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Packing their Bags: Getting Shelter Animals Ready for Foster Care





Scenes from the last episode:

Making reservations



How many foster homes?

	A	В	С
Table 1	Total Intake	Kitten intake needing foster care	New foster homes needed this month
January	184	32	16
February	122	17	9
March	162	14	7
April	167	23	12
May	199	45	23
June	350	99	33
July	330	97	32
August	349	90	30
September	343	121	40
October	331	109	36
November	246	67	22
December	223	41	21

ASPCA ASPCADIO

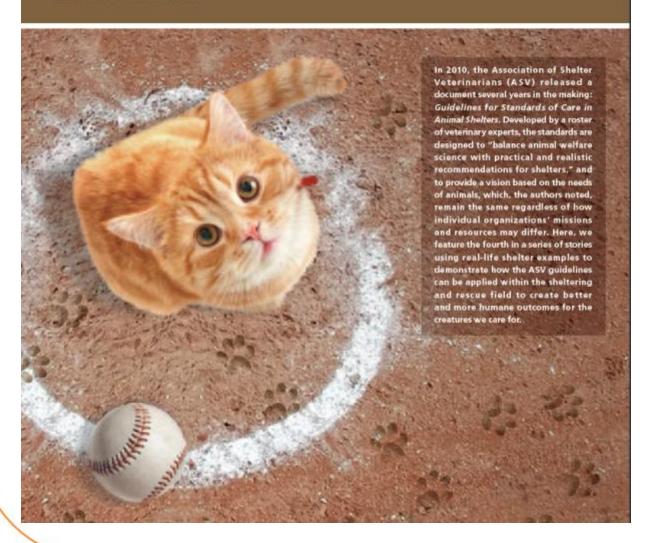
Estimating numbers

	New foster homes this month	Still Working from last month	Resting number (50%)	Total Number
January	16	0		16
February	9	16		25
March	7	9	8	24
April	12	7	5	24
May	23	12	4	39
June	33	23	6	62
July	32	33	12	77
August	30	32	17	79
September	40	30	16	86
October	36	40	15	91
November	22	36	20	78
December	21	22	18	61



The Foster On-Deck System at the ARL of Boston

BY SANDRA NEWBURY, D.V.M.



Batter Up!

Proactive foster care planning

Part Four in the ASV Guidelines in Real Life Series for HSUS's Animal Sheltering Magazine

Foster On Deck

_										
	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н	1	J
1	Name	Phone	Email	Level	Bottle kittens	Orphan kittens	Mom & litter	Adult cats	Shy cats	Date Restrictions
2	Ï		·	Green		X				After May 9th
3				Green		X				After May 20th
4				Green		X	X			
5				Blue	X	X	X			
6				Green	X	X				Away last weekend in May
7				Green	X	X				
8				Green	X	X	X	X		
9				Blue		X	X	X	X	
10				Green		X	X	X	X	
11				Blue	X	X	X	X	X	
12				Green		X				Away May 25 - June 2
13				Blue	X	X	X	X	X	Bottle Feeders in Summer
14				Blue		X	X	X	X	
15				Green	X	X	X	X	X	After June 19
16				Green	X	X	X			
117	T									

- Foster parents recruited proactively
- Online list to let them know who is UP next
- Level system
- "A litter a day" goal
- Most kittens now leave for foster in 1-2 days
- Boston Animal Rescue League -- see <u>Shelter Math and Population</u>
 <u>Planning ASPCApro webinar recording and Presenter's Slides</u> (.pdf)



Recruiting foster homes



Wisconsin Humane Society "Saving Lives"...

Why is fostering important?

Foster parents open their homes and hearts to animals who need them now more than ever. These compassionate people play a vital role in the life of that animal and are a critical component to the success of the Wisconsin Humane Society's mission as a whole. Foster parents provide a home environment for healing and growth that a shelter cannot duplicate. Simply put: foster parents save lives.



Why do companion animals need to be fostered?

- Age/growth Sometimes we have animals in our care who are simply too young or underweight to be placed up for adoption right away.
- Behavior These animals need help gaining confidence or learning certain manners to help prime them for a happy, long-lasting life in their new home.
- Medical Some animals may need to recover from an illness or injury before they're able to be placed in a home.
- Domestic Abuse Animal abuse has a strong connection to domestic violence. Victims' dogs and cats are often used by abusers as pawns to manipulate and control them. Our Safe Haven Foster Program helps a victim find safety while knowing that their beloved animal is being safely cared for in a temporary foster home.
- Expansion of lifesaving capacity Every animal in a foster home frees up space in our shelter for more animals, thus increasing our capacity to save lives!

How do I get started?

- 1) Read through our foster requirements
- Fill out a foster application
- 3) Wait for our volunteer manager to follow up with you



How do you recruit?

Please answer in the chat

- Proactively
- Online website
- Programmatically
- For each animal or litter
- Email blasts
- Personal phone calls
- Volunteer recruiters
- Others?

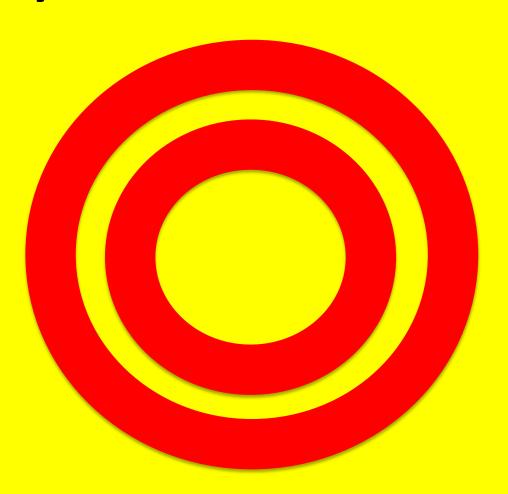
We

Want

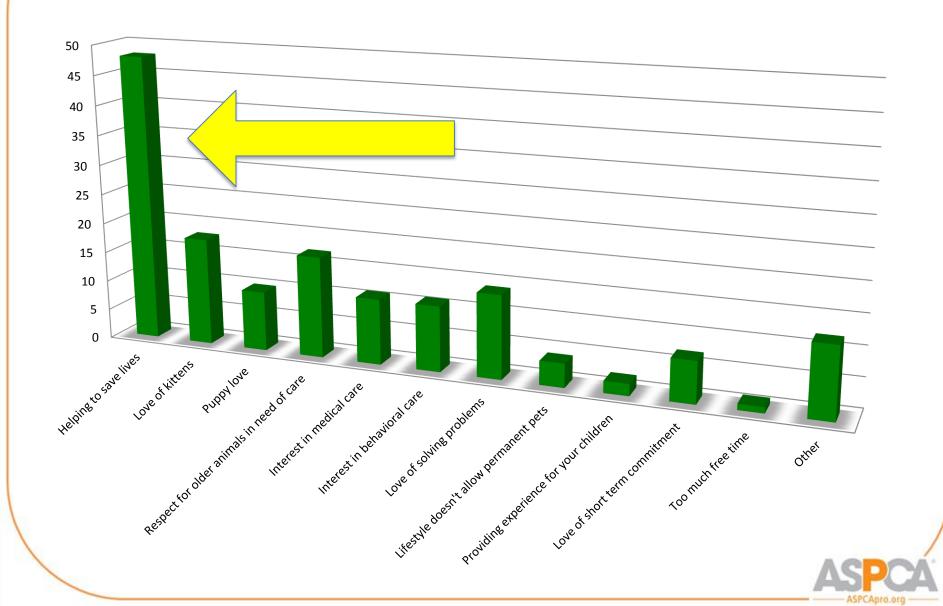
you!

Tageting? WHO do you recruit?

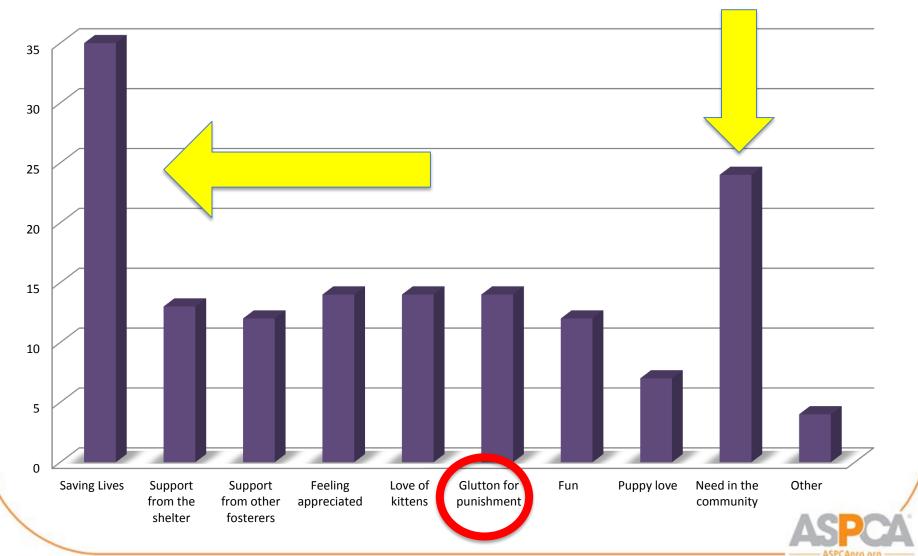
- Shelter volunteers
- Staff
- College students
- Retirees
- Vet technicians
- Veterinarians
- General public
- Families
- Prison programs



