

LIFE-SAVING ORPHAN KITTEN

# FOSTER CARE

GUIDE



Charleston Animal Society  
Since 1874  
Leadership. Tradition. Excellence.

NO KILL.  
NO HARM.  
NO MORE.™

# DEAR FOSTER FAMILY,

You are about to embark on a memorable live-saving adventure! Thank you for opening your home and heart to orphan kittens. Kittens younger than eight weeks old are the most at-risk population in our shelter.

Fostering orphaned kittens is a rewarding process that saves thousands of lives in our community each year, and we could not do it without you! In this manual, you will find helpful tips to ensure success. Orphaned kittens usually require consistent love and attention that is difficult to provide in a shelter environment. These kittens are typically only placed in foster homes until they are big enough to undergo spay/neuter surgery. We encourage fosters to take more than one kitten at a time to help promote socialization and normal behavioral growth. When kittens are unable to have appropriate social interaction with other kittens it can stunt proper socialization and lead to behavioral problems. Multiple kittens are not only fun, they can also self-entertain!

There are several requirements to be the perfect foster for this type of animal. If the requirements included in the following section do not work well with your current schedule, please let us know. We can help you find a foster situation that will work best for you!

Sincerely,

Charleston Animal Society  
Foster Team



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# ARE YOU A FOSTER KITTEN CANDIDATE



## TIME

Are you able to devote the required 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

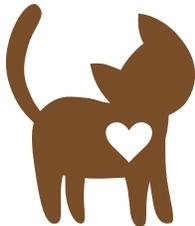


## SPACE

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

## Kitten Foster Time Commitments

TYPE OF FOSTER	DURATION OF FOSTER	DAILY COMMITMENT
Weaned Kittens	1-3 weeks	2 hours
URI Cats	2-3 weeks	1-2 hours
Kittens with Mom	2-8 weeks	1-2 hours or more
Injured Cat	1 week - 2 months	1-2 hours
Neonate Kittens	6-8 weeks	Up to 8 hours



## TIPS & TAILS

Use glass or metal bowls as plastic bowls are porous and not as easy to clean.

Clean linens and toys daily.

Supervise play time.

### Preparing the Kitty Room

Before you bring home your kittens, make sure that you have a suitable place for them to stay. A bathroom often works well. The kitten room should adhere to the following guidelines:

- A space where temperature can be controlled.
- The space has been disinfected by using a mild bleach solution (1 part bleach to 32 parts water).
- Separate from other household pets.
- Can withstand kitty messes: litter box accidents, vomit, spilled water, etc.
- No breakable items.
- Electrical outlets and wires are blocked.
- No small items.
- Secured windows (closed or with a secure screen).
- Secured appliances (toilet lids closed).





## TIPS & TAILS

Heat Rice Socks in Microwave for 1 minute maximum. This will provide up to 60 minutes of warmth.

Play with your kitten with toys instead of your hand, this will prevent your kitten from thinking you are a toy and scratching and biting you.

If your kitten is having issues using their litter-box try having more than one litter box in the kitten's room. Also you may try using Kitten Attract™ litter.

Do not give dairy products such as cow's milk to your foster.

## Heating

It is important to keep the kittens warm! However, it is also important that kittens have space to move away from a heat source. Covering a heating pad or warm rice sock with a towel works well. Be sure that the heat source only covers part of the area. Small litters or single kittens need more help staying warm. Please refer to baby bag manual for further directions.

## Feeding

Follow the feeding schedule provided in the Feeding section. For neonates keep track of the feedings on the Daily Weight and Feeding Record.

## Elimination

Young kittens (3 weeks or less) often need help urinating and defecating. To do so, gently rub a warm cloth or cotton pad on the anus and genital areas immediately after a feeding. This will stimulate kittens to urinate and/or defecate into the cloth or cotton pad. If a mother cat is present she will stimulate the kittens.

## Cleaning

Kittens are usually groomed by their mother. In the absence of the mother, you must work hard to keep the kittens clean.

Dried feces in the fur can be removed by using a flea comb.

Use a warm, damp cloth to stroke the kittens' fur. This simulates how a mother cat would groom her kittens.

A small amount of dawn soap on the warm, damp cloth will help to remove any lingering dirt/ fleas that may be present. This is only to be done once weekly at most.

