

FOSTER HOME GUIDELINES



Inspired by Hope
Guided by Compassion

955-7228

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THE BIGGEST RISKS OF FOSTERING?

The biggest risk of fostering is not being able to say goodbye. If there is the slightest chance that you may adopt the animal, please let us know **BEFORE** a potential adopter arrives.

If you do adopt and can no longer foster, please **see if you can find us a “replacement” foster home** through your family, friends or acquaintances that will be able to help in your place. And of course, please continue your support of the organization through fundraising events.

HEALTH ISSUES? Even if your pet(s) are fully vaccinated, disease transmission may still happen. Be sure to speak to a veterinarian if you are concerned.



THIS ANIMAL COUNTS ON YOU! This animal has been entrusted to your care. You are responsible to ensure that its **DAILY NEEDS* are met, which includes safety.

INSIDE means INSIDE. **DO NOT** allow foster animals outside unless on a leash and supervised or in a safe cat enclosure.

DO NOT place a foster animal without prior approval by SCAT. The potential new guardian **MUST** come in to sign foster/adoption application **BEFORE** receiving the animal.

Foster animals are under the guardianship of SCAT and must be surrendered to SCAT immediately upon request.

FOOD. If you require food, just call. *Keep receipts for food & litter that you buy - you will receive a taxable receipt for in-kind donations.*

DAILY NEEDS

- Quality Food
- Fresh Water
- Warm Shelter
- Clean Litter
- Love
- Socialization
- Monitoring for symptoms of physical or mental distress
- Help to find a permanent loving home

FOSTERING RESPONSIBILITIES

INCOMING animals are taken to the veterinary hospital and go through the following protocol:

- ↪ Incoming physical checkup
- ↪ Deworming (10 - 14 day cycle treatment repeated after initial treatment)
- ↪ Testing for Feline Leukemia and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus
- ↪ Quarantine - Adults for 10 days
- ↪ Quarantine - Kittens for 14 days
- ↪ Vaccination: FVRCP (upper respiratory & distemper)
- ↪ Spay or neuter surgery
- ↪ Rabies vaccination
- ↪ Identification - **tattoo "N" in right ear**



QUARANTINE protects animals already in the foster home from possible diseases carried by the new animals.

It also protects the new unvaccinated animals from diseases that may be silently carried by animals already in the foster home.

Quarantine is, therefore, essential. It is also important in the socializing of feral kittens. Please follow instructions on how

to quarantine. If you have concerns at any time, then contact the Foster Committee and discuss your concerns.

FOSTER GUARDIANS are responsible for...

- ↪ Being available for potential adopters whenever possible.
- ↪ Expressing their concerns to SCAT about a potential adopter.
- ↪ Closely monitoring the health of their foster and for reporting any medical or behavioral concerns immediately.
- ↪ Making appointments and taking the foster to the appointments, as required and indicated by SCAT.

SCAT is responsible for...

- ↪ Paying authorized veterinary expenses,
- ↪ Advertising Available-for-Adoption animals and screening potential adopters.

S/HE HAS ARRIVED....NOW WHAT?

NOTE: If they are with you for quarantine - it means they have to be kept separate from your cats 10 days for adults and 14 days for kittens.

- (1) SEPARATE: Put s/he/them into a separate room from *your* companion animals.
- (2) TIME: Allow time to become familiar with new surroundings...and you.
- (3) AFTER QUARANTINE: When the foster appears comfortable in the room, open the door and allow the foster to roam outside the room under your supervision.
- (4) NEVER LEAVE: Do not leave fosters and companion animals roaming together during your absence - always put the foster back into the room - at least for the first week.
- (5) YOUR PET: Be sure to give your companion animal lots of special attention to let them feel comfortable with the experience and not jealous or frightened.
- (6) ALWAYS keep your Foster Home Guidelines booklet handy for reference - on the fridge would be a good place.
- (7) MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS: Update the medical information for the foster animal (s) as necessary and remember to keep vaccination, surgery and other medical schedules. *THIS IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A FOSTER PARENT.*
- (8) Touch base with the previous foster home to gain some history of the foster animal if possible.
- (9) KEEP A LOG: **If you are the animal's first foster home, be sure to monitor their progress closely and log as much information as possible to better assist in finding the best match for a life-long partnership with the right guardian. Pass this information to the Centre Office.**
- (10) TELL US: Keep the SCAT Office informed of progress, personalities, and habits.

They deserve the best in life because they offer you the best in friendship.