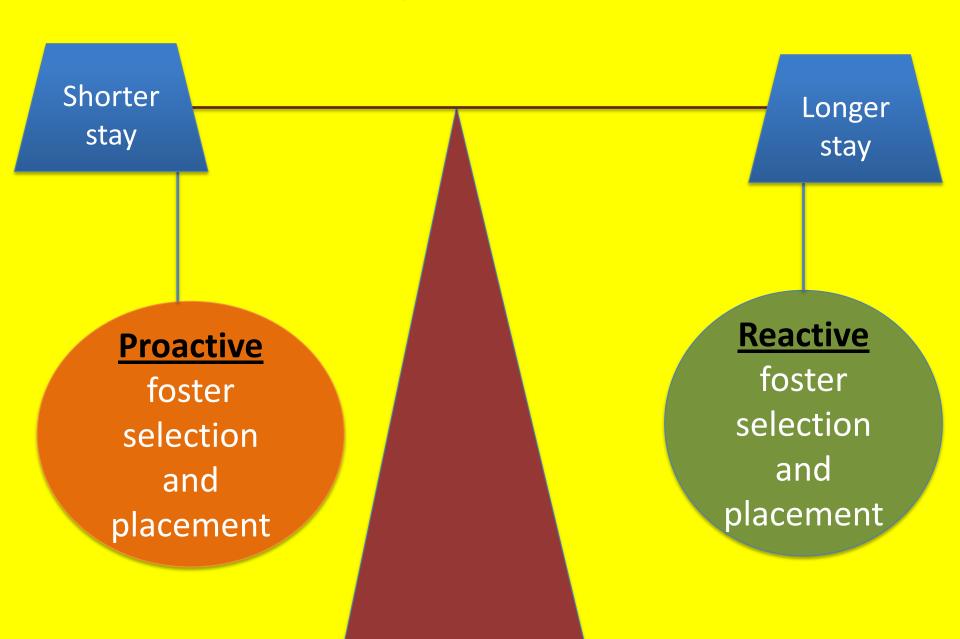
What makes you want to be a foster parent?



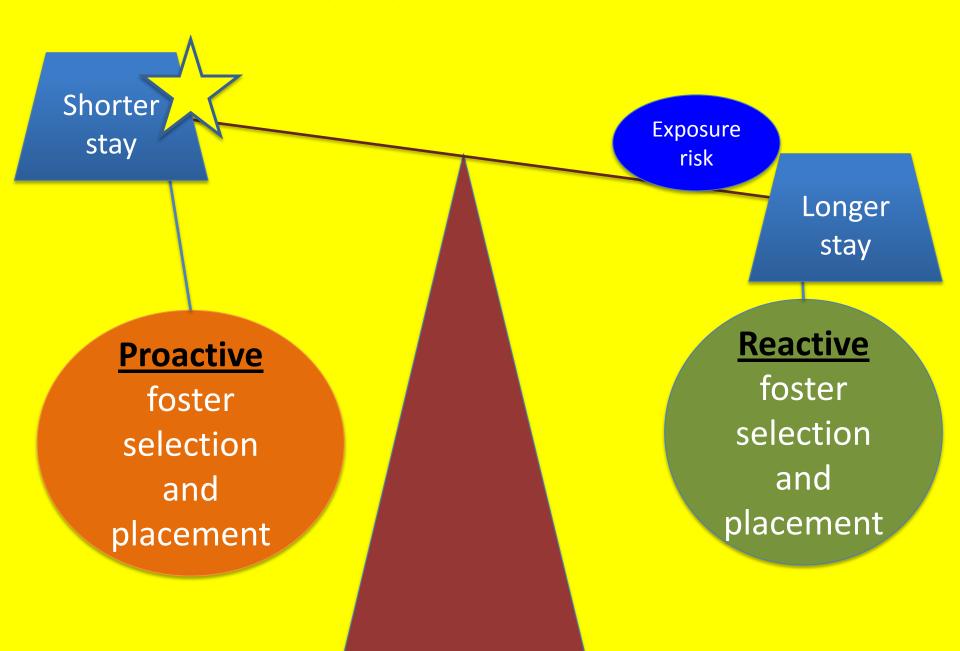
What makes you want to continue being a foster parent?



