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Foster Vacation Planning:

Improving Animal
Health & Welfare
with Foster Care



Goals of foster care

- Increase life saving capacity of the organization / community
- Improved welfare
- Increased capacity for care
- Reduced length of stay in the shelter
- Increased potential for adoptions
- Maximizing resources



Planning care capacity for foster animals

- Can animal needs be met?
- Training
- Matching programs
- Planning for pre-placement screening
- Planning follow-up care
- Critical flow through points

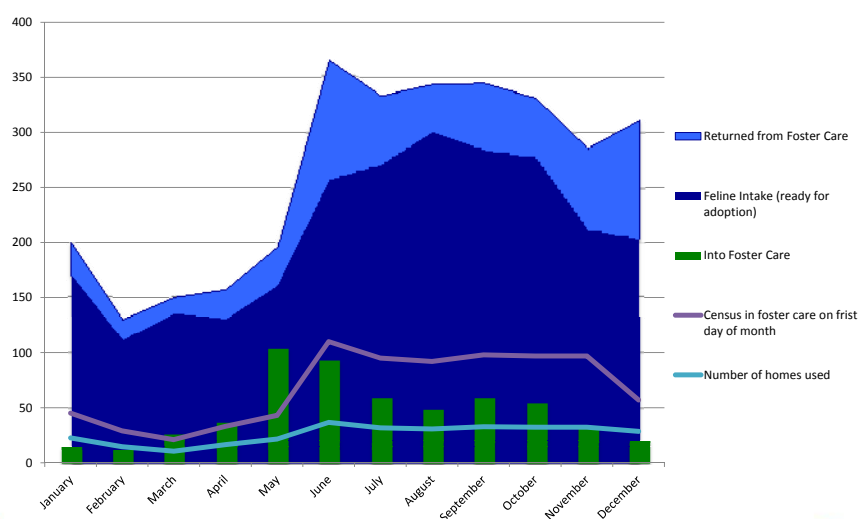


Planning for live release

- Caregiver expectations
- Need for training
- Clear communication about risk
- Be aware of trends
- Push the envelope toward live release
 - But communicate what you're doing



Foster returns amplify intake



How many foster homes?

| | A | B | C |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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 |