Let's work hard
to make this world
a better place for all animals
— four footed and two.



SOCIALIZING FERALS

FERALS require a great deal of patience and understanding, and may never be totally socialized. Each animal will **have it's own level of comfort around humans.**



- 1 **SPACE:** Start with a small space, such as a bathroom. Too much space is overwhelming to them. You should be able to reach the cat at any time. There should not be a spot that the cat can get into **that you can't get them out of.** Provide at least one hiding spot, such as a carrier or small cardboard box. **NEVER** allow a feral to roam **freely through your house "before it's time."** **There's a good chance you will not see them for some time and that definitely doesn't help with socialization.**
- 2 **SIGHT/SMELL:** Provide a radio for voices and spend time just sitting in the room, perhaps reading. Allow the animal to get used to your smell perhaps by leaving a recently worn t-shirt in the room. Let them watch you without you watching them.
- 3 **PERSUADER:** Food is a great persuader. At first they may not eat with you still present in the room, but gradually you can linger longer and sit quietly while they eat. **Then it's a process of getting closer and closer, and perhaps even getting them to eat from your fingers.**
- 4 **TOUCH:** Slowly increase the amount of touch. Depending on how the animal is at the beginning, heavy gloves may be a good idea at first. The next step is to just have your hand touching them without strokes, and then, stroking the fur. Some areas can be more sensitive than others, depending **on the animal's personal preference. Keep an eye on their eyes and ears - they are the "meters" with which to gauge the comfort level.**
- 5 **TIME:** Time is the biggest factor in socializing ferals. Each one has a different **time and "button" that changes them from a terrified youngster to a loving bundle of fur.**

"BEFORE IT'S TIME..."

"Before it's Time" simply means before the animal is ready to accept human touch without too much stress.

A feral must be ready to allow you to pick her up, and each individual animal will reach that stage at his or her own good time.

Just because one kitten hops into your lap, it does not mean that his/her sibling is ready to do so as well.

Each animal must be evaluated individually.



POTENTIAL ADOPTERS

When a call comes in to the SCAT Centre, we get the person's contact information and pass it along to the foster home where the cat is that they are interested in visiting.

The foster home is then responsible for contacting the interested party as soon as possible to arrange for a visit.

The foster home then monitors the visitor closely and reports to the SCAT Centre if they were uncomfortable with the visitors.

The visitor must then come to the SCAT Centre on Faithfull to complete the screening and adoption process.

THEN and only then, is the cat to be released to the new guardian.

VIEWING AT PETSMART: As staff/volunteers are not at the Adoption Center the entire time the store is open, PETSMART associates are available to help. **HOWEVER**, the actual adoptions must be done through an authorized SCAT Adoption Counselor.

Don't forget...cat is NOT released before adoption papers have been signed.

We make every effort to ensure that both parties, two footed and four, are happy with the final results of each adoption.

ADOPTION CRITERIA

The following is required of all potential adopters:

- 1) *Written* permission from landlord to have a cat.
- 2) Carrier to transport the cat.
- 3) Complete adoption forms, which includes an agreement stating that the cat will not be allowed to roam at large, will receive necessary on-going veterinarian care, will NOT be declawed, and should the situation arise, be returned to SCAT and NOT dumped or abandoned.
- 4) Agree to a follow-up Homecheck that will be ranged at a convenient time for both parties.
- 5) Pay adoption fee. (Please check with shelter _____)

City licenses are available for purchase from the SCAT Adoption Centre on Faithfull.



KEEP YOUR FOSTER HEALTHY

PHYSICAL CHECKUP

Evaluate the health of your charge by following the guidelines below. Any **deviation from the cat's normal routine and/or behaviour should be reported** to the SCAT office, at which time they will consult with you and make recommendations including whether or not to make an appointment with the veterinarian.

GENERAL BODY CONDITION

You can monitor the general body condition when you are brushing or petting the cat. Run your hand over their body massaging areas and you will be better able to notice when a lump presents itself. She should be alert, active and friendly. Of course, in the case of a feral, she should be alert but the only way you may be able to tell, at least for the first while, if she is active is by seeing that the food is gone and that the toys have been moved around.

SKIN & COAT

Healthy fur is well-groomed. Greasy, matted or dull and unkempt fur is a sign of an underlying problem either with the skin or coat or a sign of a general disease in the cat that prevents her/him from grooming properly.

