

Animal Care & Control of New York City



Foster Care Program



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of New York City

This organization is a nonprofit (501(c)3), and all donations are tax deductible in accordance with IRS guidelines.

Introduction

AC&C is contracted by the city of New York to provide animal care and control service. It is the only animal rescue organization in the City that is required by law to take in all homeless pets. This means our doors are always open to over 120 animals each day that have no where else to turn or who may otherwise be left on the street. Because of this, we usually have many more animals than our shelter can hold. The Animal Care Foster Rescue is designed to function as an internal rescue organization within the shelters. Placing animals in foster homes will save the foster animals' lives, and create more space at the shelters for adoptions.

Foster care is a rewarding and fulfilling effort. It also requires dedication and hard-work. Anyone who loves animals and is willing to donate his or her time by providing love and care can become a foster parent. Retirees, homemakers, people who work at home or have flexible work schedules are all good candidates for this program. Fostering is also a good option for individuals that cannot permanently adopt an animal, or are considering a permanent adoption but would like some hands on experience.

Animal Care Foster Rescue Contacts:

- Maggie O'Neill → main contact for applying and foster questions, 347-236-0339 or moneill@nycacc.org
- Sarah Brown → secondary contact for applying and foster questions, 917-217-0571 or sbrown@nycacc.org
- Foster Captains → Upon approval, you will receive a list of foster captains, foster medical captains and foster behavioral captains that can answer questions, help find adopter for foster animal(s) and be contacted in the case of emergencies

Objectives of the Foster Care Program

- To create a network of dedicated foster parents to care for animals in their own homes until a permanent adoption situation is found for each animal
- To reduce, and eventually eliminate, euthanasia due to lack of space at the shelters
- To remove animals from the shelter in order to create space for more adoptions to take place at the shelter
- To remove animals from the shelter that, for a variety of reason, would otherwise not stand a good chance of being adopted (i.e. sick, elderly, disabled, frightened, etc.) and cannot be placed into a rescue (i.e. not a pure bred, rescues are full)
- To increase the number of animals adopted into permanent homes

Most Common Animals in Need of a Foster Home

- Pit bulls and other large breed mixed dogs
- Senior and geriatric dogs and cats
- Sick dogs and cats
- Disabled dogs and cats
- Paired dogs and cats (i.e. animals that came in together/are attached to each other)
- Nursing mothers and kittens and puppies
- Under-aged kittens and puppies

Becoming a Foster Parent

- 1) Contact the Animal Care Foster Rescue team at fosters@nycacc.org to receive the Foster Parent Application
- 2) *Fill out the application in its entirety*, including personal references, vet and landlord contact information (if applicable) and mail/fax to address on application, or email to Maggie O'Neill (*quickest if done via email, you can type out your name wherever a signature is required)
- 3) Be willing to have AC&C contact your references, conduct a home visit and/or background check
- 4) If your application is approved, you will receive a list of foster captains and “Now that you’re a foster parent...” document that further explains foster procedures
- 5) Foster parents are determined on a first come, first serve basis – frequently a foster parent is needed at the last minute, so a quick response can mean the difference between life and death for an animal
- 6) Upon the pick-up of your foster animal - dogs must leave shelters with collars and leashes; cats must leave with collars and in carriers, both will have a temporary ID tag with AC&C information
- 7) Foster parents are not permitted to leave their foster animal in the care of anyone else, unless specific arrangements and approval have been given by AC&C
- 8) Foster parents are expected to be able to transport their foster animal(s) for a variety of reasons
- 9) *AC&C maintains guardianship/ownership of foster animals at all times and reserves the right to reclaim an animal from its foster parent at any time and for any reason during the fostering period*

AC&C Helping You Be the Best Foster Parent

Foster Captains

- Foster Captains are dedicated volunteers that are unable to foster animals in their homes, but are willing to field questions from foster parents, assist scheduling vet visits and act as a liaison between foster parents and AC&C
- Foster Medical Captains are vet-techs employed by AC&C that have donated their time to answer medical related questions
- Foster Behavioral Captains are volunteers or employees of AC&C that are animal trainers or behaviorists that have donated their time to answer behavioral related questions
- Upon approval, you will receive a list of foster captains and their contact information

Foster Informational Sessions – dates, times and locations are posted on our webpage

- Foster informational sessions will be held once a month, alternating at the Manhattan and Brooklyn shelters
- These are informational question and answer sessions for current foster parents or anyone that is interested in becoming a foster parent

Bottle Baby Seminars – dates, times and locations are posted on our webpage

- Bottle babies are kittens that are without their mothers, but cannot yet eat on their own – They require round-the-clock care and supervision
- These are educational seminars, held once a month, both at the Brooklyn and Manhattan shelters, to teach foster parents the proper care of bottle babies, including feeding and cleaning

Pit Bull Seminars – dates, times and locations are posted on our webpage

- Pit bulls consist of over 70% of the dogs at AC&C - these wonderful dogs have been handed a bad reputation over the past several years and many individuals require more education and understanding of the breed to recognize just what great dogs and pets pit bulls are
- These seminars will be held monthly beginning in November, they will be open to the public, and is especially valuable for those that wish to foster pit bulls

Foster Supplies

- For foster parents that cannot afford to pay for the extra food and supplies that are required by foster animals, we have foster-only supplies available for pick-up at 11 Park Place (our organization's headquarters, located near City Hall)
- Some of the available foster supplies include: large dog crates; some small crates, dog, cat and kitten food, collars and leashes

Petfinder.com Foster Account

- AC&C has a petfinder.com account solely for foster animals to show the public all the wonderful adoptable animals that are available through Animal Care Foster Rescue

You Helping AC&C by Being the Best Foster Parent

- Be willing and able to commit the necessary time, financial and other resources for the foster animal's needs
- Be willing to participate in AC&C foster events – including, but not limited to, attending offered orientation sessions and seminars and bringing your foster for off-site adoption events (list of events can be found at http://www.nycacc.org/Event_Calendar.html)
- Assist AC&C in finding a permanent adoptive home for your foster animal – including, but not limited to, seeking adopters yourself, submitting recent photos/videos to AC&C for the petfinder.com account, writing and updating a description of your foster animal and offering AC&C advice on the best type of permanent adoptive home for your animal based on your observations
- Adhere to all pertinent AC&C guidelines

Foster Parent Responsibilities

- Feed, socialize, groom, begin basic obedience, and/or medicate your foster animal(s) (as directed by the AC&C)
- Ensure the safety of your foster animal(s) and respond to the needs of the animal(s)
- Ensure that owned companion animals are current on *all* vaccinations and spayed and/or neutered
- Observe and report any issues with your foster animal(s) to foster captains, Maggie O'Neill or Sarah Brown
- Understand that all animals remain the property of AC&C while in foster care – foster parents do not have the authority to give their foster animals away – but are highly encouraged to find permanent adopters for their foster animals
- Transport foster animal to and from the shelter, for pick-up, spay/neuter and illness appointments and for final adoptions
- Comply with AC&C's philosophies and policies and act as a representative of AC&C