LOS and resting periods determine turnover and total numbers

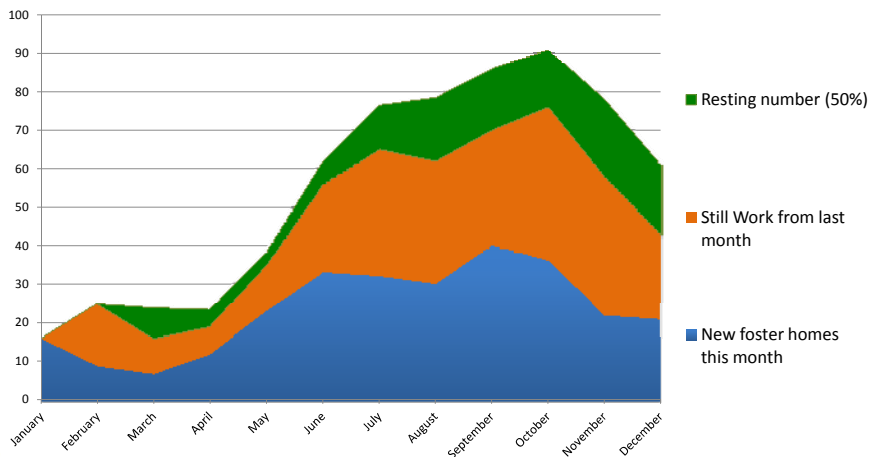


Estimating numbers

| | 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 |



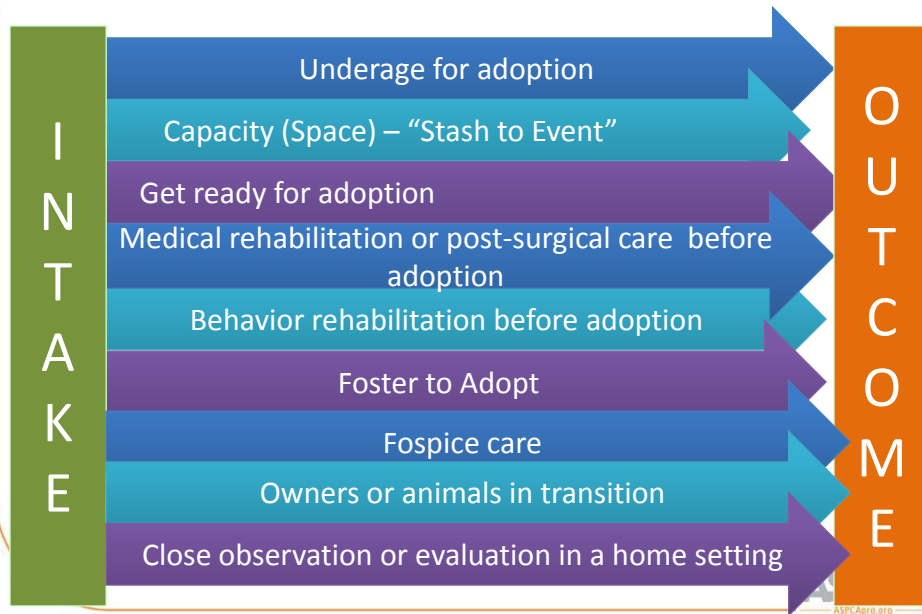
Estimating number of homes



Foster program coordination



Defining Pathways



Biscuit



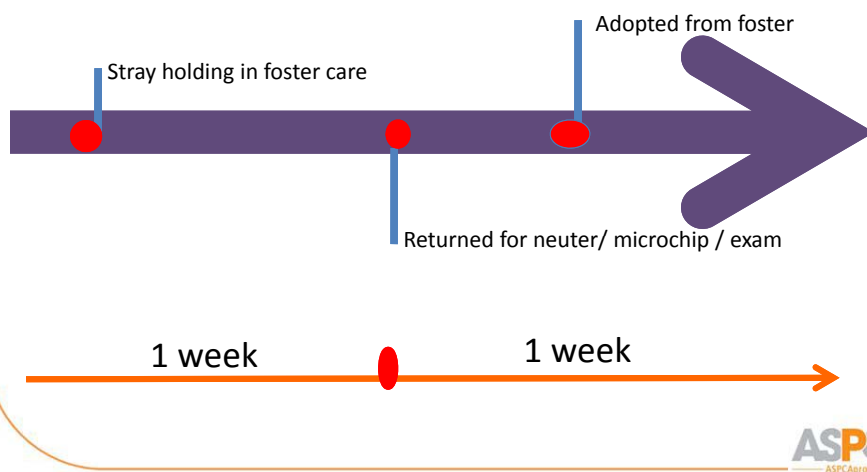
- Underage and alone
- High potential for adoption
- Problem list
 - Susceptibility
 - Critical socialization period
 - Likelihood of disease?
- Stray holding in foster care
- Supportive care while in foster
- Returned for neuter/ microchip / exam
- Adopted from foster

Adoption age?

