

May 2021

MAY is...

National Pet Foster Care Month!

The month of May marks National Foster Care Month!

What does it mean to be a foster parent to a pet, and what can you do to help?

Fostering Is A Win-Win For All!

Many shelters and humane societies are doing what they can to care for all the stray dogs and cats they are brought. However, there is often not enough space at the facility to care for all of the animals. Shelters rely largely on volunteer foster caregivers to help free up more space in the shelters, allowing the shelters to open their facilities to help more stray pets. Furthermore, these caregivers can often give the pets more individualized attention, whether this involves training them to respond to basic commands, getting them more comfortable around people, etc. With the more individualized training and attention, the foster pets also become more adoptable more quickly, allowing the pet to find his/her forever home in a shorter period of time!

Fostering can also benefit the caregiver as well. Some people are not able to have a pet long-term, whether for financial reasons, their living situations, etc, in which case fostering might be a more feasible option. Another example is a person who has recently had a pet pass away and are not sure if they are ready to bring another pet into their lives. Fostering allows the person to see whether or not they are emotionally ready to have another long-term pet in the house!

And people who already have pets can be foster parents as well! This can give the future potential owner crucial information on how the pet interacts with other pets. For example, it is beneficial for a new pet owner to know that the dog they are adopting does not interact well with cats! Furthermore, another pet in the house can actually help the caregiver's permanent pets learn new skills by observing unique skills that the foster pet may have!

Fostering can be very rewarding, as you are rescuing a pet, giving them a home until their forever home opens up, and allowing even more pets to receive treatment at local shelters. So if you are interested in fostering, call your local shelter today!

Best regards,
Rachel Rielinger, DVM



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