

Thank you for expressing interest in our foster care program. The foster program will serve to provide a temporary home environment for kittens. Please read all of the following information carefully. This information explains both what the program is and the guidelines for the program.

If, after reading the information, you have further questions, please contact me at 610-825-0111 and I will assist you. If you are interested in providing this much needed service, please fill out both the application and the contract. Return **both** forms to me at the Conshohocken location. Following a review and approval of the documentation, you will be contacted to have a home inspection scheduled. After completion of the home inspection, you will then be notified as to whether you have been granted final approval for the program. If you are approved, you will then be contacted as we need foster homes. If possible, please inform us if there are times that you will be unavailable (vacations, etc). Our goal is to have all foster animals leave the shelter environment as quickly as possible.

Please mail the completed application and agreement forms to:

Foster Care Coordinator  
Montgomery County SPCA  
19 E. Ridge Pike  
PO Box 222  
Conshohocken PA 19428

Again, thank you for your interest.

## Foster Caregiver Program

The foster program will serve to provide a home environment for kittens under the shelters adoptable age/weight. It is tailored for mother cats with litters or kittens between the ages of 4 and 8 weeks. The following guidelines will apply:

1. Interested parties will speak with the coordinator, fill out an application, sign a contract and submit to a home inspection. It will be understood that home inspections can also recur throughout the time of the program.
2. Approved foster caregivers will be contacted when they are needed. Since the purpose is to have the kittens leave the shelter environment as soon as possible, they are to be picked up within 24 hours of notification. We do understand that there may be times when a caregiver is unable to take a litter.
3. Foster kittens will be selected after careful evaluation by the veterinarian and staff for health and temperament. For health reasons, we will only place one litter at a time within a household.
4. We will provide veterinary care for all foster animals. We will **not** provide veterinary care for your personal pets.
5. The Foster Caregiver is expected to provide food and litter for foster animals.
6. If there are any health, temperament or other concerns that may arise, it is imperative that you contact us **immediately**. After speaking with you, we will determine whether the kittens need to be returned to the SPCA for further evaluation.
7. It is important that you remember that these kittens are fragile. If you have other pets in your household, it is best to keep the kittens in a place where the other pets do not have access i.e. a crate, a small room. Older pets may play too rough and inadvertently injure the young kittens, please make sure you are always available to supervise interaction between your pets and the foster kittens. Please remember we are relying on you to socialize the kittens with people.
8. Mother cats can be returned to us when the kittens are fully weaned (by approximately 6 weeks the kittens should be eating solid food on their own). Kittens must be brought to us at 6 weeks for vaccinations and a health check.
9. Kittens are returned at 8 weeks for adoption. Please keep in mind that if a kitten is 8 weeks and under 2 lbs, we will require that you keep it until it reaches 2 lbs.
10. Adoption – all animals must be returned to us for adoption. If you are aware of someone who wants a particular kitten, they must be present when the litter is returned. Please notify me prior to your return so that we can plan for the litter being returned in terms of space.

## **Health Concerns**

The following are concerns with foster kittens. If, at any time, you have a concern, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our office staff will then refer your concern to the appropriate person. We do have veterinarians on staff that will assist and treat any health issues your kittens may develop.

1. It is imperative that your own animals be current on their vaccinations. This is protection for both your pets and our kittens.
2. If either the mother cat or the kittens show any of the following symptoms, call **immediately**:
  - a. discharge from eyes, nose
  - b. sneezing
  - c. not eating/drinking/nursing
  - d. diarrhea
  - e. vomiting
  - f. lethargy
  - g. unstable gait
  - h. weight loss
3. Weight gain – it is important, especially for kittens who are eating solid food, that we are certain they are gaining weight. This should be checked weekly. This can be done in two different ways – you can either bring the kittens to us weekly for a weight check or you can purchase a scale (diet scales work well). If you are bringing the kittens in for a weight check, please call ahead. This also can only be done between 9am and 4:30 pm, Monday thru Friday.

## **Socialization**

The foster caregiver is expected to socialize the kittens. This does not need to be socialization with other animals. It is expected that the kittens will receive human interaction on a daily basis – played with, groomed, held. Remember – the more sociable they are, the more adoptable they are!! If you have any questions, concerns or need advice, please call.

## Foster Care Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Living Accommodations

Do you  Own  Rent: If you rent, please provide:

Landlords name \_\_\_\_\_ phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have screens on all windows?  Yes  No

Are there children in the household?  No

Yes. How many? \_\_\_\_ What are their ages? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe area where foster animals will stay

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Please list your current pets. Include breed, age, sex, and neutered/spayed. Also list any behavioral concerns or chronic illnesses they might have. Please provide a copy of the vaccination records.

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Name and address of your current vet:

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What are the care arrangements when you are not home?

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Why do you want to foster?

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When are you available to begin? \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature

Date

## **Foster Care Agreement**

All foster placements are subject to approval and are at the sole discretion of the Montgomery County SPCA.

- a. The Foster Caretaker shall provide that animal(s) with good care, including, but not limited to food, water, shelter, grooming, and medication when required.
- b. As between the Foster Caretaker and the Montgomery County SPCA, the animal(s) shall remain the sole property of the Montgomery County SPCA.
- c. The animal(s) shall be returned to the Montgomery County SPCA upon request by the Montgomery County SPCA, or if the Foster Caretaker is no longer able to adequately care for the animal(s), or if the Foster Caretaker is relocating outside of the Montgomery County area.
- d. Agents of the Montgomery County SPCA will be allowed to inspect the premises in which the animal(s) will be maintained or are maintained, from time to time, for the purpose of determining the suitability of those premises for the care and maintenance of the animal(s).
- e. The Foster Caretaker understands and acknowledges that s/he does not have any right or authority to keep the foster animal(s) or to place foster animal(s) in other homes or places with other individuals.
- f. The Foster Caretaker understands and acknowledges that s/he is responsible for all expenses incurred as a result of fostering an animal(s). The sole exception is that the Montgomery County SPCA will provide, at no charge, routine vaccinations, treatment and medication for existing ailments of foster animals.
- g. The Foster Caretaker agrees that should the animal require extensive medical treatment the Montgomery County SPCA may request immediate return of the animal(s) for veterinary evaluation. Treatment will follow veterinarian recommendations and may require euthanasia of the animal(s) for humane reasons.
- h. The Foster Caretaker agrees to defend, indemnify and hold the Montgomery County SPCA harmless from any direct or remote and consequential damages arising from this foster care arrangement.

This contract represents the entire agreement between the parties and any modifications will be made in writing and signed by both the Foster Caretaker and a representative of the Montgomery County SPCA.

Foster Caretaker:

Executed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_