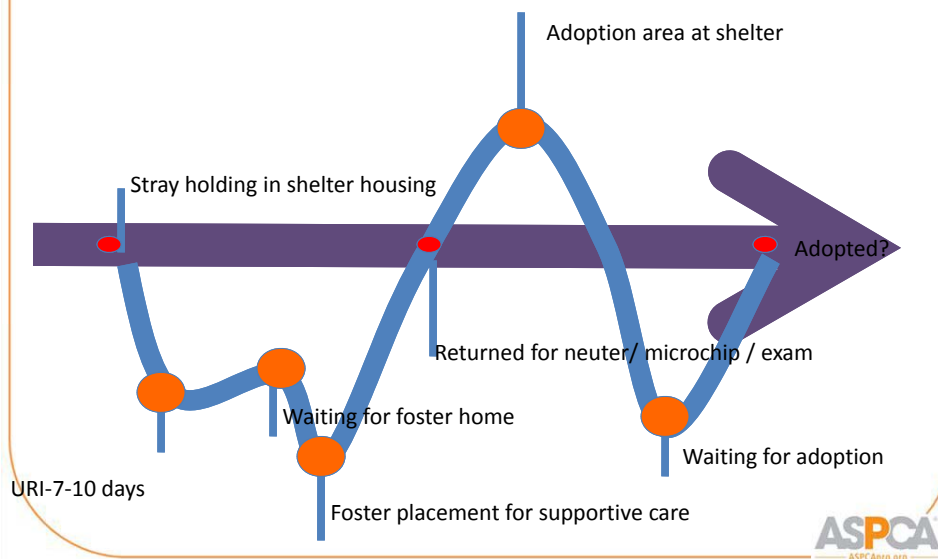
Use the chat to answer these 3 questions:

1. What age do you plan to adopt out your kittens?
 - > 6 wks , 8 wks, 12 wks
2. Is this because of a law or a policy?
 - > Law, policy
3. What are your criteria for spay / neuter surgery?
 - > 2 lbs, 1.5 lbs, good body condition, 8 wks, 6 wks, others

Planned pathway:
Scheduling, efficiency, and critical flow through points



Alternate long and winding pathway



Daisy Mae

- Skin disease on intake
- Good likelihood of placement
 - Dynamic personality
 - High community live release rate
- Prompt diagnostics
 - Minimal in shelter care days
 - Balanced resource investment
- Prolonged treatment in foster care
 - Good quality of life
- Adoption from (into ;) the foster home
 - Pet promoted increased adoptions



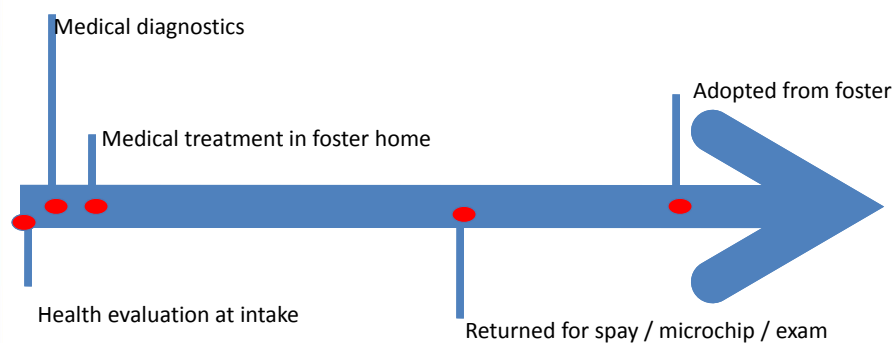
Medical care for foster animals poll 1
please answer in the chat:

- Where do you provide medical care for foster animals?
 - In-house shelter clinic
 - Private vet practices

Medical care for foster animals poll 2
please answer in the chat:

- Who most commonly provides follow up care for foster animals?
 - Shelter vet
 - Vets in private practice
 - Technicians
 - Foster coordinator
 - Volunteers

Planned pathway



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Minimizing time (LOS) in the shelter

- Readiness systems
- Intake diversion programs



Foster On Deck

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J |
|----|------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|----------------|--------------|------------|----------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Name | Phone | Email | Level | Bottle kittens | Orphan kittens | Mom & litter | Adult cats | Shy cats | Date Restrictions |
| 2 | | | | 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 | 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 | X | |
| 15 | | | | Green | X | X | X | X | X | After June 19 |
| 16 | | | | Green | X | X | X | | | |

- 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 case study on ASPCApro



“Ready, Set, Go...”



- Animals are made ready for adoption before they come to the shelter
- Foster by finder
- Foster to surrender
- Divert to foster
 - Foster holding



Selecting animals



We'll talk about selecting animals as well as screening and preventive care in webinar #2 of this series.



