

Revised 7/18/2022

**Street Paws General Foster Guidelines and Agreement**

Dear Foster Family,

First and foremost, Thank You! You are about to embark on a life-saving adventure that you’ll never forget and become a hero to your foster animal! Our foster program exists to give young animals a chance to grow and to give injured, sick, or under-socialized animals an opportunity to heal. Since the program’s inception, our foster families have saved hundreds of dogs and cats that would otherwise have been killed without this amazing resource.

Our ability to save an animal often relies solely on our ability to find a foster within a very short time frame. Your quick response to a foster plea can mean the difference between life and death for these animals. Bringing a strange animal into your home may not be the easiest thing you’ve ever done but it just might be the most rewarding!

In this manual, you will find guidance and helpful tips to ensure success for the duration of your foster animal’s stay as well as some of Street Paws’ requirements. (Fosters must read Street Paws General Care Guidelines for either Dog/Puppy or Cat/Kitten depending on what type of animal is being fostered) All fosters must sign the Foster Agreement, Street Paws Volunteer Consent Form, Street Paws Tetanus Waiver, and if any children will be interacting with the fosters a Parental Consent Waiver for a Minor. These documents are required by our insurance company.

Note: The purpose of this handbook is to provide a program description, policies, and guidelines for procedures to use while fostering animals for Street Paws. While many of the procedures are proven best practices, the Foster Coordinator has extensive experience in working with fostered animals and is available to answer questions. The Foster Coordinator may also suggest procedures different from or not included in this handbook. The Foster Coordinator acts under the auspices of the rescue, and in partnership with the rescue Board of Directors. The Foster Coordinator is authorized to make decisions regarding all foster participation and practice.

\*Some of these requirements are subject to change as our organization grows. This manual is not all-inclusive.

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# General Information and Q & A’s

**Types of Animals That Need Foster Homes**

* Puppies or kittens too young to be adopted.
* Abused dogs or cats that need socialization and love.
* Injured dogs or cats recovering from surgery.
* Sick dogs or cats.
* Adult dogs or cats that just need a foster home until adoption, they may need some training/guidance.
* An abandoned mother with a litter of kittens or puppies.
* Street dogs and cats (sometimes feral) that need socialization and love.

If the requirements included in the following section do not work well with your current schedule, please let us know. We can help find a foster situation that will work best for you!

**What is fostering?**

Fostering is providing a temporary home for a homeless pet. Fostering is truly lifesaving.

**Why should I foster?**

Fostering can be a wonderful experience for you and your family. You can feel good knowing that you have made a positive difference in an animal’s life. Fostering can also provide the individual attention that certain special needs animals require. Fostering an animal is a rewarding experience but requires hard work and dedication.

**How long do animals need to be in foster care?**

Every situation is different! Our foster needs range from one day to until the animal is adopted, which can take several months to over a year or more. The length of time can depend on the animal’s age, medical issues, or adoptability. Foster animals stay in their foster homes until they are adopted out, so marketing your foster animal is an important factor in the length of stay!

**Do I need to have any special training or skills to be a foster a parent?**

The ideal foster care provider will have a basic knowledge of animal care and training, as well as a desire to find their foster animal a safe and permanent home. Foster families should be compassionate, caring, and patient. You will be informed of your foster animal’s known history, medical, and behavioral health before they are placed in your care, and our Foster Coordinator will help answer questions and provide resources and information. Street Paws will be as accurate as possible when providing information about the medical and behavioral health of animals seeking foster placement but cannot guarantee the medical or behavioral health of any animal. Some animals do require previous experience.

**What are the requirements?**

* + - Be willing to abide by policies and procedures in this manual, foster care agreement, Street Paws Adoption Criteria, and the Street Paws General Care Guidelines for either Dog/Puppy or Cat/Kitten (depending on what type of animal is being fostered).
    - You will be required to sign the Street Paws Volunteer Consent form and Waiver and Tetanus Waiver. If a miner is in the home, you will also need to complete a Parental Consent Waiver.
    - Provide your animals with care including food, water, shelter, litter, training, grooming, and trips to the Medical Coordinator to obtain vaccinations.
    - Be able to access email, text messaging, Facebook, Facebook Messenger, and Google Drive.
    - Be able to provide transport to and from the veterinarian and offsite pet adoptions.
    - Spend time with foster pets and treat them like your own animals while they’re in your care.
    - Animals in the home must be spayed/neutered and have up-to-date vaccinations. Rabies, DA2PP, Bordetella, and heartworm prevention (dogs). Rabies and FVRCP (cats). Unless too young or under the medical care/recommendation of a veterinarian. Cats also must have been combo tested.
    - We can only operate with foster homes at this time, we must have you completely committed until the animal is adopted before we place the animal in your care.

**How much time do foster parents have to devote to the animal(s) in their care?**

It depends on the situation. Foster animals need all the same things that owned animals do and may even need more attention if they are feral, recovering from illness/injury, or need extra exercise.

**What are some of the potential risks of fostering an animal?**

Fostering is one of the most rewarding experiences that you can have, but there are some potential risks. While rare, below you will read some of the possible risks:

* + - Owned animals could catch a disease and/or a parasite from a foster animal.
    - Foster families, members of their household, or visitors could catch a disease and/or parasite from a foster animal (we do not, as a practice, send animals with known diseases transmittable to humans to foster).
    - Owned animals could be injured or killed by a foster animal. This is always preventable if you follow procedures and guidelines recommended by Street Paws.
    - Foster families, members of the household, or visitors could be injured by a foster animal.
    - Foster animals could die in foster care or must return to the rescue to be euthanized.
    - Foster animals may destroy personal items.

**What happens if my foster animal needs medical care?**

Street Paws will provide all medical care for the animals in its foster program. Contact the Medical Coordinator.

Inhumane treatment of any pet is strictly prohibited. Inhumane treatment of pets, or failure to report it when seen, will not be tolerated and will be grounds for dismissal from Street Paws. Animals must be handled humanely, utilizing positive methods of redirecting the attention of an animal. While we understand that in some circumstance’s corrections must occur for safety however hitting, yelling and other harsh methods will not be tolerated.

# Are you a foster candidate?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **YES** | **NO** |
| Are you able to devote the required time daily and weekly to your foster animal? |  |  |
| Are you able to bring your foster animals to a volunteer for vaccinations and to the vet for wellness exams every 1-2 weeks? (This varies per animal needs such as puppy/kitten, adult, sick) |  |  |
| Are you able to contact Street Paws or bring your foster animal to the emergency clinic quickly in case of an emergency? |  |  |
| **Space** | **YES** | **NO** |
| Are you able to separate your foster animals from your household pets for at least two weeks to protect them from illnesses and allow for a proper adjustment period? (Exceptions must be approved by the Foster Coordinator) |  |  |
| Are you able to handle cleaning procedures such as washing hands after every encounter and cleaning/disinfecting the cat/dog/kittens/puppy’s quarters routinely? |  |  |
| Are you able to handle any potential home damage (carpet, clothing, and/or furniture) associated with animals? |  |  |
| **Care** | **YES** | **NO** |
| Are you prepared to handle sickness or the possible death of your foster animal? |  |  |
| Are you able to emotionally handle letting go of the foster animal after becoming attached once their foster period is over? |  |  |
| Are you able to handle the potential of foster animals carrying illnesses that could affect your household animals/family? |  |  |

## 

## Time Commitments & Responsibilities

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **TYPE OF FOSTER** | **DAILY COMMITMENT** |
| Sick / Injured Cats | 2-3 hours |
| Weaned Puppies | 3-6 hours |
| Sick / Injured Dogs | 2-3 hours |
| Neonate Puppies | 8 hours |
| Mom with Puppies | 3 hours |

# Foster Program Policies and Procedures

**Legal Guardianship**

All animals in foster care are the property of Street Paws and are subject to all applicable Street Paws policies, rules and restrictions.

Street Paws is licensed by the Georgia Department of Agriculture and is required to follow their guidelines. We are required to set up an in-home inspection of all foster homes. This is only to ensure the safety of our organization and the animals we are responsible for.

Street Paws reserves the right to perform home checks to ensure that foster animals are being adequately and appropriately cared for. Georgia Department of Agriculture requires a minimum of every 6 months. One each summer and winter.