Other signs of problems are constant licking or scratching, hair loss, redness of the skin, oiliness, scaliness, crustiness, and infection. Skin parasites like fleas or ticks can also cause problems. Sometimes the problem is obvious, but other times its diagnosis requires skin scrapings or biopsies.

GAIT & POSTURE

Any abnormal gait, lameness, or abnormal posture needs to be further investigated.

TEMPERATURE

A cat's normal body temperature is between 37° and 38.5°Celsius. While taking the cat's rectal temperature you can check the external genitalia for any sores or discharge. Look also for tapeworm segments (small grains of rice that might be moving).

WEIGHT

Every cat should be weighed every three months. Any loss or gain greater than 1 1/2 pounds, any pattern of continual weight gain or weight loss, and/or any dramatic sudden weight loss should be reported.

EYES

Healthy eyes are clear without any discharge. The whites of the eyes are white. Any redness, cloudiness, discharge, squinting, unequal pupil sizes, or protruded third eyelid is abnormal.

EARS

Healthy ears are clean. Any smell and/or discharge is abnormal and should be checked. A black to brown discharge (coffee ground) could mean ear mites while a yellowish, creamy discharge could be a sign of a bacterial infection. Constant scratching at the ears, head shaking and any sign of head tilting is reason for concern and should be reported immediately.

NOSE

Normally a nose is a clean smooth surface and slightly moist with no discharge. The nose can be the site of tumors, ulcerations, discharge, and bleeding. Loss of appetite is often caused by nasal congestion because the **cats won't eat what they can't smell which can lead to serious malnutrition.**

MOUTH

The cat's gums and mucous membranes should be pink and moist.

Pale, dry mucous membranes, swollen gums, foreign bodies, tumors, sores, and bad odor are all signs of problems.

If there are signs of dental tartar and gingivitis a thorough teeth cleaning needs to be performed by a veterinarian.

VOMITING AND/OR DIARRHEA

If the cat has been properly dewormed, is feeling good, alert and still interested in food, then diarrhea and/or vomiting might be caused by some kind of stomach upset. It is a good idea to start with fasting for 24 hours. Just leave water out but no food. Then the next day feed a small amount of easy-to-digest food such as boiled chicken meat or canned hypoallergenic. Feed several small meals throughout the day. If the problem does not resolve itself within 48 hours, notify SCAT.

TAPEWORMS

Small object around the anus or found in the litter box that look like rice. Deworming the cat as well as any other cats he is in contact with is necessary with two treatments of pill or injection. Contact SCAT.

UPPER RESPIRATORY

Discharge from the eye and/or nose, often accompanied by

sneezing, fever and loss of appetite, is the usual signs of upper respiratory.

VACCINATIONS

Even though annual vaccinations have been under scrutiny lately, the first series of vaccinations is extremely important for the lifelong health of any cat.

Please make sure all vaccinations are given at the right time.

Veterinarians recommend that kittens under 4 months of age have a set of three vaccinations over a three month period. Booster vaccinations must be given no earlier than 3 weeks and no later than 4 weeks after the first vaccination to ensure an adequate response from the immune system!

The time frame for vaccinations is extremely important!

Cats over 4 months of age should receive two sets of vaccinations, again no sooner than 3 weeks and no longer than 4 weeks apart.

The cat should be healthy in order to receive the vaccinations and he should have received deworming prior to vaccinations.

Sample table for a series of vaccinations for a kitten starting at eight weeks of age.

Date	FVRCP	Leukemia	Rabies
May 1	X	X	
May 24	X	X	
June 16	X		X



ABOUT PETSMART VISITATIONS

Here are a few things that we want the foster homes to remember:



BRING: When someone calls to have you bring in the foster, please remember to bring some of the same dry food as what you have been feeding normally. This will help to alleviate as much as possible any stomach problems due to food change. It will be helpful to put it into a large Ziploc and mark it with the type of food **that is enclosed and the cat's name.**

KNOW YOUR FOSTER: We, also, need to know about your foster. Often you are the first one to see the gradual changes from when they first are trapped to when they are living with you, so you are the one who knows the cat the best and therefore will start to see what personality traits are coming forth. The more information that you can give, the easier it is for us to find the perfect match in a lifetime home.

PLEASE be sure to pass any information about your foster to the SCAT Centre on Faithfull. The more people who know what your foster is like, the more chance we are of finding a permanent loving home.