Dipping dirty feet or tails in warm water is also helpful.

Be aware that some kittens may not enjoy being wet, so they may protest. Be careful of escapees and their sharp claws!

Dry kittens well so that they do not get chilled.



## Socialization

Socialization is a very important part of kitty care. It is your job to convince kittens that humans are kind and loving.

Allow all kittens to acclimate to their new environment before trying to play with them. This usually takes just one day.

Outgoing kittens can be cuddled and played with.

Shy kittens need to have many short encounters to encourage them that humans are friendly. Hold shy kittens calmly, stroking them and talking to them in a comforting voice. Put the kitten down before he or she starts squirming. If you repeat this often – perhaps only 30 seconds at a time – shy kittens will begin to love the experience.

Fearful kittens will run away from you when you try to approach them. Simply sit on the floor calmly and wait for them to come to you. Let them become accustomed to your presence and, when they finally approach, use a calming voice and stroke them gently.

Not all kittens will grow into cats that love to be cuddled and held. This is ok! Although some people want affectionate cats, others prefer independent pets.

## Litter Box Training

Use a low box, such as a cake pan, with one inch of non-clumping kitty litter or shredded newspaper. (Clumping kitty litter can be dangerous if it is ingested.) After feeding, place the kitten in the litter box. Take her paw and gently scratch the litter. Give lots of praise when they are successful. Be patient! Keep the litter box clean and away from the food area. Note: Litter box will not be used for neonates.

## Foster Rechecks

An appointment for a wellness exam will be scheduled when you get your foster. Fosters will need to come in every 2 weeks for weight check, deworming, and booster vaccinations. However, neonates will need to be examined weekly.




**TIPS &  
TAILS**

Kittens sleep up to  
18-20 hours a day.

Playtime with your  
kitten is a must for  
kitten development.

Neonate kittens are  
kittens that are under  
four weeks of age with  
or without a nursing  
mom cat.

## Kitten Development

In the first few weeks of life, kittens are helpless and vulnerable. They are still developing basic reflexes, their hearing and vision are still not fully developed, and they are unable to properly control their body temperatures. They should therefore be confined to a nursery area. Kittens should not be allowed to mingle with your own pets.

During the first 1-3 weeks of life kittens do not urinate or defecate on their own and require stimulation for elimination. Gently rub a warm cloth or cotton pad on the kitten's genital area and anus. This should be done before or after feeding.

Keeping the kittens clean from food and feces is vital for his or her health. If you notice your kitten has food, urine or feces on him or her gently wipe the kitten down with a warm damp cloth or baby wipe. Be sure to dry the kitten well afterwards so that they do not become chilled.