Georgia Department of Agriculture requirements must be followed by all fosters. Copies of all Foster/Volunteer Agreements, Waivers, and Inspection Forms are scanned into each Foster’s file in our online system Rescuegroups.org. More information can be found here: <http://agr.georgia.gov/rescue-groups.aspx>

**Proper Housing and Care Requirements**

1. Foster care providers are expected to follow and abide by all guidelines and protocols regarding the proper care of foster animals, including giving them proper food, access to clean water at all times, daylight, socialization, health care, etc. Foster animals must be kept in climate-controlled homes with the temperature kept between 60 and 80° F.
2. All crates must be kept clean and free of feces.
3. Cat litter boxes should be scooped daily and litter changed at least monthly depending on the use and number of cats/kittens. If they have an illness such as coccidia litter may need to be changed daily until the risk for contamination is over.
4. Puppies should never be left unsupervised outdoors, and high traffic areas, such as the park, animal stores, public sidewalks/trails, etc., should be avoided, as puppies can be susceptible to deadly diseases that could be lurking there. Puppies should never be left alone for more than 5 hours.
5. Dogs can go outside for supervised playtime/exercise. When outdoors, foster dogs must be kept on a leash or in a securely fenced yard. Some dogs can jump/climb over or dig under/penetrate through fences surprisingly fast, so please do not leave your foster unsupervised and be very cautious.
6. Obtain prior approval from the Foster Coordinator if you need to leave a dog outdoors in a kennel for any length of time.
7. Monitor dogs with toys and bedding, some dogs may chew/ingest causing a medical emergency.
8. The preferred feeding schedule for dogs is 2 x’s per day to avoid bloat and many cats free feed on dry food and receive apx. ½ a can of wet food daily. This will vary depending on the pet and age. Check with your Foster or Medical Coordinator.
9. Some fosters require more grooming than others. Ensure that no foster pet has any mats in their fur. Notify the Medical or Foster Coordinator when grooming visits are needed.
10. You are prohibited from taking foster dogs to off-leash dog parks or other off-leash areas. Dogs must be on a leash, under your control, at all times.
11. You are prohibited from having your foster dog socialize with other dogs, except those in your home without prior approval from the Foster Coordinator.
12. Kittens and cats in foster care should be kept indoors only. When being transported, cats and kittens must be kept in secured carriers.
13. If your foster pet gets loose, contact the Foster Coordinator immediately.
14. All foster dogs must have Street Paws id tags. Contact Kristi if you do not have one.
15. If injury or illness results from the interaction between your animals and foster animals, Street Paws will only be responsible for the medical care and expenses of the foster animal. In some cases, you may be asked to keep your pet separate from the foster pet for a pre-determined amount of time to prevent injury or the spread of illness to your pet.
16. If a foster care provider refuses to return a foster animal for any reason upon request by Street Paws staff or has improperly transferred an animal to another individual or entity, the foster care provider will be permanently removed from the foster program and Street Paws may initiate appropriate legal action to secure the return of the animal.
17. Foster care providers are only allowed to treat foster animals with medications and supplements prescribed by Street Paws veterinarian or staff unless alternative care arrangements have been approved by the Medical Coordinator.
18. Foster care providers must notify the Foster Coordinator immediately if a foster animal bites a person or animal and the bite breaks the skin.
    1. Immediately remove the animal to a safe environment, a crate, or other option that both prevents further injury to the person and provides a calm environment for the animal.
    2. You may be required to complete an incident report.
    3. If severe, call 911 and the Foster Coordinator.
    4. See pg. 26, Pet Incidents with People.
19. Children under the age of 18 should not be left unsupervised with any foster animals. Extreme caution must be taken with children under 10. Children should never be allowed to “ride” or “straddle” an animal, pull/tug or put their face in the animal’s face.

Foster must view the following videos:   
 <https://www.maddiesfund.org/keeping-interactions-between-foster-dogs-and-children-safe.htm> <https://theonlinedogtrainer.com/keeping-children-safe-around-dogs/>

1. Foster care providers are required to be as accurate as possible about their foster animal’s health and behavior. This will assist the rescue in determining the proper medical treatment, training, and/or behavioral rehabilitation for the animal as well as the proper placement into a permanent home.

* When to Call for Behavioral Help:
  + Growling or snarling at humans
  + Snapping or biting
  + Fearful/hiding behavior that does not improve
  + Rough play; such as ripping clothing
  + Panic and destructiveness when left alone
  + Jumping up
  + House training concerns
  + Crate training concerns

1. As of June 1, 2019, the Dept of Ag implemented the following rules: permanent enclosures must now be large enough to allow at least 6 inches of room above the head of the tallest pet and each pet must have enough room to lay down without touching the sides of the enclosure or another pet. Collapsible crates must not be used for permanent enclosures. Mesh or wire bottom enclosures must not be used. No crates may be stacked.
2. Street Paws does not condone the use of shock collars. We do understand that there will be instances where this training method may be needed. Any training outside of positive reinforcement or simple re-direction should be discussed in advance with Street Paws staff.
3. If for any extenuating circumstance one of our pets must be housed outdoors it must have proper shelter to keep it safe from extreme temperatures. All enclosures must be kept properly clean with fresh water. Kennels should have an insulated house and be covered with a tarp/kennel cover on at least half. Kennels should be in areas that are not prone to flooding or excessive water during rain.

**Pet-Proofing Your Home**

It is important to ensure that your home and foster room are safe.

* All cleaning supplies and medications should be kept out of reach of jumping and climbing cats and dogs, locking cabinets preferred.
* Place all small chewable items out of reach (socks, shoes, etc.)
* Block off small areas and hiding places. Cover all trash cans securely.
* Wires, mini blind cords, draperies, and shower curtains should be placed out of reach.
* Do not have things such as women’s bras from door handles. This poses a huge strangulation risk.
* Count your foster animals when opening and closing closet doors.
* Keep household plants out of reach and supervise your animal outside.
* Make sure your foster dog cannot jump the fence, do not leave him or her in the yard unsupervised.
* Avoid toys that have small parts attached to them (i.e. eyes, ribbons, yarn, feathers, etc.)
* Use sheets, tarps, and newspaper to protect carpet and floors.

**Bringing Your New Foster Home**

* Set up the area where your foster animal will be staying before you bring your foster home.
* Bathe, give Capstar, ensure they have vaccines scheduled with the Medical Coordinator, and deworm.
* New foster animals should be kept separate from your existing companion animals for 7-10 days. This quarantine period protects both your own animals, as well as the foster animal.
* Cats, kittens and small puppies do very well in a kitty condo, crate, bathroom, or spare bedroom.
* Introduce your foster animal to one room of the house at first. Try to have homecoming be a quiet experience for the animal. Start by keeping the environment small and slowly expanding to keep stress levels at a minimum.
* Cats and kittens need a place with a bed to snuggle in. This can be a low box with a blanket in it.
* Show each cat and kitten where the litter box is located.
* Dogs and puppies should have a crate that is large enough for them to stand and turn around comfortably.
* Allow your new foster quiet time to adjust to their new environment, as this can be a very stressful time for them.
  + Note: Street Paws foster animals are not permitted to be left outdoors unsupervised for extended periods of time or overnight.

**Quarantine Periods**

* Sometimes an animal is sent into a home before evidence of a serious disease has manifested. Quarantine periods are used to allow infectious diseases to die off in the environment. This protects future foster animals from being infected with the virus or disease. Specific quarantine periods are as follows:
  + Feline Leukemia/FIV 3 days
  + Sarcoptic Mange 1 week
  + FIP or Canine Distemper 3 weeks
  + Ringworm 3 months
  + Panleukopenia or Parvovirus 6 months at a minimum
* If a foster animal is infected with one of the above illnesses, the foster parent will not be allowed to bring another foster into the home for the designated quarantine period.

**Introducing your Current Pets**

*(Also see- Important resources for links to other helpful information)*

Cats:

* Use your discretion in deciding whether to introduce your adult cats to your foster cats and kittens. Some resident cats have difficulty adjusting to new animals in the household and may exhibit inappropriate behaviors such as urine marking.
* If you choose to introduce your adult cat to a foster cat or kitten, the introductions should be done gradually. Observing the 7-10 day waiting period will greatly facilitate this.

Dogs:

* Introductions between a foster dog and the resident dogs should be in neutral territory.
* If introductions are done at your home, take the foster dog to the backyard to sniff and eliminate first. Then put the foster dog inside and let the resident dogs out into the yard to investigate the smells left by the new dog.
* At that point, introductions can be made, preferably outside. Walking the dogs together side by side (never head to head) can also be helpful. Letting the dogs run together loose in a yard before they’ve been properly introduced over time is not recommended.
* It may be helpful to keep your new foster on a leash so you can easily break up any altercations. Wearing a leash around the house is also helpful in guiding the dog, for example, off the couch or into a room. A leash also provides a small sense of security for some dogs in a new environment.
* Some growling and/or posturing is completely normal and to be expected. Watch for signs of unusual aggression in your foster animal (Fixation, sustained eye contact, not disengaging following barking/growling)
* For multiple dogs, make introductions with a new foster one-on-one.
* Baby gates are ideal for gradually introducing animals inside the home.
* Always supervise your foster’s interactions with your personal companion animals.

Fun Fact: Animals do not have to see each other to be aware of each other. Cats and dogs can smell each other through closed doors. This will help facilitate the introduction following your foster animal’s quarantine!

**Sanitizing Your Home**

* You must thoroughly clean areas where a foster animal has stayed to prevent disease and parasites in your home.
  + Wash bedding in hot water, detergent, and bleach.
  + Discard non-washable surface toys.
  + Disinfect all washable surfaces with a mild bleach and water solution (bleach/water ratio of 1:32 or 4 oz of bleach per gallon of water is recommended). Bleach solutions should be prepared as needed because they lose their strength after 24 hours. Bleach is inactive in the presence of organic matter so clean up dirt, hair, feces, etc. before using bleach to disinfect. Bleach solution must stay in contact with the surface being sanitized for at least 15 minutes to be effective. Cleaners such as Rescue are also permitted however both of these do not kill Coccidia so the cleaning method will depend on any type of contamination.
  + Vacuum all carpeted areas.
  + Soak toys in bleach water for 20 minutes and scrub and bleach crates, carriers, scoops, food bowls, and litter boxes.
  + Clean any urine or feces soiled areas with an enzyme cleaner immediately to avoid residual odor (SCOE10X works well).
  + Regularly clean up all waste in the yard to decrease the risk of spreading disease.