Selecting Animals

please answer in the chat:

- Which animals / categories do you send to foster?
 - Unweaned orphans
 - Mom's and litters
 - Weaned youngsters
 - Medical
 - Behavior
 - Space

Selecting Animals

please answer in the chat:

- Which animals do you send to foster most?
 - Unweaned orphans
 - Mom's and litters
 - Weaned youngsters
 - Medical
 - Behavior
 - Space

Routine follow up

- Schedule at the time of sending
- Give the schedule to foster parent before they leave

Your next appointment is:

Date: _____

Time: _____

Please call 123-456-7890
if you must reschedule or cancel.



Every 2 weeks: All puppies and kittens

- Exams
 - Weight checks
 - De-worming
 - Revaccination every two weeks
- External parasites and heartworm – once a month



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Emergency Care

- Critical component of a foster program
- Written instructions – who and how to contact
 - Shelter is open
 - After hours
 - Refrigerator magnets?
- Train emergency recognition
- Be clear about what level of care will be provided
- Careful daily monitoring helps prevent emergencies



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Monitoring: Animals in care Foster pathways Programs Caregivers



Monitoring animals in care

- Training
- Monitoring sheets
 - Weight
 - Appetite
 - Elimination,
 - Signs of illness,
 - Behavior
 - Others?

DAILY HEALTH EVALUATION FORM

NAME _____ BOOKING # _____ INC. DATE _____

COMMENTS: _____

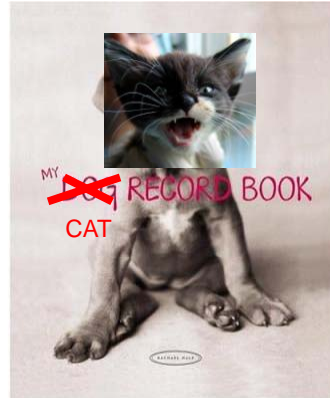
| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| DATE | | | | | |
| INITIALS | | | | | |
| APPETITE | | | | | |
| Special diet | | | | | |
| Good | | | | | |
| Average | | | | | |
| Nibbling | | | | | |
| Not eating | | | | | |
| STOOLS | | | | | |
| Normal | | | | | |
| Loose | | | | | |
| Diarrhea | | | | | |
| Bloody | | | | | |
| None | | | | | |
| Faecal taken | | | | | |
| (get below for results) | | | | | |
| Parvo test run | | | | | |
| URINE | | | | | |
| Normal | | | | | |
| Excessive | | | | | |
| Strong odor | | | | | |
| Bloody | | | | | |
| Straining | | | | | |
| None | | | | | |
| VOMITING | | | | | |
| Foam | | | | | |
| Bile | | | | | |
| Hairball | | | | | |
| Blood | | | | | |
| COUGHING | | | | | |
| SNEEZING | | | | | |
| Clear | | | | | |
| Yellow | | | | | |
| Green | | | | | |
| Blood | | | | | |
| EYES | | | | | |
| Clear discharge | | | | | |
| Purpuric | | | | | |
| Rice/milia | | | | | |
| swollen | | | | | |

Forms are available at www.sheltermedicine.com



Use the records!

- Keep sheets and other information together
- Bring monitoring sheets along for follow up appointments
- Online monitoring systems
- Does anyone have an online system for monitoring foster animals?



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Tracking foster pathways

- Length of stay while waiting for foster pick up
- Average length of stay in foster
- Time spent waiting for services
- Time spent waiting for housing
- Compare to “treatment” plan or time line
- Investigate rises in waiting time

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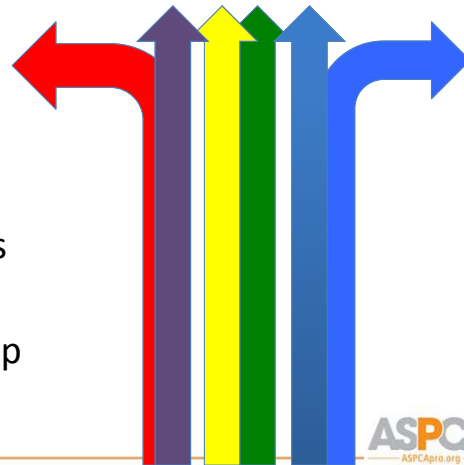
Shelter record keeping

