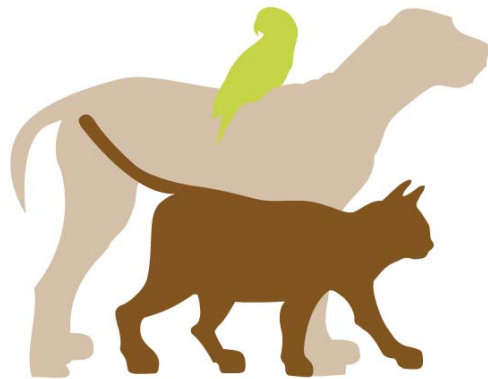


Making Your Foster Program Thrive: Preventing Mt. Kitten



Charleston Animal Society

Since 1874

Leadership. Tradition. Excellence.

Presenters

Foster & Rescue Coordinators Charleston Animal Society



Jodi Osborne

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Christina Ellwood

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charlestonanimalsociety.org/foster


Foster Orientation

- Good recruitment tool
- Advertise for orientations
- Event page on Facebook
- Hand out flyers with dates
- Large or small orientations
- Present about the program to new volunteers; use it as a refresher for your veteran fosters
- Send home animals that same day



**BE A FOSTER
SAVE A LIFE**



A LIFE SAVING EXPERIENCE FOR THEM...
A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE FOR YOU!



Join us at one of our upcoming fun
Foster Orientations
We will give you all the
information and supplies you need to
help us save lives!

March 10th	6:00 p.m. (Tue)
22nd	2:00 p.m. (Sun)
April 1st	12:00 p.m. (Wed)
10th	6:00 p.m. (Fri)
23rd	6:00 p.m. (Thu)

RSVP TODAY!
843-329-1543 FOSTER@CharlestonAnimalSociety.org



Charleston Animal Society
Since 1974

Foster Training



ARE YOU A FOSTER CANDIDATE



TIME

Are you able to devote the require time daily and weekly to your foster animal (see chart below)? YES NO

Are you able to bring foster animals to the shelter for vaccinations and wellness exams every 1-2 weeks? YES NO

Are you able to contact CAS or bring foster animals to the emergency care facility quickly in an emergency? YES NO



SPACE

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 proper adjustment period? YES NO

Are you able to handle cleaning procedures such as washing hands after every encounter and cleaning / disinfecting the kittens' quarters routinely? YES NO

Are you able to handle any potential home damage (carpet, clothing, and/or furniture) associated with animals? YES NO



CARE

Are you prepared to handle sickness or possible death of your foster animal? YES NO

Are you able to emotionally handle letting go of the foster animal after becoming attached once their foster period is over? YES NO

Are you able to handle the potential of foster animals carrying illness that could affect your household animals / family? YES NO

Time Commitments & Responsibilities

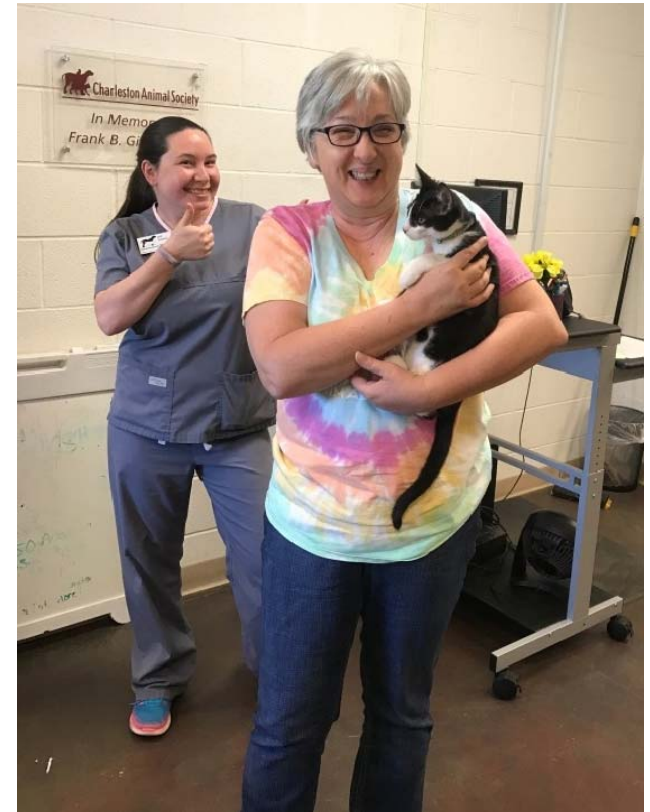
TYPE OF FOSTER	DURATION OF FOSTER	DAILY COMMITMENT
Sick / Injured Cats	1 week-2 months	2-3 hours
Weaned Puppies	1-3 weeks	3-6 hours
Sick / Injured Dogs	1 week-2 months	2-3 hours
Neonate Puppies	6-8 weeks	8 hours
Mom with Puppies	2-8 weeks	3 hours

