecal sample are included in this bag.

Alcohol

For cleaning/disinfecting the thermometer or other supplies.

Paper Collars

The collars need to be put on the cats/kittens the morning they come in for surgery while at home. Write their full name and A-Code on the dull side of the collar.

Baby Shampoo and Washcloths

If you have to bathe your kitten or if you want to, be aware that water temperature is really important! A cat's normal body temperature is between 100-102.6° F, so the water needs to be pretty warm, like your bath water.

Try not to do full immersion baths unless you have to. If you can get away with just a bottom or a face or a leg, do that. Use the bathroom sink and running water for a quicker wash/rinse. Imitating as best you can the firm licking motion of a mom cat's tongue will help the kitten feel more comfortable about the whole thing.

And remember a little shampoo goes a long way! A general rule of thumb is once you have rinsed them off really well, rinse once more. Make sure they have a place to dry off that is toasty warm and not drafty, provide a blanket to cuddle inside of, and keep them there until they are completely dry. Call your mentor with any questions.

Thermometer and Lubricant

Thoroughly clean the end of the thermometer off with alcohol then put a little lubricant on the end. Scruff the kitten or have a friend hold the kitten for you. To scruff a cat you will firmly grasp the loose skin high up on the neck. Support the hind end while the thermometer is in. Insert the thermometer 1 inch into the kitten's rectum: for big kittens, 1- $\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Yes, it does have to be in that far if you want to get an accurate reading. Keep the thermometer in until it starts beeping, then remove and clean with alcohol. A normal kitten temp is generally between 100-102.6°F. Call your mentor with problems or questions.



TIP: Use distractions - kittens will always struggle while their temperature is taken.

- Bob their heads.
- Blow on their heads or faces.
- Tap on a glass or metal object.

Scale

Weigh your kittens regularly. Every other day is best for the first 3 weeks or at any time if the kittens get sick, otherwise once a week is fine.

Syringes

There should be ten 1 ml syringes and two 3 ml syringe in your kitten kit. These are for mixing and administering medications if needed and for syringe feeding if required. Call your mentor with questions.

Pyrantel

A dewormer for Round Worms. Use the 1 mL syringe in your syringe pack and use a new syringe for each kitten.

Dosing instructions are: 0.18mLs per lb. To convert oz. to lbs you need to divide oz. by 16.

For example a kitten that weighs 1lb 4oz:

Divide 4oz by 16 = 0.25lb

Add 0.25lb to 1lb = 1.25lb

1.25lb x 0.18mLs = .225mLs

Medicine Bag

YOU MUST CONTACT YOUR MENTOR BEFORE USING ANY OF THESE ITEMS!

Kitten Formula and Nursing Bottles

Contact your mentor before bottle-feeding kittens. The process can be quite tricky, you'll need an in-person tutorial.

Ear Mite Treatment

If your kittens have been diagnosed with ear mites, an additional ear mite treatment is required 2 weeks after the initial treatment. You should be given instructions at time of pick up or call your mentor.

Additional Medication

Some litters may be on other medication, food or need different care. You will receive instruction at pick up if any of these apply.

Vaccines and Dewormer

It is the foster parent's responsibility to keep track of due dates for vaccinations and deworming listed on the intake medical record. ****Only the next dose due is listed on the so you will need to use your medical log sheets and your own calendars to keep track of subsequent due dates!** There are 3-4 total doses depending on their age. Contact your mentor ahead of time to schedule a home visit for vaccinations. The dewormer is easy enough to do yourself.



Email foster@fccrsnc.org **WITHIN 12-24 HOURS** to report what you have done (FVRCP or Dewormer) and include their A-code, name, and the date it was done, so we can update their electronic medical records. If doses are missed and the dosing schedule has to start over, this can be hazardous to the cats/kittens health so this is a very important responsibility.

FVRCP is the vaccine for Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calici Virus, and Panleukopenia

- ❑ **FVRCP** is given at 6 weeks of age or older depending on when they went through intake.
- ❑ **2nd FVRCP** is given 14 days after the first FVRCP. No later than 31 days after or you will need to restart the series.
- ❑ **3rd FVRCP** is given 14 days after the second FVRCP. No later than 31 days after or you will need to restart the series.
- ❑ **4th FVRCP** is given 14 days after the third FVRCP. No later than 31 days after or you will need to restart the series. After 4th vaccine kittens will then be due in a year.

Rabies vaccine is given at 16 weeks of age for cats under 6 months. Adults 6 months or older receive rabies vaccine at intake if there is no prior rabies vaccine noted. Rabies is then due a year from the date given.

Pyrantel is a dewormer for Round Worms.