# Ferals

* 100% positive reinforcement only
* Never use force, you must have lots of patience. Be prepared for a long recovery period. Be prepared for one step forward and two steps back.
* Never use force on a leash unless absolutely necessary
* Always remember “**only good things come from humans**”
* Ferals should never be cornered, they need to always have the option to feel they can “escape” of course, they must be in a secured area. They need to realize that doing the right thing is the easy choice.
* Kittens and young puppies should be carried and snuggled and loved on as often as possible. They need to be involved in daily activities for socialization.
* Most of our feral dogs will require another dog in the home. We do not adopt feral dogs out of state.
* When approaching a feral dog move slowly, keep your body sideways, slightly tilt your head, and do not make eye contact. Keep your breathing normal.
* Everything should be done on their level. In other words, get on the floor, and don’t try to pet while standing up or even sitting in a chair. Once they are comfortable with you petting them this way, then you can advance to sitting in a chair and eventually standing. Never reach over their head to pet. Start with soft touches on their chin and neck.
* Do not try to rush socialization. It will be done on their timeline, not yours.
* As you are able to touch the dog/cat, start slowly working on touching feet, ears, mouth, tail, or any area they are uncomfortable with. Start with very light touches. Work on one area at a time. Always ensure your safety while doing so. This can sometimes be facilitated by giving a treat of value as a reward for each progressive step.
* Try to make sure a collar, harness, and long lead are put on while under sedation for spay/neuter (dogs). We only use escape-proof Martingale collars or harnesses that tighten if the dog pulls away.
* Leave a long lead on the dog until you are certain he/she is not going to try to get away. You may also need to utilize it for getting the dog out of the crate or in and out to potty.
* Utilize calming aids.
* Work on socialization as much as possible. Ask other volunteers to come over, friends, family, etc. (remember a waiver is required). In the beginning do not have them try to pet them, just let them be in the same room. As they become comfortable with you, then you can start letting others try to pet them. Just be sure to watch for distress.
* Medication will need to be put in pill pockets, cheese, etc. Do not try to open the pet’s mouth and put it in.
* Be very cautious when having a feral around small children if at all. They tend to make quick movements that can frighten the dog/cat and animals do not identify children the same way they do adults and on occasion view them as a threat.
* Remember that just like people, all dogs/cats are different. You will need to learn to read your dog/cat. Figure out their stressors and try to avoid them until they can be desensitized. Try to figure out if anything motivates them such as food, toys, another pet, etc.
* For cleaning, you may need to try to use a damp cloth, dry shampoo, or wipes until they can potentially be bathed.
* You may need to start off using pee pads, old towels, or sheets until they choose to go where they need to for potty breaks. When housetraining you will not be able to jump up and down clapping your hands or exclaiming ‘good boy/girl” this may frighten them. Calmly say “good/boy or girl” in a soothing voice. This goes for all types of training/progress that you do.
* Ferals are creatures of habit. Establish routines early and stick with them. They will potty train well with consistent outside breaks (dogs). Leaving the house to go potty is one of the needed times you may need to push your feral dog out of its comfort zone.
* Provide physical safe spaces with options for privacy and hiding.
* Do not push activities on a dog that finds aversive.
* Avoid startling, ‘correcting’, or otherwise distressing the dog. Even common things like stern tones and quick movements often are aversive to fearful dogs.
* Avoid situations that might raise the dog’s anxiety level—ie.e., *what bad thing will happen next?* A few examples of potentially distressing stimuli include loud or violent arguments, foot stomping, and door slamming. Dogs are keen observers; if you or others in the environment are upset, this often will affect your foster dog, reducing their feeling of safety.
  + Suggestions-
    - Have a sit-down with all members of the household to ensure everyone understands what is needed to help the dog feel safe.
    - Agree on expectations in advance; this can make achieving a sense of safety much easier and less stressful for you—because *running around the house reminding family members not to slam doors, stomp, yell, et cetera is less annoying for all when everyone understands the basis for the reminders.*
    - Reject outdated beliefs and social pressures from others regarding dog behavior, treatment, training, handling, care, housing, status in the household, et cetera.
    - The dog might be labeled by outsiders as “coddled” or “babied” or “spoiled”, but these are the terms and attitudes of past generations, not ours. The dog needs patience, kindness, respect, protection, and skilled, gentle attention.
* The best approach is **whatever the dog needs,** not “It’s just a dog.”
* Provide novel, high-quality, highly palatable, and aromatic human-grade food, unabashedly.
  + Meats, pates, cheeses if tolerated, xylitol-free, sugar-free/corn syrup-free peanut butter, and specialty treats.
  + Stick to a 1-to-1 ratio of enforcement.
  + Varying the use of the ratio may come later, once the dog has been through b mod and skills training.
  + Meals should not be hand-fed or otherwise contingent upon desired behavior.
  + Treats should not be hand-fed either, until after the dog has initiated human contact and is comfortable with human contact.
  + Instead, the dog gets space and safety to eat at a comfortable pace, in a place protected from other animals and free of human interjection. If possible, alarming stimuli such as noises should also be avoided.
  + For now, if the dog’s past learning includes expecting food from a bowl, use a bowl. Once the dog is settled and when less afraid, snuffle mats, scatter feeding, puzzle feeders, etc., may be employed if appropriate for the individual dog.
  + If very feral, food on a safe/clean natural surface may be more comforting.
  + Some people erroneously claim that hand-feeding creates a bond between dog and feeder; this is inaccurate. Hand-feeding meals to fearful dogs is a mistake because it uses a basic survival motivator—hunger—as leverage to compel human contact even though the dog does not want contact. A captive dog—which the dogs with whom we work are—cannot escape the invading hand to get meals another way. This is a type of force/coercion. As a result, attempting to hand feed the dog is flooding the dog. Flooding results in heightened fear, distrust of the handler, and may lead to self-defense behaviors-which would be unfairly labeled “aggression”. Flooding may also lead to learned helplessness. At-risk dogs need to have their sense of ability to survive protected. Insisting on hand-feeding a dog afraid of humans only risks creating new triggers for that dog: You, the food, the space in which the flooding occurred, and potentially any other stimuli that were present at the same time.
* Remember the main rule: Help the dog feel safe. To create a bond, build your trust account by avoiding aversive behaviors, methods, and tools, by working at the dog’s own pace and comfort, and by offering plentiful opportunities for positive reinforcement.
* Observational Conditioning can be very helpful to progress with fearful dogs (if the fearful dog is not also dog-reactive). It is the type of social learning that may be easiest to achieve for extremely fearful dogs. It involves the fearful dog observing a model dog. By observing another dog’s interactions with a stimulus, the fearful dog develops associations with that stimulus.
  + Example: If the fearful dog observes a model dog affiliating with you, the fearful dog’s hesitations about you may decrease more quickly. If a dog afraid of nail trims observes a housemate dog cooperating with nail trims and receiving HVFRs for the same, the observing dog’s cooperation with nail trims may be improved as a result of associations with nail trims becoming positively conditioned via observing.
* In essence, an anti-aversives lifestyle is key to helping the dog feel safe. As much as humanly possible, *we avoid aversives and fill the dog’s life with positive reinforcers, fun, and safety instead.*
* All service providers should have knowledge, skills, and experience working with fearful dogs without the use of aversives. Some suggestions:
  + Only use groomers who allow you to watch and listen to the entire process, from start to finish. That way, you can ensure humane, non-aversive handling and stop the process if it isn’t.
  + There are anti-aversive trainers who can teach you how to humanely groom your dog yourself.
  + Only use boarding or pet sitting services if possible whose set-up makes it impossible for anything to happen to or with your foster dog without you seeing and hearing it via audio-visual equipment such as live cams throughout the facilities, body cameras worn by staff, et cetera.
  + A pre-visit gives you the opportunity to inspect the entire location inside and out, including the animals currently there. Check them for signs of distress.
  + Confirm the provider’s commitment to R= and anti-aversive practices.
  + All service providers should be trained in dog body language, dog-dog dynamics, and general behavior at a minimum.
  + No form of force, pain, intimidation, coercion, startle, or fear-leveraging shall be used on your foster dog.
  + Consider clearly naming disallowed items/methods, e.g., shock collars, prong collars, choke collars, bark collars, slip leads, catch poles, squirting, leash jerking, et cetera.
* Ferals need love, time, and patience.
* Always honor Rule One: Keep the dog safe, and keep the dog *feeling* safe.
* Some good online feral dog resources:
  + <http://cynography.blogspot.com/2009/02/taming-wild-beast.html>
  + <http://www.thedevotedbarn.org/ferals-faqs/>
  + <https://bestfriends.org/resources/feral-dogs-and-shy-dogs-how-help-them>
  + <https://feraldog.wordpress.com/>
  + <https://www.salon.com/2012/01/14/the_secret_lives_of_feral_dogs/>
  + <https://terrehaute.rescuegroups.org/info/display?PageID=12438>
  + <http://www.lb7.uscourts.gov/documents/09-3010132.pdf>
  + <https://eileenanddogs.com/blog/2014/10/15/socializing-feral-dog/>
  + <https://www.terrificpets.com/articles/102302765.asp>
  + <https://youtu.be/2LNe6gGj5js>
* Book by Randy Grim-The Man Who Talks to Dogs
* Feral Cat Resources
  + [https://www.alleycat.org](https://www.alleycat.org/)

Inhumane treatment of any pet is strictly prohibited. Inhumane treatment of pets, or failure to report it when seen, will not be tolerated and will be grounds for dismissal from Street Paws. Animals must be handled humanely, utilizing positive methods of redirecting the attention of an animal. While we understand that in some circumstance’s corrections must occur for safety however hitting, yelling and other harsh methods will not be tolerated.