- Ask questions to determine if fostering is the right thing for them
- One on one training vs. Large groups
- More in depth training
- Training for bottle feeding
- Training for critical care

Foster Support

We are not just foster coordinators

- We have to be counselors for pet loss
- We reassure concerned foster parents
- We also provide medical support
- We see our fosters as family



Foster Support

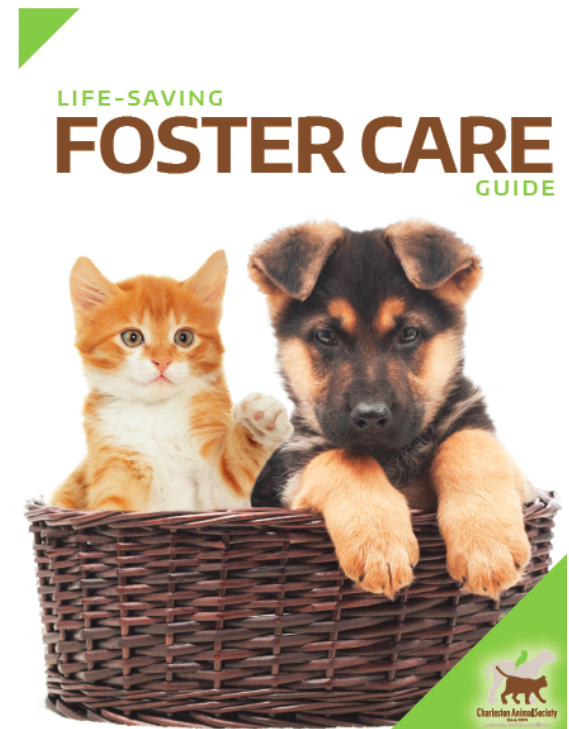
- We have several ways for fosters to speak to us:
 - Phone
 - Email
 - In person

- We are always willing to speak with them about their foster animal



Foster Manuals: General

- Having good manuals is a must
- Detailed, but not too wordy
- Important topics to cover
 - Puppy neonate feeding
 - Puppy development
 - Basic training
 - Maintaining foster health
 - Veterinary care/emergency care
- Fosters refer to foster care guide before calling, so it cuts down on the number of calls