## Kitty Expectations & Care by Age

WEEKS	FEEDING	DEVELOPMENT
<b>0-1</b>	Bottle feed ½ tablespoon of formula every 2-3 hours, overnight feeding can be every 3-4 hours. If there is a Mom cat, make sure that all kittens are nursing. Kittens 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.	Kittens will weigh about 4 oz. Kittens will sleep 90% of the time and eat the rest of the time. Handle the kittens minimally. Newborns are deaf and blind and are unable to maintain their body temperature. Keep kittens warm with provided heating source and follow baby bag protocol.
<b>1-2</b>	Bottle feed every 2-3 hours until kittens are full but not bloated. Overnight feeding can be every 3-4 hours. Generally, kittens eat ½ tablespoon per feeding.	Kittens will weigh about 7 oz. Ear canals open between 5-8 days. Eyes open between 8-14 days. Healthy kittens will be round and warm and have pink skin. Healthy kittens seldom cry. They are still unable to maintain their body temperature. Keep kittens warm with provided heating source and follow baby bag protocol.
<b>2-3</b>	Bottle feed up to 1 tablespoon (15 mL) every 3-4 hours. Overnight feeding can be every 4-5 hours.	Kittens will weigh about 10 oz. and will begin to crawl and stand between 18-21 days old. They begin to play with each other. Increase handling of kittens to get them used to human contact. Ensure that all interactions are gentle and positive. They are still unable to maintain their body temperature. Keep kittens warm with provided heating source and follow baby bag protocol.
<b>3-4</b>	Bottle feed every 3-4 hours until kittens are full but not bloated. Overnight feeding can be every 4 hours. Kittens may start lapping from a bowl. Feedings during the night are not required, unless kittens are not thriving.	Kittens will weigh about 13 oz. Kittens begin to see well. They may start cleaning themselves but will still need help for serious cleaning. Litter box training may begin at 4 weeks of age. (See Litter Box Training description in Kitty Care section.) They are still unable to maintain their body temperature. Keep kittens warm with provided heating source and follow baby bag protocol.
<b>4-5</b>	Feed 3 tablespoons of formula every 8 hours. Weaning of kittens may begin gradually. (See Weaning description in Kitty Care section.)	Litter box training may begin at 4 weeks of age. (See Litter Box Training description in Kitty Care section.)
<b>5-6</b>	Feed gruel 4 times a day. Introduce dry food and water. Some kittens do not like canned food – try mixing any meat flavored human baby food with water. Be sure the meat flavor does NOT have onion powder as this is hazardous to kittens.	Kittens can start to wander around the room, under supervision. Play with your kittens often! (See Socialization description in Kitty Care section.)
<b>6-7</b>	Feed canned and dry food at least 3 meals daily. If any kittens are territorial with food, provide a second bowl so that everyone gets fed.	Kittens will start to act like actual cats: playing and washing themselves. Be sure to show them the litter box after meals, play sessions and naps.
<b>7-8</b>	Each kitten will be eating a little over one can of food per day. Offer wet food 3-4 times a day. Leave a bowl of dry food and water for kittens to use at will. DO NOT feed kitten table scraps.	Continue playing and socializing with the kittens.
<b>8+</b>	Feed wet food 2 times per day. Leave a bowl of dry food and water for kittens to use at will. DO NOT feed kitten table scraps.	Kittens should weigh about 2 pounds! When they reach this point, they are ready for adoption, and for spay/neuter.



## TIPS & TAILS

To warm nursing bottles, fill a coffee mug half way with hot water and place the bottle of formula into mug. After a minute or two, test formula by sprinkling a few drops on the back of your hand. Formula should be warm to the touch, but not hot.

## Type of Food

Never give a neonate kitten anything other than their specified formula! (No cow's milk!)

Kittens who are less than three weeks old are fed liquid or powder formula. After a feeding, unused liquid formula can be stored for up to three days in the refrigerator or frozen for future feedings. Frozen formula will last for 6 months.

The powder formula must be mixed for feedings. It is important to closely follow mixing directions, one part powder into two parts warm water, as it can cause diarrhea or constipation if not done correctly. When mixing do not use a blender. Any reconstituted powder formula can be refrigerated for up to 24 hours. After that point, it must be discarded.

## Feeding Etiquette

- Only use clean nipples and bottles!
- Feed kittens one at a time. Place them on a counter top and allow them to feed with four paws on the counter and with a level head. This simulates how they would nurse from a mom.
- Do not feed a kitten while she is on her back. This can cause formula to go down the wrong way and end up in the lungs.
- Gently open the kitten's mouth with your finger and place the nipple on the tongue.
- Stroking kittens can help them to eat.
- Pull lightly on the bottle. This promotes strong sucking.
- Tilt the bottle up slightly. This prevents the kitten from inhaling too much air.
- Do not squeeze the bottle to force formula into the kitten's mouth. This can cause formula to move into the lungs.
- After feeding, burp your kitten by gently massaging their back.
- After feeding stimulate the kittens to urinate and/or defecate. Stimulate them with a warm cloth if necessary.
- Fill out the Daily Weight and Feeding Record.
- Please, watch these videos for clarification:  
[www.maddiesfund.org/orphaned-kitten-care-how-to.htm](http://www.maddiesfund.org/orphaned-kitten-care-how-to.htm)



## Weaning

Weaning can occur at 4 weeks and should be conducted gradually. Create a gruel by mixing warmed canned food with water. It may take a few tries for kittens to understand. If they are not interested, wait a few days and then try again. After they have accepted the gruel, gradually thicken it by adding less water. Begin to also offer dry food on a free feeding basis.

## Amount of Food

Overfeeding is a dangerous as underfeeding. Feed kittens until they are full but not bloated.

## Cleaning Equipment

Keeping the kittens' nursing bottles and supplies clean is vital as this will prevent diarrhea, vomiting, or infection. Cleaning the bottles and nursing nipples is quite easy. Using hot, soapy water, clean the bottle with a bottle brush. If you do not have a bottle brush, you may wash the bottle and nursing nipple in the dishwasher. You may place them in the silverware rack or in a dishwasher basket.

