

# Foster Resources

\*If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Foster Department by phone: 410-235-8826 Ext. 147 or by email: [foster@mdspca.org](mailto:foster@mdspca.org).



## Adoption Ambassador Program

Our goal here at the Maryland SPCA is to find homes for 100% of the animals we rescue. The best way to do this is to find a good fit for each animal and its adopting family. A great way to learn more about an animal's personality and temperament is to place them in foster homes rather than housing them here at the shelter. The conditions in a foster home more closely mirror those the animal would live under once adopted; thus they are more likely to behave in a consistent and predictable manner. Further, the animals are happier in foster homes than they are at the shelter because they get more individual attention, more space to move around in and quieter surroundings.

The MD SPCA welcomes new foster families to help house the many pets available for adoption. Learn more about the process of fostering rescue animals to see if this rewarding pursuit is a good fit for you and your family.

The Maryland SPCA's Foster Team conducts one-on-one training with each foster parent and provides necessary supplies, including:

- Food
- Toys
- Crates
- Other necessary supplies
- Ongoing behavioral and medical support
- Adopt Me vests/collars/leashes
- Calendar of upcoming adoption events to attend with your foster pet
- Resources and support on how to promote pets to get them adopted more quickly

## How Our Foster Ambassador Program Works

### 1. PET ENROLLMENT

The MD SPCA's Foster Team determines which shelter pets would benefit most from fostering based on their medical and behavioral needs.

All our foster pets are:

- Altered, microchipped and vaccinated
- Medically cleared
- Behaviorally assessed

## 2. PLACEMENT

The MD SPCA's Foster Team works to find placement with one of our trained foster families.

## 3. FACT-FINDING AND BIO-BUILDING

Once the pet is placed in a foster home, the foster family begins building a profile of the animal based on their observations of them in their new surroundings. After a week or two of fact-finding, the pet is made available for adoption.

## 4. THE SEARCH

Adoption Ambassador pets are featured on the MD SPCA's website and social media platforms. The foster parent also promotes the pet through their personal networks, attends local events and uses creative ways to reach a larger pool of potential adopters.

## 3. SCREENING

The Foster Team and/or the foster parent screens adoption applications to find the best possible match for the family. Initial contact includes important information about the pet's special needs (if any), medical history, behavior history and behaviors observed in the foster home.

## 4. MEET AND GREET

Once a potential adoptive family is found, the foster parent works with them to schedule a meet and greet.

## 5. CONSIDERATION & PREPARATION

The potential adopter is asked to take a night or two to think about whether they would like to adopt the animal. We provide additional support and resources at this time.

## 6. ADOPTION APPOINTMENT AND SEND-HOME

Adopter completes paperwork with foster parent.