Timing for selection?



Selection for foster





Matching: Degree of difficulty?

Dog with injuries

Availability for follow up appointments

Ability to give treatments

Orphan kittens

Feeding availability

Neonatal care training

Bottle feeding training

Underage weaned puppies

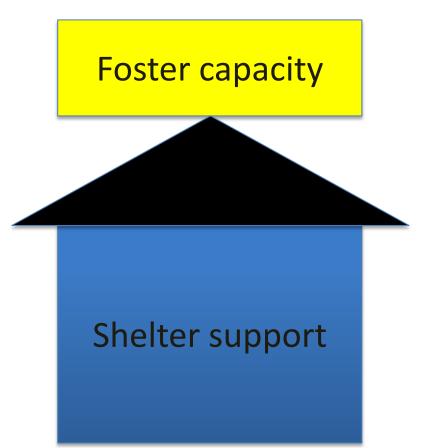
Underage weaned kittens



Matching: Capacity for care

Capacity may be dependent on support from the shelter.

- Screening
- Selection
- Prevention
- Training
- Health care
- Behavioral support
- Follow up
- Limits on numbers





	Freedom from hunger & Thirst	Freedom from pain, injury, disease	Freedom from fear and distress	Freedom from discomfort	Freedom to express normal behavior, socialization	Happiness: All mental and physical needs met; most wants	
High quality of life	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Always	Competent caregiving
Good quality of life	Yes	Yes	Yes	+/-	+/-	Often	
Borderline quality of life	Yes	+/-	+/-	+/-	No	Rarely	Borderline caregiving; animals at risk
Poor quality of life	+/-	+/-	No	No	No	Never	incompetent caregiving; animals suffer
A life not worth living	No	No	No	No	No	Never 	
	Cruelty	laws app	ly				ASPCA ASPCAPIO. Org

Capacity for care

- More is usually not less
- But...Mom and litter MAY be easier than orphans
 - But maybe not
- Two MAY be easier than one
 - But maybe not
- Caution:
 - Care needs can escalate quickly and dramatically



Wiffy Mama and her kids





Matching: Environment

- Readily disinfected
- Away from other pets
- Warm / Quiet
- Kitten / puppy proofed
- Fresh air
- Daylight?
- Useable space to work
- Indestructible?
- Recent infectious disease?



Extra bathroom, not only bathroom



Household members: Adults, children, and other pets

- Controlled interactions with children (and adults)
- Training for kids
- Immune competent
- Pets
 - Healthy
 - Over 5 months of age
- Vaccinated or immune





What to pack?

Treatments and screening before a foster vacation

These are strategies to aspire towards and risks to work to prevent. An ideal protocol would take into account all of the following considerations.

Work with your veterinarian to develop a protocol that works best for each animal that relies on you for care.



What are the most important treatments before going to foster care?



Sample protocol available

CATS	Sample Protocol					
Age group or category	Repeat at interval until	Treatment / Evaluation	Date scheduled	Date completed	T	Why?
		Intake			2	
All	Returned from foster	Weight check			V	General evaluation, establishing baseline, and tracking progress
All	Returned from foster	Overall body physical exam			e:	General assessment Identifying problems
All	Each interaction	General assessment of current behavior			G	
All	Returned from foster	Wood's lamp exam - confirm Wood's positive with direct exam			V CI W	Ringworm
All - If inflammatory lesions are noted	Returned from foster	Fungal culture			F	Ringworm
4 weeks and above	20 weeks of age	FVRCP Vaccine			F	Panleukopenia Herpesvirus Calicivirus
Label use is 8 weeks (Consider risk and benefit down to 4 weeks of age)	Monthly	Selamectin (6 mg/kg)				External parasites Internal parasites (roundworms and hookworms) Internal parasites (roundworms and hookworms)
2 weeks and up (any not given selamectin)	20 weeks of age	pyrantel pamoate (if no selamectin)			p se	Internal parasites (rounds and hooks)
4 weeks and up - If fleas or tapeworms are seen	1 dose	Praziquantal				Tapeworms
Kittens (under 5 months) 2-3 weeks and older	2 doses	Ponazuril (Marquis Paste)			D d	Coccidia
4 weeks and older if fleas are noted	1 dose	Nitenpyram (Capstar)				Kills adult fleas within 30 minutes
		Before foster, before adoption, or when age appropriate	Date scheduled	Date completed	R	
No less than 3-4 months of age (varies by state)	1yr then according to product	Rabies Vaccine			ai	Rabies prevention and simplified bite quarantine
All	Once if negative	FELV test			if	Detection of FeLV