**Vet visits with Ferals**

* The authority granted to medical professionals in society can make people afraid to ask questions or express objections during visits, even if something is going terribly wrong right in front of their eyes.
* Not taking action to advocate for the dog in such situations may lead to the dog advocating for him/herself, with their teeth. (This can also apply to cats)
* But a dog’s self-advocacy is oxymoronic since human society is extremely unforgiving of self-defense in dogs. We must be brave on their behalf by advocating for them.
* Advocacy items in the veterinary context may vary from office to office and vet to vet. Some possibilities:
  + Be present in the exam room with the dog for all exams and routine procedures, remaining calm so as not to alarm the dog or upset the vet.
  + Let the office staff know in advance that you wish to be present with the dog; this may avoid you feeling pressured in the moment, as you can then simply remind.
  + Let the vets, techs, and staff know in advance that you are inti-aversives (no force, pain, coercion, or fear leveraging) and that all people handling your dog may use only anti-aversive methods.
  + You may wish to provide something in writing that spells out exactly what that means to ensure you get what you expect, e.g., no restraint for nail trims, no leash tugging, etc.
  + Put in writing and also verbalize, before any sedation procedure or prescription, any specific objections you have, and anything your dog is allergic or sensitive to.
    - For example, Acepromazine has been well-known in the ‘fearful dogs’ community that Ace is a no go for these dogs as it may chemically restrain but will not relieve the resultant fear and anxiety. There are also concerns about heightened noise sensitivity as a side-effect of this drug.
  + Sometimes no matter what you say or do, some people will do what they wish, or will forget your request, or simply make a mistake. For this reason, consider basket muzzle training for your dog far in advance of any vet visits so that if someone in the vet office errs and your dog self-defends, no one is bitten; therefore, the dog will be protected from confiscation (and dodges a bite record).
    - Note: Things you can do that might help your dog cope during a vet visit include bringing your dog’s favorite bed/blanket for them to lie on during exam, holding them in your lap if they prefer that, and bringing along a DAP spray to help dissipate other-dog odors if your vet does not make efforts to remove odors from themselves, staff, or rooms between patients.

# Supplies and Logistics

Everything you will need to care for your foster will be provided free of charge. We want to ensure you have everything you need to make a positive impact on the animal’s life and your foster experience.

* Street Paws will provide foster care providers with certain supplies. This list is not meant to be all-inclusive but consists of the basics that will help with dogs, puppies, cats, and kittens. Not all of the supplies will be needed if you only foster certain types of animals. The foster caregiver’s best judgment should be used when obtaining supplies:
  + Food for cats, dogs, puppies, and kittens (this includes formula when needed).
  + Any medications, supplements, or prescription diets that have been prescribed by our veterinary staff.
  + Collars, leashes, and ID tags for dogs and puppies.
  + Crate
  + Grooming supplies: brushes, combs, and shampoo.
  + Litter boxes
  + Toys
  + Cleaning supplies
  + Blankets and towels
* We rely heavily on donations and can provide supplies as needed. If your foster animal requires something we currently do not have, please let us know and we may be able to get it donated before purchasing it. We attempt to acquire needed items through donations before purchase if possible.
* Please complete a Purchase Request Form and submit it to [streetpaws@ymail.com](mailto:streetpaws@ymail.com) for needed supplies.
* We will provide necessary veterinary care for the animals, and require fosters to submit all vet paperwork. (Refer to the detailed vet section on the next page for further information)
* CamScanner is a good app to use to submit any paperwork and receipts timely.
* Receipts are required for any reimbursement and must be pre-approved. Receipts must be submitted within 30 days for payment. Street Paws has a policy that we will not reimburse individuals for purchases for foster animals that are not pre-authorized by Street Paws staff.
* If any vacations are planned that will affect the care of the foster home animals, please let Street Paws know immediately.
* On occasion, a Foster would like to foster with another rescue group. This is frowned upon by the Georgia Department of Agriculture. Prior approval must be granted by Kristi before bringing pets from another rescue into your home while fostering for Street Paws. By fostering for multiple rescues there are many risks involved including the health and well-being of your foster.
* Fosters must ensure their foster pet is allowed by their Homeowners Association if they have one.
* Fosters must be aware of the number of pets allowed in their home per the county ordinances. The number of pets allowed includes personal pets.

**Congratulations! You have saved a life!**

Thank you again for volunteering to foster animals with Street Paws! Fostering is often demanding, difficult, and challenging, but it is also tremendously rewarding. There is no substitute for the feeling of nurturing your foster anima so they can move on to a new life in their forever home – and none of that would be possible without you!

# Transferring Your Foster Animal to Another Foster Home or Returning your Foster

* We understand that sometimes emergencies arise, and you have no choice but to transfer your foster animal to another foster. If this need should arise, we ask that you contact the Foster Coordinator as soon as possible. All foster transfers must be facilitated and approved by the Foster Coordinator. It can sometimes take days or weeks to locate another suitable foster home, so the sooner you contact us, the better.
* When contacting us, please provide the following information:
  + A short bio on how your foster is doing in your home
  + Current and good pictures of your foster
  + Soft and hard deadlines for when the foster needs to be out of your home
    - Soft Deadline: When you would like us to have found another foster home
    - Hard Deadline: When the foster NEEDS to have found another foster home
* If you are contacted about a new foster home being located, you MUST bring the foster animal to the foster home or meet them at the requested date and time. If you are unable to meet that deadline, you may be asked to keep the animal until another space can be located.
* Remember, the better your marketing, the faster the animal will be selected and placed in another foster home!

# Veterinary Care & Medical Treatment

Animals often come into Street Paws’ care with little or no medical treatment beforehand. Therefore, we need to ensure we have a good network and process in place for providing both routine and emergency medical care to our foster animals.

We rely on our foster family’s assistance with ensuring the pets are taken to regular vet appointments.

On occasion, we can get a volunteer to assist.

*Questions about your foster’s veterinary care? Call your Medical Coordinator.*

**Routine Veterinary Care**

Clinics currently in our network of care during normal business hours:

Preferred:

* Lake Dow Animal Hospital
* Locust Grove Veterinary Clinic
* Noah’s Ark Rescue Vet
* North Griffin Animal Hospital

Not preferred but we can use if we have to:

* Hudson Bridge Animal Clinic
* Henry County Veterinary Hospital
* Fairview Animal Hospital

Some of these veterinary offices offer Street Paws discounts on services while others offer cost-effective options or will work with our feral animals that can present as challenging patients. In special cases, Street Paws will also work with other vet clinics outside this network.

The Medical Coordinator will work directly with the vet office to manage the health and well-being of each foster pet or litter. The Medical Coordinator will instruct the foster parent or family on the appropriate steps to take and which clinic has been approved.

Street Paws has a policy that we will not reimburse individuals for vet bills for foster animals when taken for veterinary care outside of that which is pre-authorized by Street Paws staff. If Street Paws has not approved any or all treatments for a foster pet(s), the foster parent will be responsible for ALL costs.

**Emergency Care**

Clinics currently in our network of care during emergencies and after-hours care:

* SAVES Emergency Clinic—Fayetteville
* Woodland Animal Hospital—Locust Grove

If you have questions about the health of your foster animal or if an emergency should arise contact your Medical Coordinator. Should after-hours treatment be needed, the Medical Coordinator will instruct the foster family on the appropriate steps to take.

Street Paws must approve any and all treatments to foster pets.

PLEASE NOTE:

* If the foster parent takes a foster pet to any other veterinary or emergency clinic than the one designated by the Medical Coordinator, the foster parent will be responsible for ALL costs.
* If Street Paws has not approved any or all treatments for a foster pet(s), the foster parent will be responsible for ALL costs.

**Sick or Injured Fosters**

If you notice that your animal has mild, cold-like symptoms (sneezing or coughing occasionally, clear ocular or nasal discharge), diarrhea, or has vomited but is alert, active, eating, and drinking well, please notify your Medical Coordinator so that it can be determined how best to proceed. Certain illnesses must be reported to the Georgia Department of Agriculture. Kristi needs to be notified immediately of any illness on this list: <http://agr.georgia.gov/Data/Sites/1/media/ag_animalindustry/animal_protection/files/reportableanimaldiseasesingeorgia.pdf>

If your foster animal has more severe symptoms, such as frequent vomiting, lethargy, yellow/green ocular or nasal discharge, previously undocumented hair loss, straining to urinate or defecate, etc. please notify the Medical Coordinator, and be ready to take the animal to the vet to be seen.