CONTACT INFO: VERY important is to leave your contact information. Your name and as many phone numbers as possible to find you if needed. If the foster becomes too agitated or there seems to be some medical problem surfacing, i.e. sneezing, blood in the stool, then the volunteer or staff at the Adoption Center will need to contact you to come and return the foster to your home as soon as possible. Often this is due to stress at the new environment and may not be serious, but if this does happen, monitor your foster closely to see if there is a need to take them to a vet. Follow the protocols for that instance.

DURATION OF VISIT: At present our time is usually just two weeks at the Adoption Center, so any foster may or may not be there for the full two weeks, depending on how well they are doing. The usual visit is one week. Keep in touch with the Petsmart Animal Coordinator, Foster Committee, or the SCAT Centre. If the cat is not adopted, you will need to retrieve the cat on the last day, usually around supper time (and usually Saturday).

ALTERNATE CONTACT: If you have to be away some time during those two weeks, please let us know, and/or make alternative arrangements for a family member or friend to pick up your foster to return him/her to your home if at all possible.



Check with the foster committee about these kinds of arrangements well before you leave. Thank you.

MEDICAL: Another very important note: medical items. Please let the person who calls you know about medical appointments or any medical issues happening for your foster. As foster mom/dad, you are the one who knows **what's going on with your foster and sometimes with so many cats/kittens, we don't always remember who is where in their medical schedule.** If the kitten is 8 weeks or under, he/she does not come to Petsmart. They must also have had their first checkup and first vaccination before they come to Petsmart. If there is any sneezing or other issues, please let us know as they should not go to Petsmart if there are any medical concerns. If a female has had her spay surgery recently, let us know when it was exactly. Sometimes **"cage rest" is a good thing as the cat tends to run around at home and it does the stitches good to have some rest and not so much exercise, but we don't want to have them at Petsmart if they have had their surgery the day before, for example.** Mostly it will depend on how well they are acting after their surgery, how well the stitches look and how everything in general is doing. Again, please chat with the person who calls you about any concerns.



PICKUP: If at any time you have to go to pick up your foster from the Adoption Center when the Petsmart Animal Coordinator or

any other volunteer is not there, **PLEASE be sure to check with the Petsmart Animal Coordinator, and leave a note at the Adoption Center** so that all volunteers who come in will know where the absent kitten/cat is. Otherwise, we will end up turning the whole store upside down looking for a lost cat (it has happened). Even if you mention it to the shelter, they may not be around to pass on the message to the volunteer working at the Adoption Center at night and the volunteer might not know how to retrieve a message off the cell phone. It is better to have many messages just to be on the safe side.

PLEASE DO NOT COME AND GET THE FOSTER TO RETURN TO YOUR HOME UNLESS YOU CLEAR IT WITH THE PETSMArt ANIMAL COORDINATOR. If you have a concern about the length of time that the foster is there for, then relay the concern to the Coordinator and we can see if there is some way to relieve that concern. It may very well be that the foster should indeed



be returned, but they are monitored and usually those at the Adoption Center will know if there is a need to return them sooner than planned.

ADOPTION: If your foster, indeed, gets adopted during their time at Petsmart, we will make every effort to let you know, however, sometimes in the excitement of finding a wonderful home, we do forget. And we apologize. So please feel free to keep in touch. We would prefer that you keep in touch with the Petsmart Animal Coordinator. Sometimes calls to the Adoption Center, though not discouraged, are a little confusing to a new volunteer, so it might just be easier to stay in touch with the Petsmart Animal Coordinator or the Foster Committee.

WE'RE EASY TO TALK TO: By all means, any questions, concerns, suggestions, whatever, are all welcome. There is a space on Page 15 to write any additional phone numbers you may need or want.

ONE LAST NOTE: please keep your carrier with you. Do not leave it at Petsmart Adoption Center.

Being at Petsmart greatly increases the chances of finding a good home for your foster. The Petsmart volunteers make every effort to make the foster as comfortable as possible, including playtime, cuddle time and walking around the store, if the cat is comfortable with that. They are closely monitored and receive a lot of attention during their time at the Adoption Center,



but they do look forward to returning to a home – whether yours or their new lifetime home. With your help we can make that happen.

Thank you so much for your help.

Without it, these

little ones would still be living on the streets.

Your commitment and compassion are vital to the effectiveness of this program and helps these wonderful creatures find their perfect home.

Thank you.



EMERGENCY?!

The following conditions are considered emergencies and veterinary advice should be sought immediately!