Assessment: Health

- Basic exam
- Basic history
 - In shelter
 - Previous owner
 - Person presenting
- Monitoring sheets

Date:	Lnitials:Location:	
	ed for Microchip: +/-	
Admi abnor	the following observations to ting Exam Notes: IF anything tal is noted. ATTITUDE friendly fractious scared other: Declawed: No 2 Paw 4 Page.	
2.	WEIGHT "If yes, write on card.	
3.	COAT & SKIN	
4.	EYES	
5.	EARS	
6.	NOSE normal	
7.	MOUTH, TEETH, GUMS	
8.	HEART	/

Physical Exam

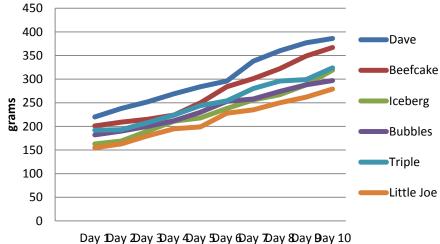
- Always observe before you touch
- Nose to toes and tip of tail
- Consistent approach
 - Same way each time
- Do "obnoxious" or "offensive" things last
- Intake and exam webinar: The Shelter Handshake
 - http://www.petsmartcharities.org/resources/the-shelterhandshake.html



Health assessment: Weight check



The First 10 Days



Body condition score

Nestlé PURINA BODY CONDITION SYSTEM

 Ribs visible on shorthaired cats; no palpable fat; severe abdominal tuck; lumbar vertebrae and wings of ilia easily palpated.

Ribs easily visible on shorthaired cats; lumbar vertebrae obvious with minimal muscle mass; pronounced abdominal suck; no polpable fat.

Ribs easily palpable with minimal for covering; lumbar vertebrae obvious; abvious waist behind ribs; minimal abdominal fat.

Ribs polpable with minimal fat covering; noticeable waist behind ribs; slight abdominal tuck; abdominal fat pad absent.

Well-proportioned; observe waist behind ribs; ribs palpable with slight fat covering; obdominal fat pad minimal.

Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering; waist and abdominal fat pad distinguishable but not obvious; abdominal tuck absent.

 Ribs not easily palpated with moderate fat covering; waist poorly discernible; obvious rounding of abdomen; moderate obdominal fat pad.

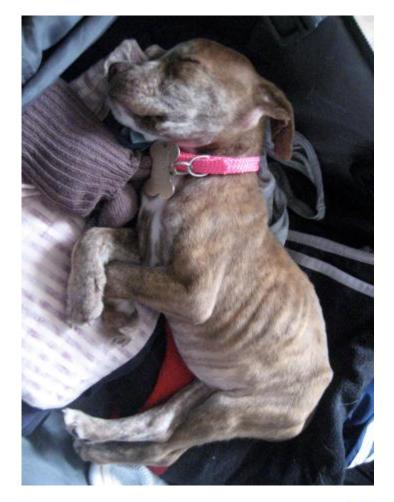
Ribs not palpable with excess fat covering; waist obsent; obvious rounding of abdomen with prominent abdominal fat pad; fat deposits present over lumbar area.

Ribs not palpable under heavy fat cover; heavy fat deposits over lumbar area, face and limbs; distention of abdomen with no waist; extensive abdominal fat deposits.