If fostering a litter of kittens/puppies, even if only one animal is showing symptoms, the entire litter should be brought in.

**Health Cheat Sheet**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Non-Emergencies** | **Emergencies** |
| *Monitor First, if it worsens—call the Medical Coordinator* | *Requires immediate veterinary attention, call the Medical Coordinator to coordinate emergency care* |
| Runny discharge from eyes or nose | Continuous diarrhea longer than 24-36 hours |
| Lack of appetite | Continuous vomiting longer than 12 hours |
| Lethargy (lack of energy) | Loss of appetite |
| Diarrhea lasting more than 3-4 feedings | Bleeding of any kind (from the nose or in urine/stool) |
| Vomiting | Any trauma (hit by a car, dropped, limping, unconscious, etc.) |
| Weight loss | Difficulty breathing or labored breathing |
| Coughing and sneezing | Dog or cat that is not responsive |
| Lack of bowel movements for more than 24-36 hours or straining to urinate/defecate | Lethargy with or without fever |
| Swollen eyes or eyes held closed |  |

**Scheduling Rechecks**

Foster animal(s) are required to return to the Medical Coordinator every 2-3 weeks for vaccinations/de-wormer until vaccines are completed and then annually afterward. (adults may be annual only) Vet visits may be frequent when a pet first comes into our care due to illness. All foster pets should either have a fecal or de-wormer upon intake. Record the weight of the foster pet in rescuegroups.org and update as needed.

You will receive reminders via text or a call from a Medical Coordinator.

**Vaccines**

Kittens receive vaccinations every 3 weeks from the time they are 6-9 weeks of age, puppies every 2 weeks (depending on the permitted age/instructions of the vaccine) until they are 16 weeks or unless otherwise directed by our veterinarians.

* Animals 16 weeks and older receive a rabies vaccine.
* Cats and kittens receive a FVRCP vaccine (feline viral rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, and panleukopenia).
* Dogs & Puppies receive the DA2PP vaccine (D is for canine distemper, A2 is for canine adenovirus type 2, the first P is for canine parvovirus and the second P is for parainfluenza) and Bordetella vaccine.

**Flea/Tick and Heartworm Prevention**

All foster animals over 8 weeks of age should be given flea/tick and prevention monthly. Since these medications are based on the weight of the animal, if your foster is still growing, you will need to have them weighed and use the appropriate dosage for them. If you are fostering an adult animal whose weight has not changed, you can simply notify the Medical Coordinator and request the medication as the due date approaches.

Due to the large number of animals in the foster program, it is up to the foster care provider to keep track of their foster’s booster shot and prevention schedule. These are entered as a journal entry in our system rescuegroups.org.

**Spay/Neuter Surgery**

The Medical Coordinator will contact you for scheduling of spay/neuter. You will bring the pet(s) in on the morning of the scheduled surgery. The following determines when the animal is ready for surgery:

* Are the puppies/kittens old enough or did they gain enough weight for surgery?
* Are they successfully weaned from their mother?
* Have they been successfully socialized?
* Is your foster healthy and recovered fully from any potential illness or injury?
* Have they received vaccines such as DA2PP, Bordetella, or FVRCP?

The day of surgery . . .

Adult dogs and cats-no food or drink after midnight.

*Check with the Medical Coordinator for kittens/puppies- some vets require that you feed a small breakfast (1-2 tablespoons of canned food) and offer water.*

Drop-off time for surgery is usually by 8 am and pickup is usually between 4 & 5 depending on which clinic is used.

Note: If your foster animal is currently experiencing any symptoms such as sneezing, diarrhea, coughing, lethargy, lack of appetite, hair loss, vomiting, nasal or eye discharge, etc., please contact the Medical Coordinator immediately. If your foster animal is showing signs of illness when you drop it off, you may be turned away. If you are unable to make your appointment for any reason, please contact the Medical Coordinator as soon as possible.

After surgery…

* Your foster animal will likely be groggy when he/she gets home. This may include dilated pupils, stumbling, whining, disorientation, fear, hallucinations, etc. This is all completely normal and should wear off after a couple of hours.
* Your foster may receive an e-collar (cone) that may need to be worn for 2 weeks.
* Your foster may receive sutures that need to be removed in about 2 weeks. If they do not have dissolvable stitches make sure that stitches are removed timely after surgery.
* Check the incision regularly. If it is swollen, hot to the touch, extremely red, has a lot of discharge, or is bleeding, please contact the Medical Coordinator immediately.
* If the incision gets dirty, you may clean it with hydrogen peroxide or Betadine and a cotton ball or clean rag. Do not use Neosporin, bandages, or any other cleaners on the incision.
* Your foster animal will typically receive injectable pain medication following surgery. Do not administer any other pain medications to your animal as they may be toxic if given in conjunction with the pain medication received during surgery.
* Do not bathe your foster animal or allow it to swim for 5-7 days following surgery unless otherwise instructed by the Medical Coordinator.
* Restrict activity for adult males, adult females, and female puppies for the first 5-7 days. Attempt to keep your animal from running, jumping, or excessive playing during this time. Male puppies are permitted normal activity levels following surgery.

# Animal dies in care

It is Street Paws policy to cremate animals that die in care. In some instances, the decision has been made to bury them. Approval must be received from Kristi before disposing of any Street Paws foster.

# Getting Your Foster Animal Adopted

**It Takes a Village**

Getting an animal rescued and adopted is a team effort. As a foster parent/family, no one will know the animal as well as you do. Make sure you communicate important changes/developments in your foster animal’s behavior, training, growth, and health with the Street Paws leadership team and update the information in rescuegroups.org.

When it comes to finding the right fit for your foster animal, Adoption Coordinators will need to know all the information possible to assist in placing your foster pet into a new home. This is especially important as we are a foster-only-based organization. Rescuegroups.org has a lot of pre-set options to select that the Adoption Coordinator can view to understand your foster’s personality/needs.

**How do pets in foster care get adopted?**

When fostering an animal for Street Paws you can be the animal’s number one advocate!! By acting as an adoption ambassador, you won’t just be a foster care provider . . . you will be a photographer, videographer, biographer, marketing specialist, and an adoption counselor (or we hope you will ☺).

* Foster parents will need to assist in writing the bio for the pet to ensure the pet’s personality is well captured in our social media posts and online presence. We have some materials that can give advice on this.
  + Complete a profile for the dog/cat documenting your experience. This can be done in person or via email.
  + It is preferred that the foster utilize our animal management system rescuegroups.org.
  + A user name and password will be provided. You can update the bio, pictures, upload documents, and utilize the journal for vaccine reminders or vet appointments, and more.
* Take at least one clear, landscape-oriented (horizontal) and one portrait-oriented (vertical), photo of the foster animal and upload them to Rescuegroups.org or email it to the Foster Coordinator to be added to the shelter’s system which will upload to adoption websites.
  + Did you know…Animals brought to adoption events are adopted up to 2 times faster! On average, you will need to bring your foster to a minimum of 3-5 adoption evens to get them adopted! Adoption events are a great place to meet other fosters and make new friends!

We will train you on the adoption process, advertise your foster on our Facebook page and website, and encourage you to take your foster around the community (check with your Foster Coordinator prior for approval) to try to find someone qualified to adopt them. We will even invite you out to our offsite adoption events. If you find someone to adopt the animal you are fostering, you will perform the adoption process after the applicant has been pre-approved. (In the beginning, a Foster Coordinator or the Adoption Coordinator will assist). Please read the Street Paws Adoption Criteria Manual. We may allow the pet to be adopted for a trial period. Adoption paperwork must still be completed, and we require a refundable deposit if the pet is not adopted.

Please feel free to utilize social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Nextdoor) and other sources to promote the adoption of your foster. Examples would be to make a Facebook page for your foster and to cross-post your foster’s story using email and social media. **Street Paws has set protocol for what is allowed on social media so speak with your Foster Coordinator before posting.**

All foster parents are encouraged to promote the adoption of their foster pet to friends, family, and other potential adopters.

As soon as you obtain your foster animal, you will want to begin the process of getting him or her into their forever home. If they are under 8 weeks of age, you will not be able to complete any adoptions for the animal, but it doesn’t hurt to get the word out that the animals will be available for adoption once it’s of age and spayed/neutered. Talk to the Foster Coordinator for approval however as there are some instances where we may choose to wait to post new arrivals. Ferals may also be handled differently.

If your foster animal is injured or needs extra care, you can still begin marketing your animal to find it a forever home. Provided that the adoptive family is capable of providing continuing care, and the foster family and Street Paws believe that the animal will be a good fit for the family.

Foster parents will need to work with Street Paws as needed to schedule meet and greets with potential adopters if not at an adoption event.

The board, with recommendations from the foster home, will reserve the right to place the animal in its appropriate adoptive home based on the information in the potential adopter’s application. We have an application process; perform vet checks and home visits before adoption.

All adoptions must be completed using Street Paws adoption criteria.