### TIPS & TAILS

Orphaned Kitten Care  
How to Videos  
[www.maddiesfund.org/orphaned-kitten-care-how-to.htm](http://www.maddiesfund.org/orphaned-kitten-care-how-to.htm)





**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						
<b>FEEDING 1</b>						
Milk volume						
Stool/urine						
<b>FEEDING 2</b>						
Milk volume						
Stool/urine						
<b>FEEDING 3</b>						
Milk volume						
Stool/urine						
<b>FEEDING 4</b>						
Milk volume						
Stool/urine						
<b>FEEDING 5</b>						
Milk volume						
Stool/urine						
<b>FEEDING 6</b>						
Milk volume						
Stool/urine						

**NOTES:**

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In some cases, moms are fostered together with their litters. There are a few things to keep in mind for this type of foster situation. Moms require a calm setting with privacy and minimal activity. Stress can cause moms to stop taking care of their kittens.

### **Bringing Mom Home**

You will need a separate space for a mom with her litter. When you first bring them home, leave them alone in their new space. Mom will need some time, up to a few days, to adjust to her new space. Be sure to offer mom fresh food, water and a clean litter box.

### **Socialization**

Even adult cats need socialization; however, proceed slowly with any adult cat that you do not know. Create situations for socialization but let her come to you. Stop the session if you notice any negative signs, such as swishing tail, ears laid back, head jerk towards you, tensing up, cranky meow, moving away, hissing or growling.



## TIPS & TAILS

Be sure to keep mom & kittens separated from other pets in home. Mother cats need a quiet area to raise their kittens.

### Mom and Her Kittens

For the first few weeks, mom will do everything necessary to take care of her kittens. Kittens start nursing very soon after birth. Mom will also groom her kittens. Cats should be left alone for the first two weeks except to feed, clean and check on the kittens a few times a day.

### Possible Issues with Mom Cats

**Maternal neglect** – In some cases, about 8% of the time, kittens die from poor maternal care. There are a few causes of this. Some cats lack maternal instincts and, in other cases, it is nature's way of handling sick or weak kittens. Environmental stress is an important factor, which is why it is important to create a calm environment for mom and the litter. As the foster parent, watch for signs of maternal neglect. Call the Foster Coordinator if you notice the mom avoids feeding and grooming her kittens and ignores their cries.

**Maternal Aggression** – As mom protects her kittens, it is common for her to be aggressive towards humans or other animals. Do not try to introduce your household pets to your foster mom as this adds too much stress to the environment. If aggression becomes severe, call the Foster Coordinator.





Healthy kittens have bright eyes, a sleek coat and a plump belly. Their eyes and noses are generally free from discharge. A normal body temperature for kittens is 100-102.5°F.

## **Taking a Temperature (For Neonates Only)**

If you think a kitten is sick, the first step is to take the temperature of the kitten. Use a regular human thermometer and KY Jelly. Wipe KY on the thermometer and insert just the tip into the kitten's anus. After holding it for at least a minute, remove and read the temperature. If the temperature is over 103 or under 99, call the Foster Coordinator.

## **Measuring Growth**

Kittens are weighed to measure growth and development. Neonate kittens should be weighed daily to ensure growth and weight gain. Kittens over 4 weeks of age are weighed once a week.

When weighing your kitten if you notice if he or she has lost or not gained weight please call the Foster Coordinator.



Normal Stool



Soft Stool



Diarrhea

## Diarrhea

There are three types of cat stool: normal, soft and diarrhea. Normal stool is firm and has a definite shape. Soft stool is not firm but still has some shape. Diarrhea is liquid, with or without color to it. Diarrhea is common in kittens and can be caused by parasites, viruses, bacteria, food changes, stress, overfeeding and other issues.

Diarrhea must be monitored as it can quickly lead to dehydration. If the kitten is active, mild diarrhea that occurs for 24 hours is not a concern. Feed the kitten less at a time but more often. If the diarrhea is severe, lasts more than 3-4 feedings or contains blood/parasites, call the Foster Coordinator to schedule a recheck.

