



**Title:** Foster Care Provider

**Job Description:** The Foster Care Program places orphaned, pregnant, newborn, injured, sick, and under-socialized animals into private homes for temporary housing. Some of the shelter's most vulnerable residents benefit tremendously from foster care opportunities, which provide them with time outside of the shelter for recovery from an illness or injury or to receive extra attention and socialization. Foster care can also give an opportunity to learn more about the animals in our care by giving us a glimpse into how they behave in a house setting or with a transition into a home environment (as they will experience upon adoption). Lastly, our foster care program allows us to help more animals than we have room to house in our brick and mortar facility.

Though we are happy to provide our foster families with resources (food, blankets, carriers, toys, litter box, etc.), we encourage our foster family volunteers to support our efforts by purchasing food and/or litter on their own. This helps HSCC offset the costs of the nearly 1,000 animals we care for each year "in house".

**Supervisor:** Animal Care Supervisor 862-0135 x17  
Medical Care Manager 862-0135 x20

**Qualifications:**

1. Minimum of 18 years of age.
2. Home must be smoke-free.
3. Complete foster care application.
4. Willingness to house, socialize, provide appropriate care & transport animal(s) to and from HSCC as needed.

**Responsibilities:**

*The responsibilities of a foster care provider vary according to the animal and the situation, but general responsibilities include:*

1. Attend a Foster Program Orientation.
2. Transporting the animal to and from the shelter.
3. Communicating regularly with HSCC's Animal Care Supervisor and Medical Care Manager.
4. Following HSCC's animal care protocols, as set forth by HSCC supervisors.
5. Providing a safe space in your home for the animal, **away from family companion animals.**
6. Feeding, cleaning, exercising, and giving TLC and other daily care requirements.
7. Transporting the animal to and from the vet for spay/neuter appointments (paid for by HSCC). Always check with HSCC before going to the vet for anything other than spay/neuter.
8. Returning the animal to HSCC when the animal is ready for adoption.
9. Supervising all interactions between foster animals and members of household under age 14.

**Training:**

1. Meet with supervisors for a personal orientation.
2. Ongoing support from Medical Care Manager and Animal Care Supervisor.

**Time Commitment:** Time commitment varies, depending on the animal and foster care provider preference. The duration of foster care ranges from a few days to a few months or longer.

## **Foster Programs & Services**

**There are a number of ways in which our foster families can help animals in HSCC's care. By understanding what is required of our foster families for each program, we can best match our foster families with animals in our care. Here is a brief description of each of our foster programs.**

**Kitten/Puppy Foster** – This is the largest of our foster care programs. A shelter is no place for an immune compromised kitten or puppy! Not only are puppies and kittens much more apt to get sick in a shelter setting than adult animals, they miss out on a critical socialization period if they are housed in a shelter setting with limited human contact. It is for these reasons that we ultimately have the goal of fostering all kittens/ puppies until they are ready for adoption. Generally speaking, our foster parents care for either a puppy or a litter of kittens (sometimes with a mother cat, sometimes orphaned kittens) until they are big enough to be spayed/neutered and adopted. This generally happens around 8-12 weeks old and can vary in commitment time depending on the individual animal's age and health status.

**Small Animal Foster**- This program was developed due to an overall lack of space for small animals at HSCC. Since we can only take in an extremely limited number of "smallies" and there is always a long waiting list of smallies that need to be relinquished, we have developed our small animal foster program to help fill some of the gaps. We encourage our foster parents in this program to provide all supplies needed to care for our smallies, but we can help supplement if necessary. The time commitment for this type of foster can vary from 2 weeks to 2 months depending on how quickly the small animals in the shelter get adopted (thus freeing up space).

**Medical Care Foster ( cats/dogs)** – This is a program developed specifically for animals we anticipate being long(er) term residents due to a previously untreated medical condition. The goal of this program is to provide long term medical cases an opportunity for time outside of the shelter where they are much more apt to heal quickly! These animals do not require their foster families to have any specific medical background, but they are often on daily medications . The commitment time can vary from 2 weeks to 2 months depending on the health status of the individual animals and how quickly they respond to treatment.

**Cruelty Case Foster** - Through our humane investigation program, sometimes we are responsible for temporarily and confidentially housing animals during the court proceedings. Because this process can take several months, we have an unique foster program set up to house these animals outside of the shelter for this time. This is often requires an open ended time commitment because we never know exactly how long the court proceedings will take. Thankfully It is not often that we have this type of foster need, but we are thankful for our community's support when we do.

**Feral Kitten Foster (kittens only)** - This program is one of our most challenging yet most rewarding. It is currently limited to socializing feral kittens. It can take anywhere from 2 days to several weeks to socialize feral kittens depending on many factors. 1) How much human contact they have been exposed to and 2) how old they are at the time of admission to HSCC. The younger the kitten is, the faster they will socialize. HSCC provides any guidance/training necessary to set up our foster families for success!

**“Paw-jama” Parties (dogs only)** - Living in a shelter (even the nicest shelter) is stressful for all animals . Though we do our very best to provide our animals with adequate exercise and TLC, sometimes our critters just need a break from shelter life. This program is designed to give our canine residents an overnight or weekend out of the shelter not only to give them a break but to help gather information about how they adjust to living in a home environment. This is a short term commitment and will require our foster parents to be sure the animals are back at HSCC for our open adoption hours, but can be a great way to give a pup a little vacation from shelter life .

**Adoption Ambassador Program (cats/dogs/ smallies)** – This is HSCC’s newest foster program . With this program, not only would you house an animal outside of the shelter as you would for all of the other foster programs, but you would also help to find them a home! Our adoption ambassadors are specially trained in the various ways to find a home for their foster dog/cat as well as trained in completing the adoption process! This is a great opportunity to not only spare the animal from living in a shelter environment, but to have first-hand experience in finding them a new home

**Good Neighbor Program Foster** - The Good Neighbor Program is a service we offer in partnership with homeless, domestic violence, and other local human service organizations. Designed to provide temporary shelter, free of charge, for beloved pets during times of crisis and transition in the lives of their owners, the program includes veterinary care, absolute confidentiality, and an assurance of exceptional care. The program typically runs for 2-4 weeks, after which the animals are returned to their owners if the time of crisis or emergency has resolved. On occasion, an owner will decide to relinquish their pet at the conclusion of the program. Fostering these animals outside of the shelter provides them with a better quality of life during their time in HSCC’s care. This program is completely confidential.