



HUMANE SOCIETY
— of Indianapolis —

Foster Care 101

Mission Statement

Provide shelter and comfort to animals in need on the path to loving lifetime homes.

To further our mission we developed our **Foster Care Program** in order to increase adoptions (and reduce euthanasia). Foster parents provide supplemental care and treatment to homeless animals needing additional time and care to overcome obstacles that are standing in the way of their adoption.

Types of Foster Care Animals

Age/Weight/Mom and litters

- All animals must be at least 8 weeks or older and weigh at least 1.5 lbs before being able to have surgery. There are times that animals are not ready for surgery when they come to us and they need extra time to gain weight and grow.
 - Orphaned kittens and puppies that are too small or young for surgery.
 - All orphaned animals are able to eat on their own.
 - Moms with litters need the extra time to allow the litters to grow up before being ready for adoption. Keeping animals with their mothers insures that they will receive the nutrients that help them to be healthy animals and to develop normal behaviors.

Behavior

- Some animals have mild behavior issues that would hinder their adoptability. With foster care these animals can get a second chance at finding a new home, one that they would not have if we did not have foster parents.
 - Shy or fearful and in need of socialization
 - Stressed here in the shelter and need to get away
 - Animals that have been at the shelter for extended amounts of time
 - Need time to learn some manners
 - Puppies and kittens that have had very little interaction with people and are in need of socialization
- It is possible for animals to be adopted from foster homes.

Medical

- The shelter is a very stressful place and recovering from a medical condition can be very difficult here. Stress lowers the immune system and can make it difficult for an animal to get healthy while they are with us.
 - Upper Respiratory Infections (URI)
 - URIs affects our cat population the most. It is highly contagious and is more difficult to treat in a shelter environment.
 - Animals are treated with medication daily
 - Recovering from surgery
 - Typically include animals recovering from amputations.
 - We also perform other types of corrective surgeries that require several weeks of recovery time.
 - Extended medical treatment
 - Sometimes we run into animals that are being treated for something that requires extended treatment. This means they will be on medication for several weeks.