- ❑ **Pyrantel** is given at 4 weeks of age or older depending on when they went through intake.
- ❑ **2nd Pyrantel** is given 14 days after the first dose. If you are more than 6 days late you will need to restart the series.
- ❑ **3rd Pyrantel** is given 14 days after the second dose. If you are more than 6 days late you will need to restart the series.
- ❑ **4th Pyrantel** is given 14 days after the third dose. If you are more than 6 days late you will need to restart the series. After 4th deworming kittens will then be due in a year.

Vaccine Reactions can include, but are not limited to:

- Limping
- Not eating or drinking the normal amounts for 1-2 days
- Lethargy
- Pain at the sight of injection
- Unwillingness to play
- Low-grade fever

If any of these symptoms do not improve by 48 hours after the injection, please contact your mentor. **A more serious reaction happens instantaneously and includes:** severe vomiting, diarrhea, facial swelling, and difficulty breathing. The kitten will need to be seen by a vet **IMMEDIATELY**.

Neo-Natal Care

Handle newborns gently, but make sure to check on them at least twice a day. Are they nursing? Hanging out with mom? Crying a lot (this could be an indication that they are cold or not getting enough milk). Make sure to count each time you check on them. Sometimes a mother cat will take a kitten out of the nest and leave it somewhere else in the room. If this happens, put the kitten back in the nest and call your mentor right away. Mother cats can also be very protective of their young and become aggressive toward other animals and people. Please be careful.

Neo-Natal Signs of Trouble

If all kittens and mom seem well, your only obligation to the mom and new kittens for the first week or so is watchful supervision. Mom will need kibble and water at all times. Contact your mentor immediately if you observe any of the following in the mother cat:

- Acts lethargic, or as if she is in pain or continues to strain.
- Ignores her kittens.
- Continues bleeding from the vulva for more than two days.
- Has painful, hard, or swollen mammary glands

Kittens should be nursing up to 3 times an hour. The mother cat should be grooming each kitten after feeding, and licking their bottoms to stimulate elimination. Contact your mentor if you observe any of the following in the kittens:

- Constant crying and failure to stay at the nipple.
- Refusal to nurse.
- Feels cold to the touch.
- Withdrawing from the other kittens.
- Rejected or ignored by the mother.

Common Ailments

Conjunctivitis - Eye Infection

Conjunctivitis is characterized by swelling and/or yellow or green discharge around the eyes. An eye ointment or drops are typically prescribed to treat the infection. To administer the ointment hold the kitten's eye open and squeeze the ointment into the eye moving across the eye without touching the tip of the tube to the eye. To administer eye drops hold the kitten's eye open and let then let the drop fall into the inside corner of the eye near the tear duct. Open and close the eye a few times to get ointment or drops worked in well.

To clean the kitten's eyes, use a cotton ball or gauze that is clean with warm water. If the eye is sealed shut you will need to use the warm cotton ball as a compress and let it sit there for a few minutes. This will soften the crusted material around the eye. Once it is soft and pliable you can wipe it from the eye. Start at the area closest to the nose and wipe outward. Don't force the material off of the eye. You may need to continue to let the cotton ball set on the eyelid to soften the material for longer. Once everything has been cleaned around the eye you can administer eye medications. It will be helpful to the kitten if you can gently wipe the eye clean multiple times a day. If you do not have a cotton ball or gauze square you can use a soft washcloth. Make sure that you use a clean washcloth each time. Never share between kittens.

Dehydration

Dehydration can kill a small kitten quickly. Mentors should train you on how to do a skin tenting test. With smaller kittens another way to test hydration is to feel the gums. If they are sticky instead of slippery, the kitten is dehydrated. Also look at the color of the gums. If it is white with no color, please report this when you call your mentor.

Diarrhea

Diarrhea is probably the most common problem with kittens. Runny poop seems to be a kitten's preferred response to almost all stress or illness. It can be dangerous for kittens because the water lost in the stool tends to dehydrate them rapidly.

When diarrhea is first seen:

Contact your mentor first if all other signs seem normal (no change in attitude, eating, playing). They will recommend a course of action dependent on your kitten's symptoms. Keep kitten's bottom clean at all times. You may need to run the kitten's bottom under warm water to cleanse the area. Pat dry and then apply entederm ointment (can be picked up from shelter) for protection if the anus is red and irritated.

When examining your kitten's poop:

Determine the consistency and look for signs of mucus, blood, worms, etc. **A little bit of bright red blood on a poop is ok. So is a little bit of bright red blood on a kitten's bottom.** It's usually a reaction to something that they ate, new food, stress, new location, etc. A lot of blood is not ok.

If no improvement is seen in 3 days, then:

Drop off a fecal sample to the shelter. You do not need to call ahead, but be advised results may not be available until later in the day, or if dropped off after 5 p.m., the following day. The staff will call you if any parasites are found. If it will be impossible for you to return for necessary medication in the next few days, then please contact your mentor for assistance.