- Hit by Car or any other major trauma
- Shock
- Hyperthermia/Hypothermia
- Profuse Bleeding and open wounds
- Eye problems
- Pale blue or purple tongue color or gum color
- Labored Breathing
- Seizure
- Fractures

If any of the above emergencies happen, look to Page 15 for the clinic phone numbers to call.

If there is time, please try to contact the foster committee before going in.

If not, please try to contact them as soon as possible.

ALWAYS keep an eye on the foster and talk to the foster committee if you have any concerns whatsoever.

TO PILL A CAT

- Large towel wrapped baby-bunting style.
- Using one hand, with thumb and forefinger, tilt head back.
- Grasp pill with other thumb and forefinger, and using little finger of that hand, press down on bottom front teeth to open mouth.
- Place pill at the back of his throat.
- Syringe a bit of water down the throat through the corner of mouth.
- While holding mouth closed, blow in the cat's face or stroke throat until a swallowing motion.
- If the cat spits out the pill after you have let go, retrieve and practice steps 1 through 5 until you both get it right.
- Congratulate yourself and praise your cat.



TIPS

- A helper is definitely a good idea.
- Try a 'pill-shooter' perhaps.
- If you grind the pills to mix with food, it should be a VERY small amount of something irresistible. Lick-the-plate-clean kind of stuff. That way, if he manages to work around the pill, he will be still hungry enough for you to try again and again if necessary.
- Crush up the pill, mix it with a bit of honey and smear it on the front paws - the cat HAS TO LICK IT OFF as they can't stand anything on their paws!



ASK QUESTIONS!

Be sure to avail yourself of any information we can provide.

ASK QUESTIONS!

This is a very important task that has been entrusted to you. Take it seriously.

ASK QUESTIONS!

ADDITIONAL CONTACT NUMBERS

It is the responsibility... of the Foster Parent to ensure that the animal receives all the required medical care.

Keep track of requirements for vaccinations, deworming, surgeries and other medical appointments by marking your calendar or keeping a list on your fridge.

Contact SCAT office about clinic appointments.

For emergencies:

- All About Cats & Dogs
382-7387
- Central Animal Hospital
374-5252
- Erindale Animal Hospital
384-2287
- Orchard Veterinary Care
668-7297
- Vet College
Small Animal Clinic
966-7126

streetcat.ca

955-SCAT

MAILING ADDRESS
PO Box 31041
Saskatoon, SK S7H 5S8
SCAT CENTRE ON FAITHFULL
 CORNER OF
 50TH & FAITHFULL AVENUE

PHONE
955-7228
FAX
955-1037

CHARITY NUMBER
BN 88427 1180 RR0001

Sponsors include...

We especially want to thank all the members of the Veterinary community and the animal health care professions of Saskatoon who are there for us and the cats.

Without them, SCAT would not be able to continue with its work.

The volunteers thank you, and those who benefit from our help - four footed and two, thank you.

All About Cats & Dogs
Art Expressions
CJWW
Central Animal Hospital
Concorde Group of Companies
David Dube & Heather
Ryan Foundation
Early's
Erindale Animal Hospital
Frontier Spay & Neuter Clinic
It's A Dog's Life
Kanine Klipping
Len's Hauling
Magic 98FM
Market Mall

Mid-West Sportswear
Nordic Fencing
Orchard Veterinary Care
Petcetera
Petfinder
Petlynx
PetPoint
PetSmart
PrairieLand Veterinary Clinic
The Neighbourhood Express
The Star Phoenix & Saskatoon Sun
United Way
Western College of Veterinary Medicine - Small Animal Clinic
Yarrow Youth Farm

*Medical information provided by
Dr. Sandra Neumann, Arlington Animal Hospital
Dr. Ruey Stocking, Cat Hospital of Saskatoon
Dr. Haider Elbermani, PrairieLand Veterinary Clinic*

CAT FACTS

A cat's normal body temperature is between 38° and 39° degrees Celsius.

Her/his heart rate can vary considerably but usually is between 110 to 140 beats per minute.

A cat can live for up to 26 years.

Remember: A good diet is vitally important for the health of your cat! After all, we are what we eat, right?

Don't be afraid to ask. There is no such thing as a silly question when it comes to an animal's health and well being.
ASK QUESTIONS!

street.cat@sasktel.net



ONE LAST THING... Keep in touch.

---> Do you have email? Get on our email list. <---

It's an easy way to see what's going on.

Other ways: call the store or check the website or check the blogs.

streetcat.petfinder.com