Street Paws animals must be spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped before they can go to their forever home unless prior arrangements have been made by Street Paws staff.

Potential adopters must go through the approval process. Payment must be remitted at the time of adoption along with an adoption agreement. All payments and paperwork must be submitted promptly to Kristi Butler.

Please be aware that animals in our foster program are not on a first-come, first-serve basis. As the foster parent, you may take several applications and/or meet with different potential adopters before deciding which would be the best fit for the animal(s) in your care. However, foster care providers should check their email inbox, and spam folder daily for inquiries from Street Paws about potential adopters, about the animal(s) in their care, and respond to all inquiries within 24 hours.

**What Are My Responsibilities in the Adoption Process?**

* Phone and email Inquiries- We ask that you respond to all inquiries (via phone or email) within 24 hours and schedule the meet and greet for approved adopters within 48 hours. An Adoption Coordinator will let you know if they are approved before moving forward. Since you know your foster best, it is important that potential adopters hear about the animal directly from you. Be careful immediately telling your potential adopter that your foster is still available. To avoid an uncomfortable situation, you can tell potential adopters that another application is pending, and they will be contacted if the adopter falls through.
* Meet-N-Greets- Once you have scheduled your meet-n-greet with the potential adopter(s) (we recommend a neutral location if possible), you will want to determine whether the potential adopter is a good fit. If you have concerns, do not proceed with the adoption. Until you are comfortable in this process, we can have another volunteer assist you.
  + If you are fostering a puppy that is under 8 weeks of age, do not allow the puppy to touch the ground in a public place. Puppies that are not fully vaccinated are extremely susceptible to contagious diseases that may be present in these areas.
* Approving the Adoption- Provided you are comfortable with the potential adopter(s) of your foster animal(s), you will need to complete the adoption agreement and accept payment. Make sure the Board/Adoption Coordinator has also approved the adopter. We can have another volunteer assist you until you are comfortable with the process. We accept PayPal at [streetpaws@ymail.com](mailto:streetpaws@ymail.com) (use friends and family to avoid fees), Cash-App, Venmo, Zelle, Cash, and Check.
* Make sure that vaccines are current before adoption.
* Make sure all your foster’s data is in Rescuegroups.org such as vaccines, dewormer, etc. Also, make sure all your paperwork has been turned in so Kristi can provide the adopter with complete and accurate information upon adoption.
  + Kristi will register their microchip, mail rabies and microchip tags, and email all paperwork we have for the foster animal to the new adopter.

**Photo Taking Tips**

* Know your pet
* Get on their level
* Use the right lighting and setting
* Be patient
* Have fun and be creative! We have some additional materials to read if you are interested.
* Take at least one clear, short video of the foster animal and upload it to Rescuegroups.org (a YouTube link works best as it will upload to more sites, Street Paws does have a YouTube channel) or email it to the Foster Coordinator to be added to the shelter’s system which will upload to adoption websites.
* Create and put up flyers for the foster animal in appropriate locations.

**Can foster parents adopt their foster animal?**

You bet! Foster parents have the first choice to adopt their foster pet. Adoption fees will apply. Fees for foster parents are the cost of the vet and other bills incurred or the adoption fee, whichever is less.

**Discontinuing Foster Care**

Should you need to discontinue foster care for your foster pet before their full recovery or adoption, call the Foster Coordinator and we will begin the process to attempt to find a new foster. We will work hard to secure a new foster family **but please be patient as this is not an easy task.** Do not give your foster dog to another person or agency.

# Emergency Evacuation Plan

In the case of a natural disaster within the state, each foster should always have a crate and essential items such as water, medication, and food for each pet in their care and be prepared to evacuate with their foster or work with another foster that can assist. If there is a local issue such as flooding, foster’s can be moved to Serena Roy’s property at 281 Jackson St Locust Grove GA 30248. Notify Street Paws staff of the location and well-being of both the foster family and your foster pet at your earliest opportunity after you have reached a safe location.

# Biohazard Plan

1. Follow all Local, State, and Federal Government guidelines/standards. Follow all best practices for cleaning and sanitizing.
2. Any public event will be postponed or canceled including fundraisers, meetings, and adoption events.
3. If possible, we will postpone vaccinations and photography of pets until safe to do so.
4. Follow all Animal Control protocols for any Rescues, Transfers, or pickups.
5. Follow Veterinary Clinic protocol for any non-critical visits.
6. All intakes will be limited. Any new intake must follow our 2-week quarantine and will not be allowed to attend public events until their quarantine is up and initial vaccines have been given.
7. We will utilize virtual meetings such as Google Hangouts for any necessary group conversations.
8. Meet and greets for pets:
   1. These will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
   2. We shall do everything we can to set up a video meet and greet between Adopter and Foster once approved by the Adoption Manager.
   3. A trial period for adoption may be approved, and virtual check-ins will be performed.
   4. Finalizing adoptions can only be performed with a very minimal amount of people in an outdoor setting. Preferably only 1 Adopter and 1 Foster or Adoption Manager.
   5. Adoption Manager or Foster must do their best to remain several feet away from the Adopter at all times. Must maintain 6ft social distance criteria.
   6. Before you begin, ask “Have you been in contact with anyone who has shown any signs or symptoms?” Postpone if yes. Reschedule at least 14 days away.
   7. Do not shake hands! Sanitize hands before and after any visitation. Wash hands for 20 seconds after handling any paperwork, checks, money, etc. Offer hand sanitizer if available. Adoption payments and donations are strongly encouraged to be paid via PayPal during this time to avoid contact with checks and cash.
   8. Do not share pens!
   9. Wipe down any surfaces used if applicable.
9. If you have come into contact with anyone contagious or you are personally ill, notify Kristi Butler at 678-994-6595 immediately so your foster can be moved to a new location if needed or updated to quarantine status.

Note: Update Foster manual with any changes

# Adoption Events

We hold adoption events with Petsense and Pet Supermarket in McDonough and various PetSmart and Petco locations (other locations on occasion such as Tractor Supply and Hollywood Feed) to bring our pets in to be viewed for adoption on Saturdays 11 am-4 pm and occasionally on Sundays.

We will need assistance with ensuring the pets are taken to adoption events regularly, and your help in coordinating the animal’s attendance. While we can occasionally get a volunteer to assist, our staff is small and foster homes spread out around the county, so we desperately count on our foster parents to help us.

Pets will need to be bathed regularly before meet and greets and PetSmart-type adoption events.

Inhumane treatment of any pet is strictly prohibited. Inhumane treatment of pets, or failure to report it when seen, will not be tolerated and will be grounds for dismissal from Street Paws. Animals must be handled humanely, utilizing positive methods of redirecting the attention of an animal. While we understand that in some circumstance’s corrections must occur for safety however hitting, yelling and other harsh methods will not be tolerated.

**Offsite events**

*Vaccine Requirements*

* Foster pets must have at least 1 vaccine before any adoption event and preferably 2 weeks before their first event (DA2PP and Bordetella for puppies/dogs and FVRCP for cats/kittens), puppies and kittens must have 2.
  + Rabies vaccinations must be given at 16 weeks of age for puppies and 15-16 weeks of age for kittens.
* Depending on the venue, the pet must be spayed or neutered before attending an event.
  + All pets must be spayed and neutered before adoption unless a written agreement is made between Street Paws and a potential adopter.
* All pets must have received a fecal or deworming before any event.

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* No pet with any contagious condition (i.e.: FELV, Herpes, ringworm) will be allowed at any event.
  + Kitties with FIV may attend certain events only if approved by the Street Paws staff only, certain venues do not allow them to attend.
  + All cages should have properly completed cage cards to identify the pet for adoption.
  + Cage cards should at a minimum include name, age, sex, and breed.
  + Each pet should have access to fresh water.
  + We take pride in the appearance of our pets and cleanliness of pets is required. Pets should be clean and groomed when attending events.
  + Any pet that has soiled its cage must be cleaned immediately.
  + Only utilize clean and presentable crates, cages, ex-pens, etc.
  + As representatives of Street Paws, Volunteers/Fosters must demonstrate good judgment and professional taste in attire.
  + A Street Paws shirt is preferred.
  + Dress neatly, in clean, un-tattered clothing, no short shorts, half shirts, ripped, stained or provocative clothing, and adhere to good personal hygiene and grooming habits.
  + Some venues have their own dress code such as Petco, Hollywood Feed, and PetSmart, make sure to read their manual before attending events at these locations as we are required to adhere to their policies and rules to utilize their facilities. These manuals can be found under Forms in our Facebook group.
* Set up the adoption area before the advertised start time of any adoption event or scheduled adoption time.
* Stores should be contacted to advise of event attendance before an event and notified of any cancellations 24-28 hours before an event.
* When attending events at PetSmart and Petco, it is mandatory to read their manual before attending events at these locations as we are required to follow their policies and rules while on their premises. These manuals can be found under Forms in our Facebook group.
* Street Paws prefers that bedding and tablecloths used are color coordinated or look presentable and appealing to the public.
* Do not break down or leave the adoption event before the advertised end time.

