
Meow for Now

Foster Care Guide

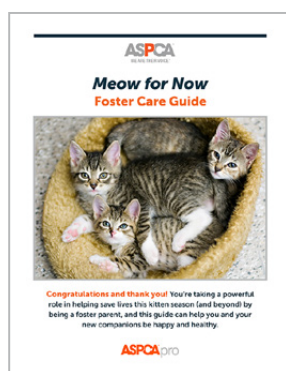


Congratulations! You've revved up your power to save lives this kitten season (and beyond) with ***Meow for Now***, the ASPCA's nationwide kitten foster program. This guide provides print-and-post charts and other forms so you can complete all prep steps correctly before sending kittens home with their new caretakers.

The resources here are designed to be printed out, posted in conspicuous locations, or customized as handouts. If you're viewing the PDF in vertical mode and the page you're reading is horizontal (or vice versa) go to View in the toolbar at the top of the document and then to Rotate View.

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Don't forget to give your new foster parents their Feline Foster Care Guide!

Vaccination Decision Table

Should I Vaccinate:	
On stray hold?	YES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination of all animals on intake to the shelter is an expected standard of care worldwide and is the best way to protect their health. • State boards of veterinary medicine and legal counsel can be consulted if ownership concerns arise.
When injured?	YES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination in the face of injuries is not likely to have any impact on the course of recovery. • There is no evidence that vaccination in the face of injuries will not be effective. • Vaccination should not take priority over medical stabilization of patients with severe injuries.
With mild illness?	YES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination of these animals is not likely to have any effect on the course of the current illness. • Vaccination may still be effective and protect from infectious diseases.
With mild fever?	YES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination may still be effective and protect from infectious diseases in animals with mild fevers (up to 103.5°F).
When one individual in a litter is larger or smaller than the others?	YES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If one member of a litter appears or is known to be at least 4 weeks of age, all members of the litter should be vaccinated regardless of size.
When lactating or nursing?	YES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination will protect the mother from infectious diseases and is unlikely to harm her litter. • Nursing animals will not be protected when the mother is vaccinated; they should be vaccinated starting at 4 weeks.
During pregnancy?	YES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination will protect the mother from serious, potentially fatal infectious diseases and may provide protection to offspring for the first few weeks of life. • There is a small risk to developing puppies and kittens whose mothers were vaccinated during pregnancy, but in most sheltering situations the benefits far outweigh the risks. • If vaccines are not administered, the animal should be kept in a protected environment outside of the shelter to minimize likelihood of disease exposure.
<4 weeks of age?	NO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animals <4 weeks of age should be placed directly into a foster home or maintained in an area separate from the general population. • Use of modified live vaccines may cause developmental abnormalities in animals of this age.

Vaccination Recommendations for Shelter Cats

Vaccine	Adult Cats (>20 weeks old)	Kittens (4-20 weeks old)	Where to Administer	Notes
Modified live virus Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, Panleukopenia (FVRCP) (This is the same as Herpesvirus-1)	Administer one dose at or prior to intake. Administer a second dose 2-3 weeks later.	Administer one dose at or prior to intake. Administer additional doses every 2-3 weeks until the kitten is 20 weeks old.	Subcutaneous, right forelimb	Intranasal FVRCP vaccines may be given simultaneously, but should not be given in place of injectable panleukopenia vaccines.
Rabies	Administer one dose either on intake or prior to exit.	Administer one dose at legal age (>12 weeks) either on intake or prior to exit.	Subcutaneous, right hindlimb	Administration of rabies vaccine is directed by state or local law.

General Parasite Control Recommendations for Shelter Dogs and Cats

Parasite	Who	When	Notes
Hookworms and Roundworms	All dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens 2 weeks of age and older	On intake, repeat in 2 weeks	Zoonotic Common treatment options include pyrantel pamoate, fenbendazole, and ivermectin.
Fleas and Ticks	All dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens	On intake or when evidence of infestation is found	External parasites can transmit infectious diseases to animals and people. A variety of topical and oral products are available; many products include treatment for additional internal or external parasites.
<i>Coccidia</i> spp.	Puppies and kittens	On intake in endemic populations	Most effective treatment options include ponazuril and toltrazuril. Animals should be bathed at end of treatment course to prevent re-infection.
Heartworms	All dogs and cats 8 weeks of age and older	On intake, repeat monthly	Monthly topical or oral products are available, along with a 6-month injectable product; many products include treatment for additional internal or external parasites. All preventives are safe to administer to dogs with heartworm infection.
Other Parasites	All dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens	Upon diagnosis	Prophylactic treatment not recommended.
		<i>Giardia</i> spp.	Combination therapy with fenbendazole and metronidazole most effective. Animals should be bathed at end of treatment course to prevent re-infection.
		Whipworms	Common treatment options include fenbendazole, milbemycin, and moxidectin. Multiple treatments may be required to clear infection.
		Tapeworms	Flea treatment must be included in treatment course. Tapeworms do not cause clinical disease in otherwise healthy dogs and cats. Tapeworm species found in dogs and cats are not zoonotic.