- Current status
- Current weight
- Problem list
- Treatments
- Monitoring parameters
- Plan for return



Tracking outcomes and problems

- For each pathway
 - For each caregiver
 - For the program as a whole
-
- Outcomes
 - Incidence of problems
 - Success rates
 - According to risk group



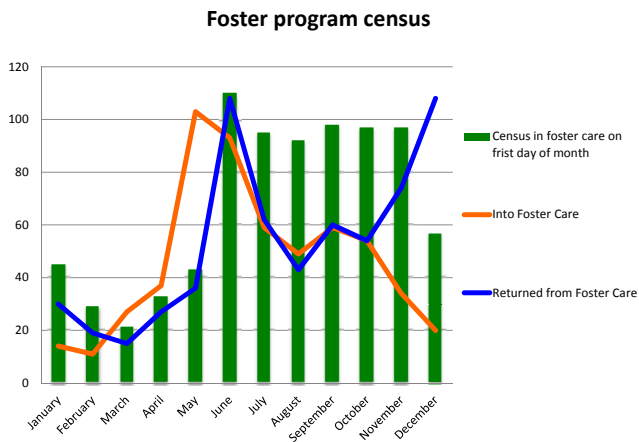
Data Collection

- Reason for foster
- Age
- Time in foster (date in and date returned)
- Outcome.
- Weight changes,
- Health and behavior status as animals leave for foster,
- Health and behavior status as animals return from foster
- Follow up visits required
- Number of treatments or treatment time required



Foster program data reporting

| Table 2 | Into Foster Care | Returned from Foster Care | Census in foster care on first day of month |
|-----------|------------------|---------------------------|---|
| January | 14 | 30 | 45 |
| February | 11 | 19 | 29 |
| March | 27 | 15 | 21 |
| April | 37 | 27 | 33 |
| May | 103 | 36 | 43 |
| June | 93 | 108 | 110 |
| July | 59 | 62 | 95 |
| August | 49 | 43 | 92 |
| September | 59 | 60 | 98 |
| October | 54 | 54 | 97 |
| November | 34 | 74 | 97 |
| December | 20 | 108 | 57 |



Recruiting foster homes and caregivers

- Volunteers
- Outreach programs
 - Vet students
 - Colleges
 - Youth programs
 - Inmates
- Employees?
 - Careful to check labor laws and interpretation



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Regulations

- May include:
 - foster home registration
 - limits on the numbers of animals
 - timing of re-evaluation
 - requirements for inspection of the foster home



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Why regulate?

- Public health
- Animal safety and well-being
- Animal hoarding prevention



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Home visits?

Pros

- Screen for obvious problems
- Counsel about environment specifics
- Open a dialogue about proper care
- Build relationships
- Begin ongoing relationships

Cons

- One time view
- Difficult to achieve
- Resource intensive
- Deter foster parents
- Delay foster placement

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Home visits?

- Ongoing relationships are probably most valuable
- Define potential need for visit *in advance* if problems are identified or suspected
- What to look for:
 - safety concerns
 - ability to separate foster animals from pets and people in the home
 - ease of disinfection
 - general cleanliness and condition of the environment
 - other animals and people in the home