**Safe Adoption Area Expectations/Requirements**

Adoption areas can be very busy at times! Multiple people seeking pets may be visiting simultaneously. Accidents can happen, but with the right level of customer service and attention to detail, most can be prevented. Adhering to these standards can also help avoid most accidents.

*Expectations/Requirements for People*

* + The best safety precaution is awareness. Pay attention to potential hazards in the adoption area. **Be aware of** **unsupervised children** and anyone interacting with pets.
* Volunteers at events must be 18 years of age or older; volunteers who are 16-17 are permitted to attend adoption events, only if always supervised by an approved volunteer or staff member 18 years or older. Many venues will not allow children under 16 to volunteer. Speak to a staff member about any child under the age of 16.
* Foster/Volunteers must read all manuals before attending adoption events.
  + These can be found under files in the Street Paws Volunteer Group on Facebook. If you do not have access to Facebook, please ask that one be emailed to you.
* Volunteers who manage leashed pets must always be capable of managing pets responsibly. This includes being able to constrain the pet during elevated circumstances. Only non-retractable leashes no longer than 6 feet may be used.
* All cage doors must be facing away from public access and secured with a cage clip/lock.
* Children and anyone interacting with pets must never put their hands inside of a crate with an animal without prior approval from the event coordinator.
* Young children must not have close access to dogs without a parent or guardian present.
  + A one to two-foot gap must always exist between children and dogs.
  + Notify the parent or guardian if a child is too close and stand between the child and the pets if the child does not move away.
* Multiple adopter/pet interactions should be permitted only as deemed safe, ensuring enough volunteer staff is available to conduct the interactions.
  + Signed wavers in advance are preferred for one on one contact with the pets with the general public.
* Adoption area and animal containments must be kept clean, organized, and free of clutter.
  + Waste must be picked up as needed and properly disposed of.
* Please assist in cleaning the adoption area after an event. This may include, but is not limited to, sweeping, mopping, and sanitizing the area with approved cleaners and breaking down crates and tables.
* Volunteers must ensure the use of safe lifting practices for picking up or carrying items or pets.
* Horseplay is strictly forbidden.
* If an item is too heavy to safely handle alone, get help. Avoid serious injury.
* Use caution when walking on wet or slippery floors.

*Expectations/Requirements for Pets*

* Any pet being transported must be safeguarded from escaping. Therefore, the use of a pet carrier or a harness/collar and leash on the pet while moving them is very important. All cats must be within a carrier when being transported.
* Pets must be restrained. This may include leashed by an adequate collar, slip lead, harness, or combination of these to provide secure restraint and control. Pets must properly be leashed and attended to when on a leash.
* Animals may not be tethered or left alone.
* Animals must be housed humanely in appropriately sized crates.
  + Crates should be clean, in good repair, and large enough for an animal to stand up, turn around and lie down comfortably.
  + Exercise pens may be used for dogs that will not be able to escape from the exercise pen at any time.
* Cats must have a litter box. Street Paws prefers that each pet have bedding of some sort unless temperatures are extremely hot or if the animal may chew them.
* When conducting adoptions outdoors, the temperatures must range between 60-90 degrees. If temperatures are not in this range, adoptions cannot take place outside.
* All pets at outdoor events must be provided with adequate shade such as a tent, canopy, building overhang, trees, etc. Clean drinking water at all times. Cage fans should be utilized for hot days. Pets must not be contained in a crate that does not have adequate ventilation such as a box.
* All pets that are injured or become ill while participating in an event must be accessed and potentially taken to a vet for diagnosis and treatment.
  + Management at certain venues may also need to be notified.
* Any pets showing signs of excessive stress or aggression must be removed from the event. An animal whose behavior is questionable should not be showcased at any event.
* Any pet incidents must be reported to Kristi Butler at 678-994-6595 ASAP.

This includes but is not limited to:

* + Pets needing medical assistance
  + Dog fights including those involving owned as well as adoptable dogs
  + Pet biting or scratching a person
  + Pet escape
  + Pet death (may require a necropsy)
  + Pet abandonment

**For more detailed information on the above incidents, see below**

Pet Incidents with People

Occasionally, a pet may get excited and scratch or bite a potential adopter or pet parent. Regardless of the severity of the injury, any such incident requires immediate attention from the Foster/Volunteer. Knowing what to do in advance may prevent escalation and ensure that the injured party receives appropriate attention.

**Kristi Butler should be notified immediately of any incident/injury.**

For serious wounds and bites to fragile areas of the body, such as the face, call 911 immediately and alert Kristi Butler at 678-994-6595.

* Even if the bite does not appear serious, insist the person receives medical attention, as some bites can become badly infected. If it is unclear whether the skin was broken by claws or teeth, treat the situation as a bite.
* Obtain names and phone #’s of any witnesses to the incident, an incident report may need to be completed.
* Kristi will verify the status of the animal’s rabies vaccination. Note: puppies and kittens under 3 months will not have been vaccinated for rabies. Any animal that has bitten someone, and broken skin (regardless of whether they have been vaccinated) may be quarantined for 10 days.
* Once the injured party is being cared for medically, immediately isolate and remove the involved pet.
  + Pets that have bitten may not be brought back to an adoption event.
* Wash bite wounds with soap and water immediately. If the bite did not break the skin, no further action is required. If the skin was scratched, watching for redness or infection should be sufficient. If the skin was punctured, it will need oral antibiotics. If bleeding, stop with pressure.

Escaped Pet

Facilitating adoptions in designated adoption areas takes focused supervision. Should an escape occur, follow the necessary steps to resolve the issue.

**If the escaped pet is still inside a store**, alert store leadership immediately so associates can be posted at doors and automatic doors can be turned off until the pet is recovered. An announcement over the PA system or use of a two-way radio, if available, may be required to get all doors covered immediately.

Contact Kristi Butler at 678-994-6595

**If the pet has left the store**, more extensive measures are required.

The Volunteer/Foster must assign search party leaders and establish a command post to manage communication.

Search party leaders must:

* Create a list of individuals to participate in an exterior search party and provide the list to the command post.
* Call the command post every 30 minutes, even if no contact with the pet has been made.
* Report areas the search party has covered and receive input from other search parties.
* If the search continues beyond the first few hours, contact should be made regularly throughout the search with the entities listed below. These organizations or people affiliated with them may have contact with the pet at some point.
  + Local animal control or humane organizations in the area
  + All store associates
  + Personnel in adjacent businesses, local food delivery contacts
  + Local postal carriers
  + Post on social media

If the pet is not recovered within 24 hours, it is recommended that posters and flyers with the pet’s picture be printed and displayed. The Volunteer/Foster will determine whether posters, flyers, and ads should be made; materials can be posted at the store upon store approval.

The Volunteer/Foster must make plans for emergency care for the pet upon recovery.

Once the pet is recovered, the Volunteer/Foster with the assistance of Kristi Butler will ensure any veterinary requirements are met.

Pet Abandonment or Pet Illness-Post Adoption

Please contact Kristi Butler at 678-994-6595 or Ashley Autrey at 770-369-7204

for direction.

# Important Contacts—People and Places

**Staff:**

Kristi Butler-Founder/President, Treasurer, Foster, Feral Expert & Foster Coordinator

[kristi@streetpaws.org](mailto:kristi@streetpaws.org)

678-994-6595

Ashley Autrey-Vice President, Medical Coordinator, Foster, Feral Expert, backup Foster Coordinator & Photographer

770-369-7204

[ashley@streetpaws.org](mailto:ashley@streetpaws.org)

Serena Roy Secretary, Humane Education, Foster, and Feral Expert

678-640-1818

[serena@streetpaws.org](mailto:serena@streetpaws.org)

Becky Goins Adoption Manager

404-771-6453

[becky@streetpaws.org](mailto:becky@streetpaws.org)

**Approved Vet Clinics**

Lake Dow 770-957-4040

Locust Grove 678-565-4004

Rescue Vet spay and neuter and some tests-Ashley schedules

SAVES (for emergencies) 770-460-8166 (primary)

Fayetteville

On occasion we may use the following vet clinics as well:

Hudson Bridge 770-389-3400

Fairview Animal Hospital 770-389-9757

Ellenwood

Henry County Vet 770-954-1217

McDonough

Woodland 770-467-3140

Locust Grove

# Helpful Resources

**Reading and/or Viewing for Puppy/Dog Fosters**

**Safety and Behavior:**

<https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/dog-care/common-dog-behavior-issues/aggression>

<https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/dog-care/dog-bite-prevention>

<http://drsophiayin.com/blog/entry/kids-and-dogs-how-kids-should-and-should-not-interact-with-dogs>

<https://positively.com/articles/dog-child-safetyguide/>

**How to Introduce Dogs to Each Other:**

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steffen-baldwin/chill-out-decompression-t_b_8331986.html>

<http://bestfriends.org/resources/introducing-dogs-each-other>

**How to Introduce a Dog to a Cat:**

<http://bestfriends.org/resources/how-introduce-dog-cat>

**Effective Adoption Counseling Tips:**

<http://www.animalfarmfoundation.org/pages/Adoption-Counseling>

**Reading and/or Viewing for Kitten/Cat Fosters**

**Safety and Behavior:**

https:/[/www.a](http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/cat-care/common-cat-behavior-issues/aggression-cats)s[pca.org/pet-care/cat-care/common-cat-behavior-issues/aggression-cats](http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/cat-care/common-cat-behavior-issues/aggression-cats)

**How to Introduce Cats to Each Other:**

<http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/cats/tips/introducing_new_cat.html>

**How to Introduce a Dog to a Cat:**

[http://bestfriends.org/resources/how-introduce-dog-cat - Option 1](http://bestfriends.org/resources/how-introduce-dog-cat%20-%20Option%201):

**Effective Adoption Counseling Tips:**

<http://www.animalfarmfoundation.org/pages/Adoption-Counseling>

**Just a good and funny read:**

Don’t Dump the Dog by Randy Grim

# Street Paws on social media

**Join the Street Paws Volunteer Group on Facebook**

This group is open to current, active volunteers, fosters, and staff members and is a great way to connect and stay connected to others involved with Street Paws.