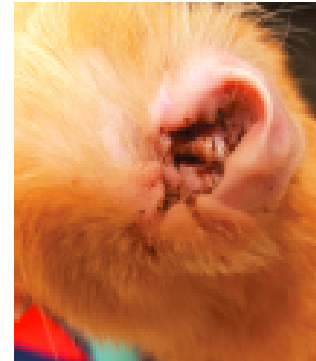
Puppy Expectations & Care by Age

WEEKS	FEEDING	DEVELOPMENT
0-1	Bottle feed ½ tablespoon of formula every 2-3 hours, overnight feeding can be every 3-4 hours. If there is a Mom dog, make sure that all puppies are nursing. Puppies can nurse from Mom for up to 45 minutes at a time. A lot of crying or activity could indicate a problem with Mom's milk supply.	At one week of age, the puppies should be handled minimally. Puppies will sleep about 90% of the time and eat the other 10%. Puppies should be kept in a warm environment as chilling is the number one danger to newborn puppies.
1-2	Bottle feed every 2-3 hours until puppies' bellies are full but not bloated. Overnight feeding can be every 3-4 hours.	Healthy puppies should be round and warm. When you pick up a puppy they should wiggle energetically and healthy puppies seldom cry. The puppy's ear canal should open between 5 and 8 days. Eyes will open between 8 and 14 days.
2-3	Bottle feed formula every 3-4 hours, until their bellies are full but not bloated.	Puppies begin to crawl around and should be almost standing. They will begin to play with each other, biting ears, tails and paws before their teeth come in. They should be teething at this period.
3-4	Bottle feed formula every 4 hours until the puppies are full but not bloated. Puppies may start to lap from a bowl.	Puppies begin to see well and their eyes begin to look and function like adult dog eyes. Puppies will start cleaning themselves. If they have a mother, she will continue to do most of the serious cleaning. At three weeks, puppies are in their canine socialization period. If they have siblings allow them to play at will.
4-5	Bottle feed as needed to keep puppies from crying with hunger. Puppies usually can drink and eat from a saucer by 4 weeks. Weaning should be done gradually. (See Weaning description in Puppy Care section.)	Begin housebreaking at four weeks of age. This can be done by using training pad or taking the puppy to an outside secure fenced in area of your home. After each feeding, place the puppy on the pad/outside for him or her to go the bathroom. Be patient! He or she may not remember to do this every time.
5-6	Feed gruel 4 times a day. Thicken the gruel gradually by reducing the amount of water mixed with it. Introduce dry food and water. If you are fostering a litter with their mother, continue weaning. For reluctant eaters, try mixing puppy formula into the gruel.	At about 5 weeks, puppies can start to roam around the room, under supervision. The strongest, most curious puppy will figure out how to get out of the nest and the others will quickly follow. Be sure to allow the puppies to have different types of toys around so they may explore and become familiar with a variety of surfaces and textures.
6-7	By this age, puppies should be eating dry food well. Feed the puppies at least three meals a day. Puppies may not eat much at a single sitting, they usually like to eat a frequent intervals throughout the day.	By this time, you will have "mini-dogs." They are able to wash themselves and play games with each other and you. Some puppies may be food possessive, you may need to use a second dish and leave plenty of food out. Do not use adverse or punishing correction techniques. Be sure to take the puppies to their pads or outside after feeding, during play sessions, and after naps. These are the usual time that puppies need to eliminate.
7-8	Offer dry food 3-4 times a day. Leave a bowl of water down for them to drink at will. Do not feed the puppies table scraps.	Continue playing and socializing with the puppies. You can even begin training such as sit, down, roll over and come when called.
8+	Offer dry food 3 times a day. Leave down a bowl of water for them to drink at will.	By this time, the puppies should be ready for spay/neuter surgery and adoption.



Ear Mites

Ear mites are parasites that live in the ear canal. You may notice a bald spot behind their ears due to continuous scratching. They may also violently shake their head. The ears may smell bad and you may see brown discharge that resembles coffee grounds. Ear mites are contagious to other animals and need to be treated. Call the Foster Coordinator if you notice any these symptoms.



Ear Mites

Fleas

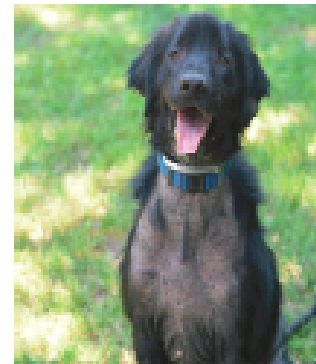
Animals that have fleas will scratch themselves often. Topical and oral flea prevention are given to fosters over 4 weeks of age. Flea prevention for puppies under 4 weeks includes daily brushings with the flea comb and daily bedding changes. If you still notice signs of fleas, you can wash the puppy in a small amount of Dawn® dish soap followed by using a flea comb to remove any remaining fleas. Be sure to thoroughly dry him/her following a bath. Baths should not be given more than once every 1-2 weeks. If you still notice signs of fleas, call Foster Coordinator to schedule a recheck.



