



Tri-County Humane Society

Central Minnesota's Independent Non-profit Animal Shelter
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www.tricountyhumanesociety.org

Dear foster parent applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Tri-County Humane Society's foster care program. By sharing your time, energy and love with our homeless animals you are truly helping to preserve the bond between humans and animals.

The Tri-County Humane Society (TCHS) seeks foster homes for pregnant dogs and cats or mothers with litters that are too young to be placed immediately for adoption. The need for foster homes to care for sick or injured animals is on the rise and is becoming an area of greatest need. If you are specifically interested in helping us care for cats that need simple treatment for an Upper Respiratory Infection, please let us know and we can get you more information on that specific program. The goal of the foster care program is to provide care, nurturing and socialization for these animals, until they can ultimately be placed for adoption. As a foster parent, you will provide an essential service to animals in need and will have a direct influence on these animals that otherwise would not be suitable for adoption.

Once your foster parent position has been determined, you will be placed on the foster parent contact list. When animals are in need of fostering, the Foster Program Coordinator will contact you. Please do not be disappointed if you miss the call and find they have already been placed in a foster home. We want to get them settled into their new foster home as soon as possible, so we generally choose the first person we reach or that calls us back.

Foster parents are expected to provide foster care for the entire time the animal(s) need fostering. Please do not agree to foster animals if you foresee difficulty, including upcoming travel, vacations, home remodeling, etc. In addition, please let the Foster Program Coordinator know when you will be available to foster again. If an emergency arises once the commitment has been made and you cannot complete the foster care, please inform the TCHS staff as soon as possible and we will make other arrangements.

Once you have set up a time to pick up the animal(s), staff will prepare the paperwork, supplies, and make sure they are ready to go when you arrive. Each time you foster you will be required to sign a Foster Care Contract. It is preferred that the animal(s) are picked up at the shelter within 24 hours following communication with the Foster Program Coordinator. All animals eligible for foster care will have had a full external examination before they leave the building and checked for external parasites, including fleas, ticks, lice and ear mites. When applicable, they will be given booster vaccinations and a dewormer. In addition, adult cats are tested for feline leukemia and feline immunodeficiency virus and adult dogs are tested for heartworm. TCHS will provide the necessary food, litter, cages or crates, and other requested supplies as needed. However, if you are willing to buy any supplies it would be greatly appreciated. Simply ask the Foster Care Coordinator on what brands/types of food are appropriate for the animal(s) before you purchase them.

Thank you for your interest in our foster care program.

Rachel Melling - TCHS Foster Care Program Coordinator



Tri-County Humane Society Foster Parent Volunteer Position

OBJECTIVE: To provide temporary housing and care for shelter animals that are pregnant, still nursing, in need of socialization, or need to be rehabilitated. These animals are eventually returned to the shelter to be evaluated for adoption.

SPECIFIC DUTIES:

1. Provide proper housing, nutrition and socialization to foster animals.
2. Administer medication as instructed.
3. Follow established rules, procedures, and any special instructions as directed by the Foster Care Coordinator.
4. Return animals to the shelter on the designated return date or when requested by the Foster Care Coordinator.

QUALIFICATIONS: As a foster parent, you must be at least 18 years of age. You must own your home or have your landlord's approval and have adequate room in your home to house the animal. If you have pets of your own, the residence should include a separate room/area in which to confine the foster animal(s); it is important that foster animals do not interact with household pets to prevent quarrels and the spread of possible contagious diseases that the foster animal may be harboring but not showing signs or symptoms. You also must be prepared to detach yourself emotionally from the animal(s) for which you have cared for when the time comes to return the animal(s) to the shelter. To be honest, it really is not easy.

TIME REQUIREMENTS: Depending on the situation, the time requirement can vary anywhere from one week to four months. The gestation period for dogs and cats is approximately 63 days and litters are required to stay with their mother until they are at least 8 weeks of age.

TRAINING: Before you begin fostering animals, you will need to complete a short foster parent orientation with the foster care coordinator. This will cover information regarding pregnancy, delivery, and what to do should an animal become sick, etc..

BENEFITS: You will have the satisfaction of knowing you helped an animal and its offspring, which otherwise might not have had the opportunity or made it on their own. You will be able to follow an animal through a pregnancy and watch the babies grow and help them develop. Because of you, a healthy, well-socialized companion will be available for someone visiting TCHS in search of a pet. And you will be rewarded with licks, cuddles, purrs, and lots of love and gratitude for your efforts.



Tri-County Humane Society Foster Care Application

Thank you for your interest in the TCHS Foster Care Program. To ensure the safety of our furry friends, we would like you to answer a few questions concerning the environment in which the animal would be entering.

Date: _____

Personal Information:

Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number(s): (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____

Email Address: _____

Is it OK to contact you at work? Yes or No Are you 18 years or older? Yes or No

Have you ever fostered for TCHS or any other shelter before? _____ If yes, when and what did you foster? _____

Housing Information (please circle one):

Do you live in a: House Apartment Mobile Home Condo

Do you: Own Rent Live with Relative

If you rent, or live with a relative, landlord's name and phone number: _____

How many animals currently reside in your home? Dogs _____ Cats _____ Other _____

How many of your pets are spayed/neutered? Dogs _____ Cats _____ Other _____

Are your pets currently up to date on their vaccinations? Yes or No

Who is your current Veterinarian? _____ May we contact them as a reference? Yes or No

Do your pets get along with other animals? Yes or No

If Yes, what type of animal(s) does it get along with? _____

If No, what type of animal(s) does it not get along with? _____

How many adults reside in your home? _____

How many children reside in your home? _____ Age(s) of children? _____

What hours of the day is there someone at home? _____

Where will the foster animal spend most of his/her time? Please be as descriptive as possible; inside, outside, bathroom, spare bedroom, or etc. _____

Where will the foster animal sleep? _____

Do you have a separate area for the foster animal to be kept separate from your pets? Yes or No

If Yes, please describe: _____

Foster Information:

What times of the year are you available for fostering animals? _____

Please circle all types of animals you may be interested in fostering:

Cats Dogs Rabbits Guinea Pigs Birds Other: _____

Does size make a difference? (please specify): _____

Please check all situations in which you may be interested in fostering:

Pregnancy _____ Treatment for sick animals _____ Upper Respiratory treatment (cats only) _____

Socialization _____ Orphans _____ Rehabilitation after surgery _____

Short or Long-term care for displaced animals; natural disasters, deployment, etc. _____

Please check any supplies that you are able to provide for the foster animal while it is under your care: (Remember that supplies you provide are tax-deductible due to our non-profit status. Any supplies you cannot provide will be supplied by the shelter)

Litter* _____ Litter Box _____ Food* _____

Food/Water Dishes _____ Bedding _____ Toys _____

* Items that are regularly in low supply at the shelter and are in greatest need for donation.

Please use the space provided below to tell us a little bit more about yourself and your family and the reason you have chosen to become a foster parent.

*Thank you for your time and interest in our program. We hope to be in contact with you soon!
Please keep pages 1 and 2 for your reference, and return 3 and 4 to the shelter upon completion.*