## Parasites

Kittens can sometimes get tapeworms either in their feces or on their anus. These look like grains of rice. Roundworms look like spaghetti and can be seen in the litter box or in vomit.

Parasites are commonly found in the stool of kittens. If you notice worms, call the Foster Coordinator to schedule a recheck.

## Vomiting

Vomiting is not serious unless it happens continuously. It can lead to dehydration. If vomiting occurs 2-3 times in a row, call the Foster Coordinator right away.

## Eye Discharge

It is normal for kittens to have little pieces of crust in their eyes after waking up. If you see continuous yellow or green discharge, swollen or closed eyes call the Foster Coordinator to schedule a recheck. You can use a warm, damp towel to wipe the affected eye(s).



### Ear Mites

Ear mites are parasites that live in the ear canal. You may notice a bald spot behind 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 cats and need to be treated. Call the Foster Coordinator if you notice any of these symptoms.



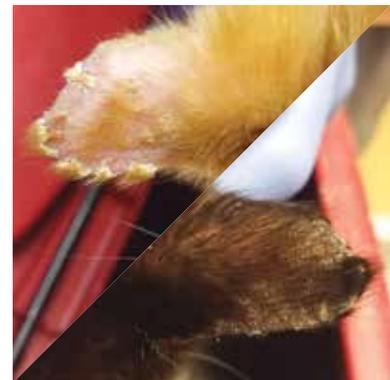
Ear Mites

### Fleas

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

### Ringworm

Ringworm is a contagious fungus 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 to prevent spreading, maintain cleaning protocols and a good hand washing routine. Call the Foster Coordinator if you notice any hair loss.



Ringworm

### Mange

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



**TIPS & TAILS**

The use of a humidifier in the kitten's room will help with congestion.

**Upper Respiratory Tract Infection (URI)**

URIs are common and are caused by contagious viruses and bacteria. Signs to look for:

- Sneezing and discharge from eyes/nose
- Congested breathing
- Loss of appetite
- Lethargy (lack of energy)
- Dehydration

If you notice any of these signs, please contact the Foster Coordinator to schedule a recheck.

**Fading Kittens**

Occasionally, a kitten that appeared healthy will suddenly stop thriving. They will stop growing, socializing and crawling. They will begin to lose weight and may cry continuously. When this happens, they fade quickly and, even with medical intervention, may not survive 48 hours.

There is no understood cause for this condition.

One possible cause could be Panleukopenia, a contagious disease with a high mortality rate. Kittens will present with diarrhea and vomiting. If you notice any of these symptoms or lethargy and inactivity, please contact the Foster Coordinator.

Occasionally, kittens die in foster care. If this should occur contact the Foster Coordinators for information concerning the disposition of remains.





## Routine Veterinary Care

Veterinary Care for foster animals is provided by the veterinarians at Charleston Animal Society during normal business hours. The foster coordinator will work directly with the shelter veterinarians to manage the health and well-being of each foster pet or litter. After hours, the foster coordinator will take calls when emergencies arise. In the event of an emergency, the foster coordinator will contact the veterinarian on-call as to how to manage each particular case and, should after-hours treatment be needed, the foster coordinator will instruct the foster parent or family on the appropriate steps to take.

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.

### TIPS & TAILS

Questions about your foster's veterinary care? Call 843-329-1543 during business hours and 843-270-9085 for after-hours emergency care


**TIPS & TAILS**

Missed your foster recheck? Need to view your appointment? Go to [www.charlestonanimalsociety.fullslate.com](http://www.charlestonanimalsociety.fullslate.com)

### Scheduling Rechecks

Foster animal(s) are required to return to the shelter every two weeks for vaccinations, deworming and general exams. You will receive reminders via automatic email through our online scheduling system. All rechecks require an appointment made at the time of pick up.

Recheck times are as followed:

Monday-Saturday from 10 am-4 pm and Sunday 11 am – 3 pm.

If for any reason you are unable to keep your scheduled appointment please contact the Foster Coordinator to reschedule.

### Vaccines

Kittens receive vaccinations every two weeks from the time they are 4 weeks of age until they are 16 weeks or unless otherwise directed by our veterinarians.

Cats and kittens receive FVRCP Vaccine (feline viral rhinotracheitis, calicivirus and panleukopenia). Animals 12 weeks and older receive a Rabies vaccine.