Spot Cleaning for Cat Kennels

You'll Need:

- Gloves
- A rag or paper towel
- Spray bottle labeled Accelerated H2O2 (2 oz./gallon)
- Fresh litter
- A 30-gallon rolling garbage can
- Fresh drinking water

Instructions:

Remember, it's important to avoid removing the cat's scent from her space when cleaning. Don't use chemical cleaners, and only replace soiled toys and bedding.

- 1.** Use a new pair of gloves or wash your hands with soap and water for each kennel
- 2.** Coax the resident cat to an empty portal or shelf
- 3.** Remove bowls and litter pan
- 4.** Use clean solution and paper towel or rag to wipe any smudges
- 5.** Refresh drinking water and replace litter



Deep Cleaning for Cat Kennels

You'll Need:

- Gloves
- 1.5 gallon pump-up foamer
- Clean rags or paper towels
- Fresh litter and pans
- Trash can
- Receptacle for reusable items
- Fresh food and water bowls
- Clean toys

Instructions:

- 1.** Remove all items and debris from kennel
- 2.** Using foamer wand, lightly spray disinfectant across kennel ceilings and across the top of the kennel walls in both sides of the cage
- 3.** Close both kennel doors and spray through the doors, aiming downward across the floor
- 4.** Use a clean cloth or hand brush to spread the disinfectant and scrub all surfaces, working from top to bottom
- 5.** Paying close attention to corners, portals, hinges and latches, scrub the inside and outside of the kennel door
- 6.** Allow the disinfectant to remain on surfaces 10 minutes



Shelter Name • Shelter Address and Phone

Foster Care Contact Sheet

Thank you for becoming a foster care volunteer. Your decision to take an animal into your home to provide a safe, nurturing environment is a tremendous help. If you have any questions or if any medical emergency situations develop during your time fostering, please contact us.

If you have any health-related concerns, call us as soon as you notice a problem—**DO NOT** wait until a crisis occurs. In the care and treatment of foster animals, there is no such thing as a silly question!

When you call, it will be helpful for us to know:

1. Is the animal vomiting?
2. Does he have diarrhea?
3. Is he active or listless?
4. Is he eating and drinking?

The following phone numbers are provided as a reference; however, if you need to take an animal to an outside veterinarian, please get permission from your foster care contact person first.

Foster Care Contact Person

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Shelter Name

Adoption Center Manager _____

After-hours Emergencies Only _____

Assistant _____

Shelter Hours of Operation

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday

Veterinary Hospitals

Name _____ Name _____

Address _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Phone _____

Hours of Operation _____ Hours of Operation _____

Shelter Name • Shelter Address and Phone

Foster Animal Biography Sheet

Foster parent: _____

Animal's species and name: _____

Animal's physical description (coloring, short or long coat, etc):

Please answer these questions with lots of detail so the person doing our website write-ups can make them as complete and interesting as possible.

Once completed, please send back to the Foster Home Coordinator:

_____. Thank you!

1. What makes your foster delightful and special?

2. What cute things does your foster do that are endearing or show an interesting personality?

3. What routines and activities does your foster enjoy most?

4. What help or special-needs consideration does your foster require?

5. Is your foster OK with other animals? If so, what kinds?

6. How does your foster behave around other animals?

7. How does your foster behave around new people?

8. How does your foster behave around known people?

9. What would be the ideal home for your foster?

This info should be added at the shelter/rescue after the foster parent fills out the top portion.

1. Short synopsis of the animal's background

2. Issues that should be noted

3. Special needs and/or considerations

4. Ideal environment for the animal

5. Other specifics

More Foster Resources on ASPCApro

[Why kittens need core vaccines every two weeks](#)

[Causes, signs and transmission of feline panleukopenia](#)

[Prevention, management and treatment of feline panleukopenia](#)

[Adoption Ambassadors Resources](#)

[Complete tutorial with video on spot cleaning cat kennels](#)

[Complete tutorial with video on deep cleaning cat kennels](#)