Ring Worm

Ringworm

Ringworm is a contagious fungus that that can spread to other animals and humans. A sign of ringworm is thinning hair or patches of hair loss. Ringworm is difficult to remove from your house. To help with prevention and spreading maintain cleaning protocols and a good hand washing routine. Call the Foster Coordinator if you notice any hair loss.



Mange

Mange

Mange is caused by parasites that infect the skin of animals. Some forms of mange are contagious to other animals and humans. The symptoms include itching, hair loss and sores. If you notice these symptoms, call the Foster Coordinator for treatment.

Foster Manuals: Kitten



- Orphaned kittens are majority of fosters
- Specific guide for kittens very helpful
- Important topics to cover
 - How to set up the room
 - Kitten neonate feeding
 - Kitten development
 - Maintaining foster health
 - Veterinary care/emergency care
 - Adoption Options
- Fosters refer to foster care guide before calling so it cuts down on the number of calls



NON-EMERGENCIES	EMERGENCIES
<p>First monitor kittens</p> <p>If worsens, call the Foster Coordinator at 843-329-1543</p>	<p>Require Immediate Veterinary Attention</p> <p>Business Hours: come straight to shelter</p> <p>After Hours: 843-270-9085</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Runny discharge from the eyes or nose - Lack of appetite - Lethargy (lack of energy) - Diarrhea lasting more than 3 or 4 feedings - Vomiting - Weight loss - Coughing and sneezing - Lack of bowel movement for more than 24-36 hours or straining in litter box - Swollen eyes or eyes held closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuous diarrhea longer than 24-36 hours - Continuous vomiting longer than 12 hours - Loss of appetite - Bleeding of any kind (from nose or in urine/ stool) - Any trauma (hit by a car, dropped, limping, unconscious, etc) - Difficulty breathing - A kitten that does not respond or has not eaten for more than a day

Emergency Care

If you have questions about the health of your foster animal or if an emergency situation should arise **during regular hours of operation, please call 843-329-1543**. If you do not speak to the Foster Coordinators, please come directly to the shelter. Our regular hours are Monday through Friday from 10am-5pm and 10am-5pm on weekends. If your foster animal has an emergency that occurs **outside of the normal hours of operation, please call the Emergency After-hours phone number at 843-270-9085**. The Foster Coordinator will contact the veterinarian on-call or the Director of Animal Services for a treatment plan. Should after-hours treatment be needed, the Foster Coordinator will instruct the foster family on the appropriate steps to take. **Charleston Animal Society must approve any and all treatments for foster pets.**

- If Charleston Animal Society has not approved any or all treatments to foster pets, the foster parent will be responsible for ALL costs.
- If the foster parent takes a foster pet to any other veterinary or emergency clinic than the one designated by the Foster Coordinators, the foster parent will be responsible for ALL costs.
- The Charleston Animal Society 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 the Charleston Animal Society veterinary staff.



Example of Neonate Kitten Daily Weight and Feeding Record

NAME/ID	KITTEN 1	KITTEN 2	KITTEN 3	KITTEN 4	KITTEN 5	KITTEN 6
Date						
Weight						
Attitude						
FEEDING 1						
Milk volume						
Stool/urine						
FEEDING 2						
Milk volume						
Stool/urine						
FEEDING 3						
Milk volume						
Stool/urine						
FEEDING 4						
Milk volume						
Stool/urine						
FEEDING 5						
Milk volume						
Stool/urine						
FEEDING 6						
Milk volume						
Stool/urine						

NOTES:

Manuals posted on <http://www.aspcapro.org/webinar/2017-03-28/preventing-mt-kitten>

Foster Supplies



Foster Supplies

- We supply everything the foster parents would need
- Providing all supplies helps recruit/retain foster volunteers