Cell 1-800-222-VETS (8387), weekslays, 8:00 e.m. to 6:30 p.m. Cf



Nestlé PURINA



"Bruno" pup



Appetite

 Be sure animals are eating well when they leave

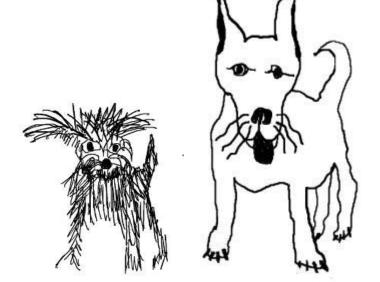
OR include on the problem list





Core vaccination on intake

- Intake means as soon as they come in (or before).
- FVRCP For cats
 - Feline Panleukopenia virus
 - Feline Calicivirus
 - Feline Herpes virus
- DHPP For Dogs
 - Canine distemper (D)
 - Parvovirus (P)
 - Adenovirus (H)
 - Parainfluenza (P)
- Intranasal "Kennel cough"





Revaccination with core vaccines

- Puppies and kittens
 - Start at 4 weeks of age
 - Revaccinate at 2 week intervals until 20 weeks of age

- Over 5 months (20 weeks)
 - Single vaccine at intake



Rabies vaccination

- Requirement and certification varies by state
- Usually not younger than 3-4 months
- Protective
 - Animals
 - Humans
- Aids in bite response



Woods Lamp Exam

 Make Wood's before foster a habit

 Prevention beats clean-up

Invest in a good lamp.



Fungal Culture

- All inflammatory lesions in cats.
- Suspicious lesions in dogs.
- A toothbrush is an ideal means of collecting spores from the hair coat.



Most cats love this!

cost comes to \$0.06 per toothbrush		
	\$88.40	1,440

ASPCA

Dermatophyte Test Media

- Fungal culture media.
- Contains an indicator that turns the media gel from orange to red as the pH of the media changes.
- Incubate at room temperature or slightly warmer. (78-80 F)



http://www.remel.com/order/ShowItems.cfm?ItemName=Dermatophyte%20Test%20Medium

or

www.remel.com and search for DTM



External parasite prevention

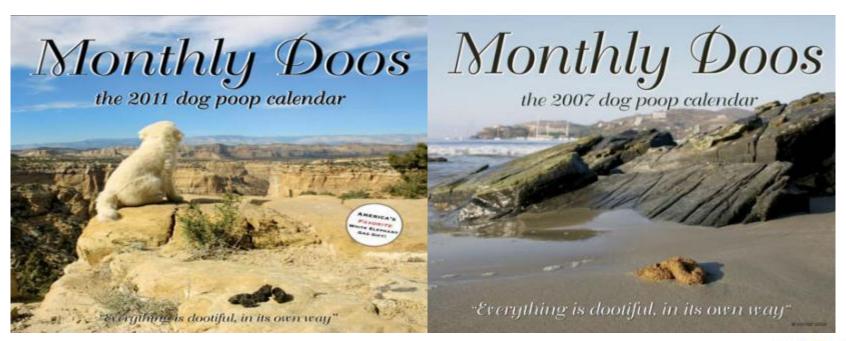
- Fleas*
- Ticks
- Others?
- Examples:
 - Selamectin (Revolution)
 - Also treats round and hooks in cats
 - Fipronil (Frontline)
 - Other spot on products
- Start at intake
- Repeat monthly
- If live fleas or flea dirt are seen
- Nitenpyram (Capstar)
- Kills adult fleas in 30 minutes
- Helps prevent environmental infestation





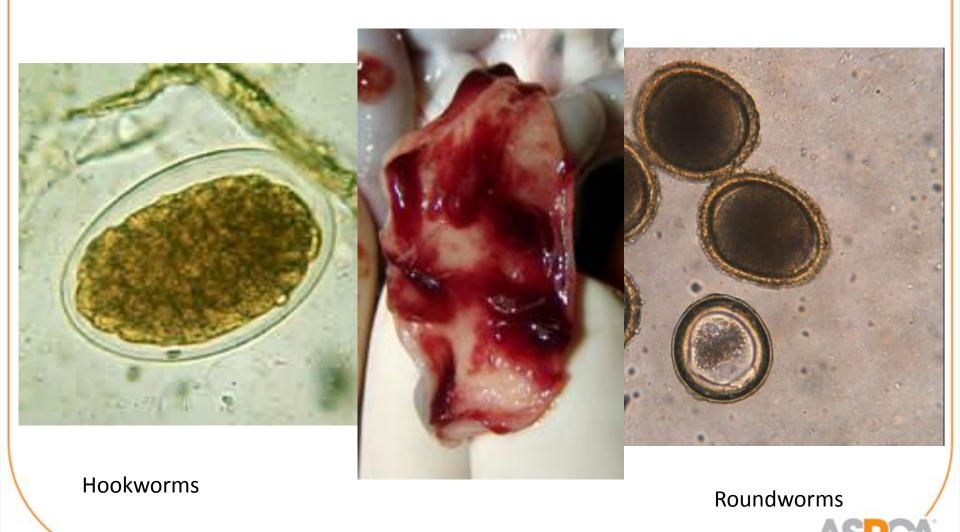
Fecal before foster?