This is a secret group so you will need to send a friend request to Kristina Butler, and she can add you.

Volunteer group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2012459505651437/>

**What is the purpose of the page?**

There are several ways this page can be used:

* Fosters and volunteers are urged to take candid, cute photos and videos of rescue pets. We use these, along with your stories and observations, to construct posts for the rescue’s external Facebook page.
* This helps find homes for more difficult-to-adopt animals.
* Always include the name of the pet you are photographing at the end of your post so they can be easily identified by the staff.
* Have non-urgent medical or behavioral questions about a foster pet? Ask it to the group and you’re likely to get immediate responses.
* Want to share a happy story or informative article with the group? Go ahead. We all love to learn and there are so many great resources out there!
  + Consider following ASPCAPro and Animal Sheltering to find out the latest in animal welfare.
* Can’t make your volunteer shift? Alert other volunteers – we often have people step in when they hear there is a need.

The Facebook group is a wonderful tool and is a key part of our Volunteer and Foster program. This is the main place we announce meetings, events, and volunteer needs such as food pickups and adoption events.

There are certain things we ask you not to post on the Facebook group page, as they are better addressed with the coordinators. Two of these are:

* Concerns or complaints about a staff member, another volunteer, or an issue with the rescue.
* Complaints, suggestions, or concerns about rescue policies and procedures.

All group members are expected to conduct themselves with respect and compassion towards everyone else on the page. The rescue reserves the right to moderate comments and posts. Posts may be removed from the page at any time. The author of the removed post will always receive an e-mail or message from the moderator, explaining why their post or comment was removed.

We also utilize a Google Calendar to schedule events as well as a group email address [volunteers@streetpaws.org](mailto:volunteers@streetpaws.org). To be added contact, Kristi Butler.

Make sure to like and follow our main Facebook page. [www.facebook.com/streetpaws](http://www.facebook.com/streetpaws) and also join our Public group Street Paws Atlanta-South. By helping share our posts and events you will help us market our pets and promote what we do.

# Street Paws Foster Agreement

I , make the following statements and voluntarily enter into this Foster Care Agreement (hereinafter “Agreement”) to provide temporary care as a foster caregiver for the Street Paws. I understand that the animal(s) are temporarily in my care and belong exclusively to Street Paws, Inc. I also understand that the purpose of this foster relationship is solely to provide care for the animal(s).

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that when ready for adoption, I will surrender the animal(s) to Street Paws, Inc. for placement. Street Paws, Inc. must formally approve any and all placements, and all are subject to the same guidelines as all other Street Paws, Inc. adoptions. This includes adoption by the foster provider and to friends, relatives, or acquaintances of the foster provider.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have never been convicted of animal cruelty, neglect, or abandonment. I agree to notify Street Paws if I am convicted of animal cruelty, neglect, or abandonment in the future.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to comply with all other federal, state, and local laws that pertain to companion animals and pet ownership in the jurisdiction where I reside.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that Street Paws reserves the right to check on the welfare of my foster animal, which may include a visit to my foster home. I further understand that if Street Paws finds a direct and immediate threat to my foster animal, Street Paws may remove the animal from my care.

\_\_\_\_\_ I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Street Paws Foster Care Guidelines and Agreement, Street Paws Adoption Criteria, and Street Paws General Foster Care Guidelines for either dog/puppy or cat/kitten and that I have read the Manuals. I agree to fully comply with the policies, guidance, and requirements outlined in the Manuals as applicable to my foster animal.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to not take my foster dog(s) or my foster cat(s) to dog parks, off-leash areas, daycare facilities, crowded public areas, or any similar locations unless given prior approval by the Street Paws Foster Coordinator. I understand that I will be solely responsible for any injury or damage caused by my foster animal if I do not comply with this provision.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that for the health and safety of my animals and the fostered animal(s), Street Paws recommends that my foster animal(s) is to be kept separate from any other animals currently living in my home unless pre-approved. I agree that if I choose to introduce my foster animal(s) to any other animal living in my home, I will be solely responsible for any illness or injury to other animals.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree that the animal(s) that I foster will reside in my home, will be kept as household pets, and will not be used for breeding.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree that I will provide safe, clean, warm, and indoor housing for the fostered animal(s).

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree that I will not allow my fostered animal(s) outdoors at all for cats and outdoors unsupervised for dogs.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to provide high-quality food (all animals) and litter (cats and kittens, non-clumping for kittens)

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to provide fresh/clean water daily for fostered animal(s).

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to spend as much time as possible socializing and playing with the animal(s).

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to bring the animal(s) to Street Paws, Inc. Medical Coordinator for vaccinations.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to bring the animal(s) to approved veterinary clinics for medical treatments and or spay/neuter appointments on scheduled dates.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to closely monitor the condition of the fostered animal(s) and contact Street Paws, Inc. immediately when any problems are observed, or when I have any questions or concerns.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that animal(s) in my care may develop health problems and that some diseases can be passed to other pets or family members. Street Paws, Inc. strongly advises that all household pets be current on vaccines and that humans have a current tetanus booster.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that all medical treatment for the fostered animal(s) MUST be pre-authorized by Street Paws, Inc. staff. Street Paws, Inc. is not responsible for any unauthorized medical treatment and/or costs incurred.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that Street Paws, Inc. may request the return of the fostered animal(s) at any time and I agree to cooperate with any such request.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to notify the Street Paws Foster Coordinator immediately by phone and in writing at 678-994-6595 and [streetpaws@ymail.com](mailto:streetpaws@ymail.com) immediately if my foster animal(s) becomes lost or separated from me.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to notify the Street Paws Foster Coordinator immediately by phone and in writing at 678-994-6595 and [streetpaws@ymail.com](mailto:streetpaws@ymail.com) if my foster animal demonstrates any aggressive behavior, including, but not limited to, biting a person or another animal.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to seek immediate medical attention if I am bitten by my foster animal, or if I receive any other physical injury resulting from interaction with my foster animal. I further agree to seek immediate medical attention for any member of my household who is bitten or suffers any other physical injury resulting from interaction with my foster animal.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to return my foster animal(s) at any time upon the request of the Street Paws Foster Coordinator or any Street Paws staff member.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to receive and respond to calls and emails timely concerning my foster animal(s), from Street Paws shelter staff, veterinary staff, and potential adopters.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to transport the animal to Street Paws or an approved veterinary clinic to receive medical treatment as requested by the Street Paws Medical Coordinator or Street Paws staff and if my foster animal experiences a medical emergency.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that Street Paws will not reimburse me for any routine or non-emergency care for my foster animal that is not pre-approved by the Street Paws Medical Coordinator.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to contact the Street Paws Foster Coordinator at 678-994-6595 and [streetpaws@ymail.com](mailto:streetpaws@ymail.com) for other concerns or any other emergency or non-emergency matters.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to assume the risks implicit in working with animals who may have been abandoned, neglected, mistreated, or who may suffer from an illness or disease. My participation in the Street Paws Foster Program is entirely voluntary and without the promise or expectation of compensation. I have no known physical or mental condition that would impair my ability to participate in the Street Paws Foster Program. I understand that while Street Paws staff carefully monitors all animals, Street Paws may have limited knowledge of their behavioral and medical backgrounds. Therefore, I understand that Street Paws makes no warranties or representations regarding my foster animal’s health, behavior, temperament, age, or breed. I further understand that environmental changes may affect and change the temperament of my foster animal(s).

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand and agree that Street Paws, its members, officers, directors, agents, and elected officials have no liability or responsibility of any nature for injuries or damage to any person, animal, or property which may be caused by my foster animal(s) or my participation in the Street Paws Foster Program. I, for myself and my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, hereby release, indemnify and hold harmless Street Paws, its members, officers, directors, agents, elected officials, and their heirs, administrators, executors, successors, and representatives from all liability for and all risk of damage or bodily injury or death that may occur to me (including any injury based on negligence) now or hereafter in connection with my foster animal(s) and my participation in the Street Paws Foster Program. I expressly agree that this release, waiver, and indemnity is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the State of Georgia and that if any portion is held invalid, the remainder shall continue in full force and effect.

By my signature below and, and by my initials beside each paragraph above, I affirm that all statements and stated agreements contained in this document are truthful, I affirm that I have read and understand this Agreement in its entirety, and I agree to abide by the terms of this Agreement.

Signature: Date:

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_