## Spay/Neuter Surgery

During a scheduled visit, the Foster Coordinator or recheck staff may decide to accept the pet or litter back for adoption. If this is the case, surgery may be scheduled that same day or scheduled for a later day. If scheduled for a later day, you will continue foster care and bring the pet in on the morning of the scheduled surgery. Veterinarians use the following guidelines to determine when the foster animal is ready to be returned for surgery:

- Are the kittens old enough or did they gain enough weight for surgery?
- Are they successfully weaned from their mother?
- Have they been successfully socialized?
- Is your foster healthy and recovered fully from the illness or injury?
- Is there room on the adoption floor?

## The Day of Surgery

- Adult cats – no breakfast but may have water
- Kittens – Feed a small breakfast (1-2 tablespoons of canned food) and offer water
- All pets should receive fresh water at all times, even the morning of surgery.
- Drop off time for surgery is 8am on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursday and Fridays.



## TIPS & TAILS

### Photo Taking Tips

Know your pet

Get on their level

Use the right lighting and setting

Be patient

Have fun and be creative!

## How do pets in foster care get adopted?

All foster parents are encouraged to promote the adoption of their foster pet to friends, family, and other potential adopters. Charleston Animal Society's Adoption Ambassador/Operation Whiskers program is for adoptable animals. This is a foster program and has been quite successful! We place dogs, puppies, cats, and kittens that are up for adoption into foster homes. We will then supply you with everything you need including: business cards for the foster, food, and crate. We then train you on the adoption process and advertising of your foster on our Facebook and website. We also encourage you to advertise your foster around the community to try to find someone to adopt them. We will even invite you out to our off-site adoption events. If you find someone to adopt the animal you are fostering, you will perform the adoption process.

This program allows us to have more space available for new animals entering the shelter. Additionally, animals adopted out of foster homes are less likely to be returned, and the animal is able to live in a home environment and never has to come back to the shelter! If you are interested in this program, contact Courtney Gumienny at [cgumienny@charlestonanimalsociety.org](mailto:cgumienny@charlestonanimalsociety.org) or 843-329-1577.

Please feel free to utilize social media sources to promote the adoption of your foster. Examples would be to make a Facebook page for your foster and to cross-post your foster's story using email and social media.





### Can't be an Adoption Ambassador or Operation Whiskers Foster Parent?

If unable to secure an adopter outside of Charleston Animal Society, the foster parent will bring their pet in for rechecks as scheduled. At each visit, the Foster Coordinator and veterinarian will evaluate the pet or litter's progress and, when fully treated or recovered, will accept the pet or litter back for surgery and adoption.

When your foster is transferred back to the shelter for adoption, we gladly welcome any information, written stories, pictures whether photographs or children's drawings that would describe your foster pet to a potential adopter.

Should you need to discontinue foster care for your foster pet prior to their full recovery, call the Foster Coordinator to schedule a time to bring the foster pet back to the shelter. The foster team at the Charleston Animal Society will work hard to secure a new foster family for any foster returned.

### Can foster parents adopt their foster animal?

You bet! Foster parents have first choice to adopt their foster pet. Adoption fees will apply.

#### TIPS & TAILS

Make a Facebook page or website to promote your foster.



# KITTEN HEALTH CHEAT SHEET



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"> <li>• Runny discharge from the eyes or nose</li> <li>• Lack of appetite</li> <li>• Lethargy (lack of energy)</li> <li>• Diarrhea lasting more than 3 or 4 feedings</li> <li>• Vomiting</li> <li>• Weight loss</li> <li>• Coughing and sneezing</li> <li>• Lack of bowel movement for more than 24-36 hours or straining in litter box</li> <li>• Swollen eyes or eyes held closed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuous diarrhea longer than 24-36 hours</li> <li>• Continuous vomiting longer than 12 hours</li> <li>• Loss of appetite</li> <li>• Bleeding of any kind (from nose or in urine/ stool)</li> <li>• Any trauma (hit by a car, dropped, limping, unconscious, etc)</li> <li>• Difficulty breathing</li> <li>• A kitten that does not respond or has not eaten for more than a day</li> </ul>

## 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.

NO KILL.  
NO HARM.  
NO MORE.™

**Foster Care** 843.329.1543  
**After Hours Emergency** 843.270.9085  
**Shelter** 843.747.4849

