

Is fostering right for you and your family?

Please go over this with your whole family.

1. When you think of fostering, what are you interested in taking home? Will you want a mom with her kittens, orphaned kittens, special needs cats/kittens, or older kittens that just need to gain weight before surgery?
2. Are you aware that there is a great deal of clean-up time and there is always a possibility of damage to your home? Moms and kittens can be very messy with the litter box, their food bowls, water dishes, etc.
3. Will you and your family be able to give up your foster kitties at the end of the foster period? Foster families become very attached to their foster kitties and sometimes find it difficult to give them up to their adoptive families or back to the shelter. Adoption is an option if you foster a kitty that you would like to make part of your family, but please don't feel like you have to adopt your whole litter! We work very hard to find them good, loving homes and our adoption counselors are very thorough in their screening process. Taking another litter after your kitties have been adopted helps to get over empty nest syndrome very quickly!
4. Will you and your family be able to spend 1-2 hours of quality time every day with your foster kitties? You will need to do welfare checks on your foster group at least three times a day. This is to make sure everyone is healthy, eating, and using the litter box. Socialization is as important as feeding and keeping them clean. We want you to play with them and snuggle with them. Kittens that love humans and run to the front of the cage will get adopted first.
5. Do you feel comfortable telling people the kitties do not belong to you and they can only be adopted through the FCCRSNC adoption process?
6. If you have children under 10 years of age, are you able to supervise every interaction between them and the kitties? The same goes for resident pets. Accidents can occur in a split second.
7. Are you and your family emotionally prepared for the death of an animal? As much as we would wish otherwise, death does occur. Not all animals are born to live. In feral colonies moms will have large litters hoping to keep at least 2 kittens alive. Not all kittens are formed right when they are born. There are congenital birth defects that we cannot see. Sometimes cats and kittens get sick and we will treat them with everything we have, but sometimes they are too weak to survive. Our death rate is only 3% in foster care and this also includes animals that don't survive hours after they are born. Because you will feed high-quality food, have them in a warm safe place, vaccinate, de-worm, etc. their chances of survival are much greater. If a death occurs it will be emotionally hard and most of the time it will not be a direct reflection on your fostering skills or abilities.

Rewards of saving lives!

Fostering is one of the most rewarding experiences you can have. We couldn't save as many lives as we do without the dedication of our foster parents. **KNOW YOU ARE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

There is no greater joy than watching kittens at play or nursing a sick kitty back to health. We'll bet your family will even give up TV! Children will learn the responsibility of caring for an animal early on and this experience will carry through to adulthood. You are teaching the next generation of animal guardians!