- Hard to prove evidence of absence
- Prophylactic treatment is safest
- MUCH more efficient





Zoonotic Internal Parasites



Roundworms and Hookworms

- Pyrantel pamoate (Strongid)
- Be aware if other treatments may cover the same ground.
- Revolution treats for rounds and hooks in cats but not dogs.
- Heartguard plus and Iverheart plus have pyrantel pamoate as the "plus"



Coccidia

- VERY difficult to remove from a contaminated environment
- May be shed intermittently
- Prevention is worth it!
- Marquis paste is safe in puppies and kittens
- Coccidiacidal
- Repeat dose in 7-14 due to risk of reinfection



Tapeworm

- Ideal to treat all before foster if resources permit
- Treat if live fleas or tapeworm segments are seen
- Next priority compromised or thin
- Single treatment
- Praziquantal (Droncit)



Heartworm prevention and screening

- Start preventative ASAP (at intake / before foster)
- Prevent potential for spread
- Prevent potential for infection
 - Treats back about 2 months
 - Minimal risk of reaction (preventatives are used as part of treatment).
- Will not interfere with antigen testing
- Test ASAP Antigen test
- Identify need for treatment before foster placement







FeLV / FIV screening

- Test all before sending to foster
- All ages
- Negative test is a negative test at any age



FIV positive kittens

- Antibody test
- MOST (almost all) young kittens who test positive will be negative by 4-6 months)

- Most positives in kittens result from maternal antibodies
- Vaccine positives

FeLV positive kittens

- No one clear confirmatory test
 - Antigen test
 - Mostly just different tests
- Potential for regressive infections
- Negative test that follows a positive test may be due to regressive disease
- Or maybe not
- No clear information on clinical outcome
- More information in Petsmart Charities webinar on diagnostic testing: Test Anxiety parts One and Two http://www.petsmartcharities.org/resources/test-anxiety-part-1-basics-of-diagnostic-testing.html

Assessment: Behavior

- Important part of matching
- Evaluate starting at intake
- Base on observations and history
- Systematic behavioral evaluations
- Identify needs
- Screen for safety issues



Problem lists

Foster Animal Problem list

Animal name: Dr. Milky Foster Parent: Newbury

Animal Identification: A1524378



Problem	Date	Shelter	Date
	noted	notified	resolved
		(Y/N)	
Unweaned – needs bottle feeding	8/13/12	Y	
Less than 3 weeks - needs frequent feeding (Every 2-4	8/13/12	Y	
hours)			
Less than 3 weeks of age - needs stimulation for	8/13/12	Y	
urination and defecation			
Less than 3 weeks of age - needs thermoregulation	8/13/12	Y	
support (Needs to be kept warm, with an opportunity			
to move away from heat)			



Treatment plan

- List of all treatments
- Expected duration of treatment
- Expected progress
- Monitoring parameters
- Cause for concern
- Plan or indications for re-evaluation



Treatments / Action lists

- Treatments
- Dosages

Medical Treatment Log

Booking #_

- Monitoring parameters
- Frequencies

Description/Name														
Treatment Initiated By	_ □ Entered in Computer													
REASON FOR TREATMENT														
DATE														
Appetite														
Hydration														
Nasal Discharge														
Eyes														
Feces														
Urine														
Attitude														
Other:														
Treatment														
Drug, Dose, Frequency, Duration	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
													+	1
													+	1

Thanks for all you do. Happy Match-Making!



Special thanks to the ASPCA for the partnership with UC-Davis that makes my position possible.



A FEW COMING ATTRACTIONS FROM ASPCAPRO

www.aspcapro.org/webinars

- Early Age Care for Foster Animals (8/29)
- Ringworm 101 for Shelters (9/25)
- Does Spay/Neuter Have a "People Problem"? (9/26)
- Ringworm Outbreak Management (10/02)
- Beating Ringworm: Yes, You Can! (10/23)