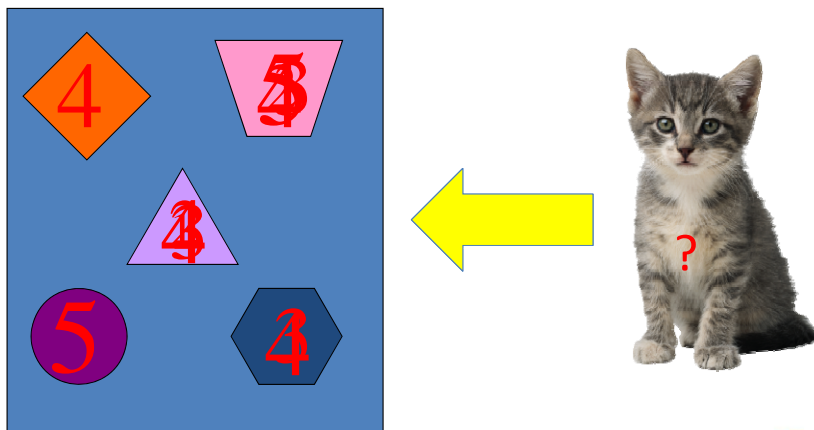
Numbers and Limits

- Regulations
- Policy defined limits
- Foster caregivers' judgment, training, and experience

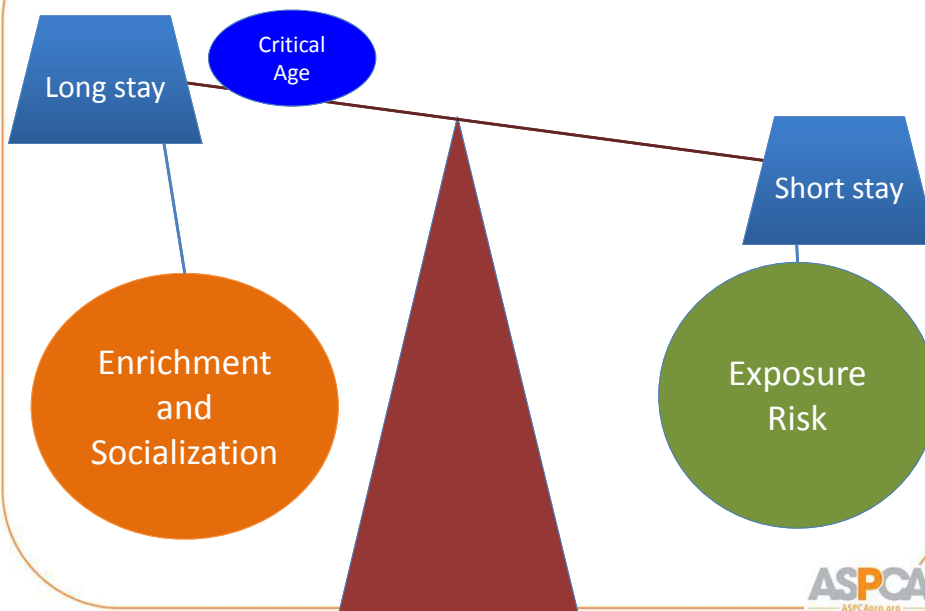
- "Capacity to provide humane care has limits for every organization, just as it does in private homes." -ASV Guidelines for Standards of Care



Cumulative exposure risk



Integrating foster pets into foster homes



Friends with benefits



"Bella, Mae, and Nut"

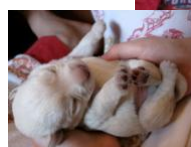


Capacity for care

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



Wiffy Mama and her kid's



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Training and retention

- Learning is a treat!
- Positive reinforcement and reward
- Positive experiences
- Feeling needed



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Training / Certification Levels / Mentorship

- Foster Manuals
- Presentations
- **Hands on!**
- Phone consultation system (triage team)
- Mentoring programs
- Certification levels



2323 55th Street
Boulder, CO 80301-2806

Foster Handbook

A Reference Guide for
Foster Volunteers



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
- Vaccinated or immune



Thanks for all your hard work!

Check out our new blog:

fosterfunwithdrnewbury.wordpress.com



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



A FEW COMING ATTRACTIONS FROM ASPCA^{PRO}

www.aspcapro.org/webinars

- **Packing their Bags: Getting Shelter Animals Ready for Foster Care** (8/15)
- **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)