• Cat/Kitten Supplies

- Dry food
- Wet food
- Litter box
- Litter
- Toys
- Carrier



• Dog/Puppy Supplies

- Dry Food
- Wet food
- Pee Pads
- Toys
- Collar and leash
- ID tags
- Crate



Baby Bag

- Neonate kittens require more care and supplies
- Specific supplies for neonates is crucial to their well-being
- Baby bag supplies
 - Bottles
 - KMR
 - Scale
 - Thermometer
 - Petroleum Jelly
 - Gloves
 - Alcohol pads
 - Dawn Dish Soap
 - Karo Syrup
 - Pedialyte
 - 3mL Syringe
 - 1mL Syringe
 - Wash cloth
 - Baby Wipes



Recheck

- Depends on how old, or what medical issue the animal is having
- Neonates under 4 weeks of age are seen once weekly
- Kittens and puppies 5 weeks and older are seen every 2 weeks
- Medical dogs or cats are seen anywhere between 1-3 weeks depending on their medical condition
- All foster animals receive a recheck appointment at foster pick up
- A new recheck appointment is scheduled after every appointment



Rechecks

- At recheck appointments foster parents fill out the following form
- History helps our techs and veterinarians when performing a recheck exam on the animal

IF ANIMAL HAS A CONCERN PLEASE ANSWER APPROPRIATE QUESTION BELOW:

Diarrhea

- Is he/she still eating or drinking?_____
- When did the diarrhea start?_____
- What does it look like? Color/consistency_____
- Is he/she going more frequently?_____

Vomiting

- When did the vomiting start?_____
- How often is he/she vomiting?_____
- How soon after eating does he/she vomit?_____
- What does the vomit look like? Food or just liquid? Color?_____

Coughing/sneezing or Eye Discharge

- When did it start?_____
- How often is he/she coughing/sneezing?_____
- Anything coming up when coughs/sneezing-what color/consistency?_____
- Any eye discharge noted at any point?_____

Decreased Appetite or energy

- What does he/she normally eat?_____
- How much and how often does he/she eat?_____
- When is the last time he/she ate?_____
- How is he/she acting OR how is his/her attitude?_____

Veterinary Care



Veterinary Care



- We provide all of the routine veterinary care for the animals in foster at our facility
 - Vaccines
 - Deworming
 - Heartworm and FELV/FIV testing
 - Heartworm/Flea prevention
 - Microchips
 - Surgery
- We also work with outside specialty veterinarians such as ophthalmologists, dermatologists and orthopedic surgeons

Emergency Care

- Any emergencies during the day the foster is asked to bring the animal in to the shelter as soon as possible
- For after-hours emergencies we have an after-hours emergency phone
- The foster can call this phone anytime after 5:00PM until 8:00AM
- If the animal needs to be seen we have a contract with the local emergency clinic for the animals to be seen there
- The clinic has some of our supplies so it can save us money

 <p>Charleston Animal Society Since 1874 Leadership. Tradition. Excellence.</p>	<p>Christina Ellwood <i>Foster & Rescue Coordinator</i></p> <p>2455 Remount Rd. North Charleston, SC 29406 t: 843.329.1543 c: 843.1.5* *Emergency After Hours Calls Only</p> <p>cellwood@charlestonanimalsociety.org www.CharlestonAnimalSociety.org</p>	 <p>Charleston Animal Society Since 1874 Leadership. Tradition. Excellence.</p>	<p>Jodi Osborne <i>Foster & Rescue Coordinator</i></p> <p>2455 Remount Rd. North Charleston, SC 29406 t: 843.329.1543 c: 843.1.5* *Emergency After Hours Calls Only</p> <p>josborne@charlestonanimalsociety.org www.CharlestonAnimalSociety.org</p>
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Surgery

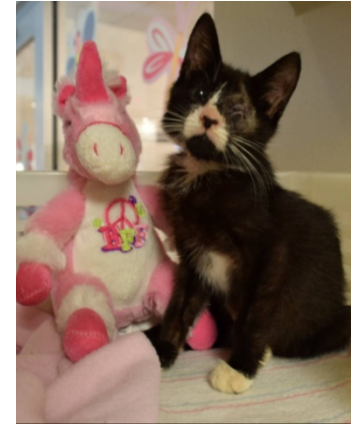
- AAHA accredited clinic here on site
- Adult cats and dogs are usually spayed/neutered before going to foster, unless a medical condition prevents us from doing so
- At the age of 8-10 weeks, puppies and kittens are returned from foster to be spayed/neutered
- We can schedule up to 15 foster surgeries a day



