



Peggy Adams
ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE

FOSTER INFORMATION GUIDE



Contact Information:

Foster Support

✉ foster@peggyadams.org

☎ 561-530-6068

Foster Nurses

✉ fosternurse@peggyadams.org

☎ 561-513-0513

Behavior Team

✉ behavior@peggyadams.org

☎ 561-472-8815



Welcome to the Foster Program!



As a foster caregiver, you provide a safe, loving, temporary home for animals who need extra time and care before finding their forever family. This might include kittens and puppies who are too young, pets who are underweight, recovering from illness or injury, needing socialization, or awaiting a medical procedure. Your compassion and dedication give them the best chance to heal, grow, and thrive. Thank you for being an essential part of their journey.

As a foster, you will...

- Provide a safe, clean, and caring environment with food, water, enrichment, and exercise.
- Transport foster animal(s) to booster clinics and vet appointments, and administer prescribed medications. All medical care is covered by Peggy Adams.
- Quarantine foster animal(s) from your pets for 14 days to ensure that disease is not spread.
- Return any unused items. Peggy Adams provides basic supplies (food, litter, carriers, playpens, toys, and Rescue disinfectant spray).
- Keep cats indoors.
- Keep dogs on leashes when outdoors unless in a secure fenced yard. Avoid dog parks and public spaces.
- Always transport cats, kittens, and puppies in a carrier to/from the shelter.



Important Links



Supply Orders

Peggy Adams provides all the supplies you will need for your foster animal. Orders are typically ready by the end of the day and can be picked up during office hours (10 am – 6 pm, excluding major holidays). Please return empty litter containers and spray bottles when possible. If your order isn't picked up within seven days, you will need to submit a new request.



Bio & Photos

A great bio and photos can make all the difference in helping your foster pet find their forever home! Please submit a few clear photos and a short bio for each animal. If your foster is scheduled for surgery, be sure to send everything in ahead of time so they're ready for adoption as soon as possible.



Surgery Appointment

Fostering a kitten or puppy? Once your kittens reach two pounds or your puppies are two months old, it's time to schedule their surgery!



Behavior & Personality

By sharing what you learn about your foster animal's personality, especially older ones, you help us understand their temperament, habits, and needs so we can match them with the perfect family.



SCAN ME



REQUEST SUPPLIES

<https://bit.ly/49hbGXN>

SCAN ME



SUBMIT BIO & PHOTOS

<https://bit.ly/49BFi3q>

SCAN ME



SCHEDULE SURGERY APPOINTMENT

<https://bit.ly/4jjiVhq8>

SCAN ME



BEHAVIOR & PERSONALITY

<https://bit.ly/4aGSHbE>



What to Look for in a Sick Animal

Signs of concern include not eating for over a day, lethargy, nasal or eye discharge, coughing, sneezing, diarrhea, vomiting, bloody stool, hair loss, itching, or pale gums. Contact the Foster Nurses with details and photos (if possible) for all medical needs.

After hours or during holidays, call 561-513-0513 to reach our 24-hour partner, Veterinary Emergency Group (VEG) in Boynton Beach. Please use this clinic only; Peggy Adams cannot reimburse expenses with other providers.



RED: IMMEDIATE PHONE CALL/EMERGENCY VET

During open hours (8:30 am - 6:00 pm), contact the Foster Nurses via text at 561-513-0513. After hours, call 561-513-0513 and press 1 to be transferred to VEG at 2246 Congress Ave, Boynton Beach. Please call before arrival.

- Severe bite/broken skin
- Bleeding profusely
- Hit by a car/seriously injured/stepped on
- Labored breathing/not breathing
- Aspirating/choking
- Chewed or removed sutures/staples
- Ingested a dangerous item
- Unable to stand/walk/unresponsive
- Seizure



YELLOW: CONTACT THE FOSTER NURSES FOR TRIAGE

Email, call, or text the Foster Nurses at fosternurse@peggyadams.org or 561-513-0513 from 8:30 am - 5:30 pm.

- Cut/puncture wound
- Lethargy and low appetite/not eating
- Nasal discharge/congestion
- Sneezing/coughing
- Diarrhea for 24+ hours
- Drastic and/or consistent weight loss
- Straining to urinate/blood in urine
- Constipation
- