***New Foster Parent Information***

**Contact information:**

Email: director@humanesocietyflinthills.org

Office: 620-342-4477

Emergency: 620-794-8248 (Foster Coordinator) (Emergencies ONLY please)

**Emergencies:**

An emergency would include but is not limited to: seizures, broken bones, or if any of the following persist for 24 hours or more: vomiting, diarrhea, or not eating.

If foster animals need IMMEDIATE medical attention, or if a foster animal needs medical assistance (non-emergency) during the weekend (i.e. severe upper respiratory infection, kennel cough, bloody urine), call the emergency number listed above to discuss the situation with a HSFH representative. If it is deemed an emergency, you will be directed to call the Emporia Veterinary Hospital at 620-342-6515.

**DO NOT TAKE FOSTERS TO A VET CLINIC WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM A HSFH STAFF MEMBER OR YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BILL.**

**Reasons for foster:**

* Age (kittens under 1.8 pounds; puppies under 8 weeks)
* Behavior
* Medical
* Socialization
* Recovering from surgery
* Litter box issues
* Nursing/whelping mothers
* Weight gain

**“In Need of Foster” Emails**

* Emails are sent out as needed to all foster parents indicating which animals need foster. It is up to you to contact us if you are interested in fostering an animal. If the animal is still available, an appointment will be scheduled for pick up.
* It is up to the foster parents as to how many kittens/puppies they foster at one time. (For socialization reasons, we suggest that you foster at least 2 or more.)
* Foster parents can foster as much or as little as they want throughout the year.

**Foster care responsibilities:**

* Transport foster animals
* Provide shelter and TLC
* Alert foster care coordinator of changes regarding animal (medical/behavioral)
* Provide a clean, safe environment for all animals
* Proper cleaning of environment in between foster animals brought into the home.
* Responsible for treating owned animals should they contract a disease from a foster. HSFH cannot treat owned animals.
* Owned animals must be licensed and current on vaccinations.

Cats/Kittens

* Keep owned animals separate from foster animals for the health and safety of your own animals
* Wash hands after play time with foster animals
* We strongly recommend non-carpeted areas for kittens/cats to help prevent the spread of disease.

Dogs/Puppies

* Always introduce foster while all dogs are on leashes
* Separate foster when left unattended and during feeding time
* Make sure your dogs are vaccinated against Bordatella (kennel cough)
* No dog parks

**Supplies**:

The shelter is happy to provide food and other supplies to our foster parents as we are able. Items lent out to foster parents are to be checked out and returned upon adoption of the animal or the termination of the foster period (baby bottles, kennels, beds, etc.).

See “The Guide for Raising Orphan Puppies” or “The Guide For Raising Orphan Kitties”

**Animal Proofing Your Home:**

Animals are curious creatures. Many are capable of jumping onto high surfaces or squeezing into the smallest of spaces. To protect foster animals in new environments and to safeguard your belongings, it is necessary to animal proof your house.

**Kitchen/bathrooms/utility rooms**

* Use childproof latches to keep little paws from prying open cabinets
* Keep medications, cleaners, chemicals, and laundry supplies on high shelves
* Keep trashcans covered or inside a latched cabinet
* Check for and block any small spaces, nooks, or holes inside cabinetry or behind washer/dryer units
* Make sure animals haven’t jumped into the dryer before you turn it on
* Keep foods out of reach (even if the food isn’t harmful, the wrapper could be)
* Keep toilet lids closed to prevent drowning

**Living/family room**

* Place dangling wires from lamps, VCRs, TVs, stereos and phones out of reach
* Keep children’s toys put away
* Put away knickknacks until your animal has the coordination and/or understanding to not knock them over
* Block all those spaces where your vacuum cleaner doesn’t fit, but a foster kitten could
* Remove dangerous items, like string and pins. Put away all sewing and craft notions, especially thread
* Move houseplants (some of which can be poisonous) out of reach, including hanging plants that can be jumped onto from nearby surfaces
* Secure aquariums or cages that house small animals, like hamsters or fish, to prevent harm from another animal
* Make sure all heating and air vents have a cover

**Garage**

* A garage contains too many dangerous chemicals and unsafe items to be an acceptable foster care site. Foster animals should never be housed in a garage.
* Move all chemicals to high shelves or behind secure doors.
* Clean up all antifreeze from the floor and driveway, as one taste can be lethal to an animal.

**Bedrooms**

* Keep laundry and shoes behind closed doors (drawstrings and loose buttons can cause major problems)
* Keep any medications, lotions, or cosmetics off accessible surfaces (like the bedside table)
* Move electrical and phone wires off accessible surfaces (like the bedside table)
* Move electrical and phone wires out of reach of chewing.

**Potentially dangerous situations**

* Closet and bedroom doors
* Computer wires (electrocution or strangulation)
* Open doors to the outdoors (escape)
* Folding chairs
* Open dryer doors
* Potted plants (possible poisoning or pulling plant off shelf onto animal)

**Never underestimate a foster animal’s abilities. Accidents happen!**

**Thank you** for opening your heart and home to saving many lives. Each of these animals would not have a second chance if it was not for you!

Humane Society of the Flint Hills