The Standard of
Veterinary Excellence

Adoption Options

- Foster parents are encouraged to keep their fosters after surgery and be apart of our **Adoption Ambassador program, aka Operation Whiskers**
- If a foster parent finds a home for the animal before it is ready, they have the adopter fill out a Adoption Survey to hold the animal for that person
- If the foster parent does not want to be apart of the Ambassador program then the animal can be returned to the shelter to be adopted



Cat Adopter Survey

First Name	Last Name	Date		
Address		City	State	Zip
Home Phone	Work Phone	Cell Phone		
Email	Driver's License #	DOB		
1. My cat needs to get along with: (Circle all that apply)	Children under 8 years	Children over 8 years	Elderly People	Adults Only
2. My cat needs to get along with:	Dog (s)	Cat (s)	Other	
3. My cat will primarily be:	Indoor	Outdoor	Indoor/Outdoor	
4. I consider my house to be:	Quiet	Active	Extremely Active	
5. I am interested in a cat with "special needs" (medical or behavioral)	YES		NO	

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOUR PET

All Charleston Animal Society pets are microchipped and the information will be registered with 24PetWatch pet recovery database. The emergency contact information below will be used if your pet is lost. **Please list someone outside of your household.**

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

Yes, I consent to the release of my name and telephone number to anyone that finds my pet.

No, I prefer that communication be only through 24 PetWatch.