If no parasites are found and still no improvement in a few more days, the diarrhea may not need treatment and may be something the kittens just need to outgrow. As long as the kittens are eating well and gaining/maintaining weight, do not worry.



NOTE: If diarrhea is accompanied by vomiting, refusing to eat for more than 24 hours, or acting very lethargic you should immediately call your mentor.

Upper Respiratory Infection

An occasional sneeze is expected. Lots of sneezing, yellow or green nasal discharge, and congestion is cause for concern. Please contact your mentor at the shelter if you suspect your kitten(s) of having an Upper Respiratory Infection, medication may be prescribed.

Creating a steamy environment with a humidifier or running the shower can also be beneficial to URI kittens. **Nothing should ever be added to the water** like Vic's Vapor Rub or similar products.

A product called "Little Noses" can also be used on URI kittens. Dosing is different depending on whether the product does or does not contain decongestant. For Little Noses with decongestant, one drop can be applied to a single nostril twice a day for three days. Rotate nostrils so they do not get irritated. Little noses without decongestant (saline-only solution) can be used as long as needed and can be used in both nostrils up to three times a day.

Vomiting

Vomiting can be very dangerous for kittens because they dehydrate so quickly. Vomiting is not as common as diarrhea, so it's especially troubling, especially if the kitten is vomiting repeatedly. If there is blood in the vomit it is an emergency. Contact your mentor or the foster coordinator to discuss a game plan.

General and Emergency Veterinary Care

FCCRSNC covers all **approved** medical expenses for the cats and kittens in the shelter's foster program. General medical care for FCCRSNC foster cats is provided at the direction of the staff veterinarian and veterinary technicians. You should call your mentor before calling the shelter for an appointment.

Once a foster cat or kitten is in your care, you are responsible for transporting him or her to the shelter veterinarian for necessary medical care. Always use a secure carrier, designed specifically for companion animals, when transporting cats/kittens.

Should foster cat/kittens require care from veterinary specialists, FCCRSNC will arrange appointments with approved veterinarians in the Fort Collins area.

If the our shelter veterinarian is not available, then you may seek emergency medical care with **PRIOR APPROVAL**. Call your mentor, the foster line, or the after hours emergency numbers for guidance and approval. **FCCRSNC will not reimburse unapproved veterinary expenses and you must visit one of the approved clinics on the front of your manual. Be sure to get copies of the medical records of the emergency visit for the file.**

Cleaning Between Your Foster Groups

Once all of your cats/kittens have been adopted, you will need to remove all bedding and wash it in hot water with bleach added if possible. Follow your machines guidelines for adding bleach to the wash load.

You will also need to sanitize the litter box and carrier. Empty all of the contents and wash with hot soapy water. Rinse well and then fill with hot water, add one cup of bleach and let it sit for at least 10 minutes. Rinse and let air dry.

Wash food and water dishes with hot soapy water or run through the dishwasher.



If you have carpeted floors you will need to vacuum well and spot clean any areas that need it. If you have a carpet cleaner you should use it between groups.

Hard surface floors: sweep or swiffer first, mop with a bleach water solution (1 cup bleach to 5 gallons water) and let it sit for ten minutes. Rinse with water and let it air dry.

Wipe down all other hard surfaces, including walls 3 feet up with the same bleach water solution.

If you have a bed in the room, change the covering on it. If you have a chair or couch in the room you will need to vacuum it and spot clean if needed. Ideally your foster room will be void of anything covered in upholstery unless it is covered with a plastic sheet or blanket designed to protect them.

Logging your Foster Volunteer Hours

This is a very important step: we need this information to apply for grants. When you bring home a litter, note the date and keep a log of how much time you spend every day directly caring for them. This includes: feeding them, giving them medicines, actively playing with them, and cleaning up after them. The average is 1-3 hours per day per group. When your cats/kittens have all been adopted, log into the Volunteer Information Center on our website to log your volunteer hours for that group.



NOTE: When you signed up to be a volunteer, you should have received a login and password for the Volunteer Information Center on our website along with instructions on how to log your hours. If you need assistance, please email foster@fccrsnc.org

Expenses and Donations

Expenses that you incur during your term as foster parent, whether for supplies or unapproved medical care may be considered a tax-deductible donation. Keep all receipts and ask for an in-kind donation form once your litter is adopted. **Always consult a tax professional to find out if your expenses can be used as a tax deduction.** Items to keep track of: food, litter, toys, other pet supplies and mileage to and from the shelter or adoption events.

Foster Incentive

Other than the reward of saving lives, foster homes who log their foster volunteer hours regularly and have either fostered with us for a period of 6 months or longer and/or have fostered 25 cats/kittens get a one time fee waived adoption on a cat or kitten of their choice (must have approved adoption questionnaire).