

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.



Adoption Ambassador Program

Sometimes our furry feline and canine pals need a little extra help on their journeys toward loving homes. With the Maryland SPCA's Adoption Ambassador Program dogs and cats are given the opportunity to live in foster homes before joining loving families. The goal of the program is for these foster animals to be adopted directly from their foster home. This allows us to learn more about each animal's individual personality and needs, while they are in a more comfortable living space, outside of the shelter setting.

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

- All supplies including: food, toys, crates and much more!
- On-going behavioral and medical support
- Adopt Me vests/collars/leashes
- Calendar of upcoming adoption events
- Resources and support on how to promote pets

ADVANTAGES OF ADOPTING A FOSTER PET:

- The pet has taken a break from the stress of a shelter and relaxed in a home environment
- We can provide you with the current medical or behavior plan
- We have more information about the pet
 - Personality and quirks
 - Daily habits or special needs
 - How long it takes the animal to adjust to a new home
 - Interactions with other dogs, cats and children
 - Energy level

ADOPTION AMBASSADOR PROCESS

1. Enrollment

The Maryland SPCA's Foster Team determines which shelter pets would benefit from enrollment into the program based on their medical and behavioral needs.

Prior to enrollment, pets must be:

- *Altered, microchipped and UTD on vaccinations*
- *Medically cleared*
- *Behaviorally assessed*

2. Placement

The Maryland SPCA's Foster Team works to find placement with one of our trained foster families. In the meantime, shelter staff do their best to meet the needs of the pet while in the shelter.

3. Fact-Finding and bio-building

After a week or two of fact-finding in the foster home, the pet is made available. During this time, the foster will build a profile based on the pet's behavior in the home.

4. The Search

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

3. Screening

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

4. Meet and greet

At this point, the foster parent will work with the potential adopter to schedule a meet and greet. For dogs, a neutral location is best. This meet and greet should include immediate family only- no other pets or people.

5. Consideration & Preparation

The potential adopter is asked to take a night or two to think it over and to follow up with the foster team with their considerations. We will provide additional support and resources at this time.

6. Adoption Appointment and send-home

Adopter completes paperwork with foster parent. This process mirrors that which is done by the shelter.