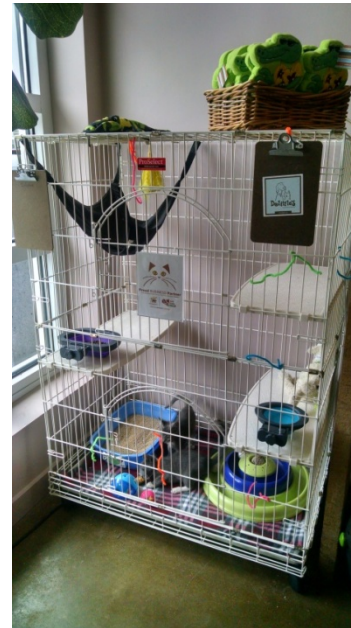


CharlestonAnimalSociety.org



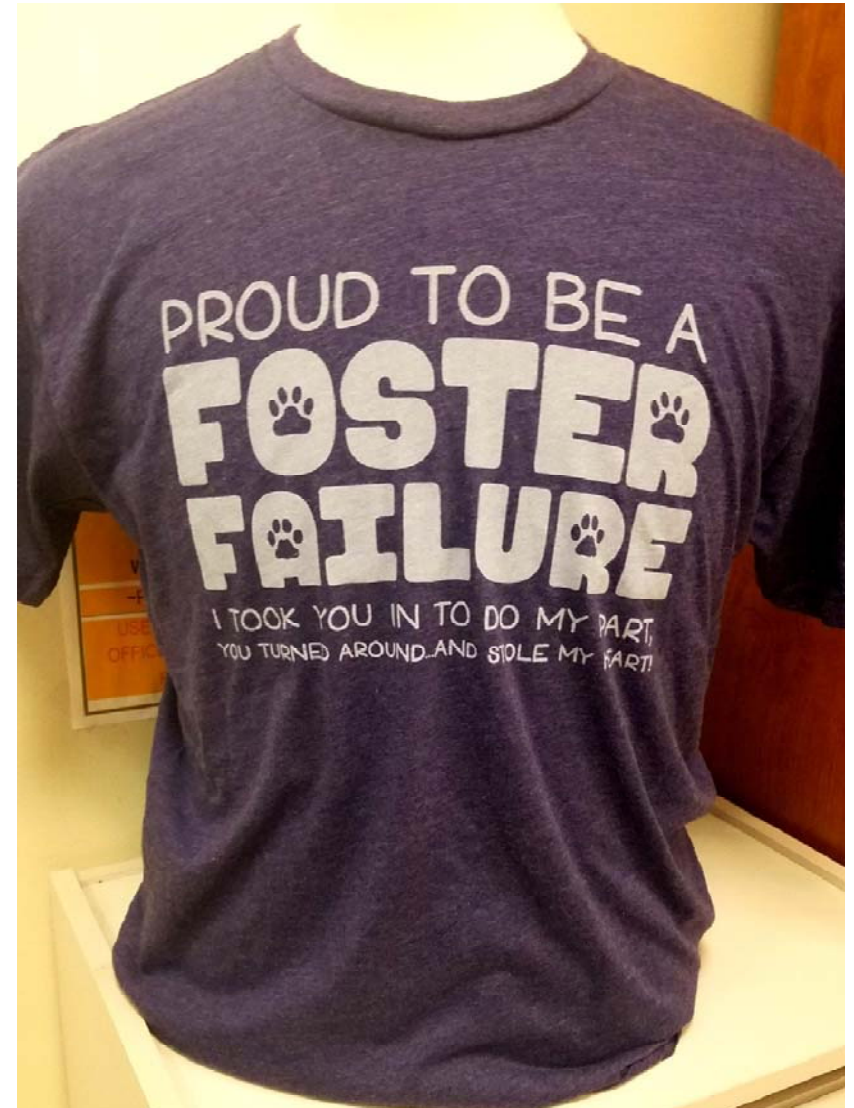
Offsite Adoptions

- We work with many businesses that will place our animals up for adoption in their store
 - Petsmart
 - Petco
 - Veterinary Clinics
 - Pet Boutiques
 - Pet Boarding Facilities
- Pounce cat café
- We supply all the cats
- 155 adopted in the 3 months they have been open



Foster Failures

- We discourage our fosters parents from adopting, but since they have been caring for the animal they get first choice if they want to adopt
- A lot of first time foster will end up adopting their foster animal
- This doesn't always mean they won't foster again
- Their cute cuddly kitten will grow up, and they will want to foster kittens again



Letting Fosters Go



- No matter what, you will always have some foster parents who don't comply with your policies and procedures
- You can first try to counsel them about the problems
- If they continue to be non-compliant, you can let them go
- You are essentially their “manager”, so you can fire them

Holiday Hero



- Holiday Hero is a branch of the Adoption Ambassador program
- Used to help get animals out of the shelter during the holiday season
- We train them on the adoption process, and empower them to find a home for their foster
- Studies show that most people obtain their animals from friends and family, so this program is a great way to reach those who don't come in the shelter

Spay/Neuter Event

- Helps prevent Mt. Kitten
- We do one in the spring before kitten season starts
- Then again mid way through summer to try to catch cats in-between litters
- Its important to make it affordable and accessible like providing transportation
- Be non-judgmental, its most important that they are bringing the animals in
- It can be any cat in the county, doesn't matter if it is indoor or outdoor



Kitten & Puppy Shower



- Every spring
- Decorate like a baby shower
- In conjunction with our foster brunch
- We provide food, cake, and cake pops
- Give out little goodies to help retain our current foster, and make them feel appreciated
- Advertise on Facebook, radio, TV, and newspaper



Kitten & Puppy Shower: Kitten ICU

- In 2015, we opened our Kitten Intensive Care Unit during our kitten and puppy shower
- Great for recruiting new foster homes
- We place kittens in the incubators to be seen by the public
- We do not let them interact with the kittens unless they are going to foster them



Kitten & Puppy Shower: Kitten Sponsorships



- You can also raise money at your kitten/puppy shower
- You can sponsor a kitten at different levels
 - \$25
 - \$50
 - \$100
- Kitten bundles with supplies to take care of neonate kittens



Kitten & Puppy Shower: Recruitment



- Great way to recruit new foster homes
- Advertise the event
- Open to the public
- Kitten ICU shows kittens & promotes interest in fostering
- We usually send out a lot of kittens on this day



Questions?

Christina Ellwood cellwood@charlestonanimalsociety.org

Jodi Osborne

josborne@charlestonanimalsociety.org

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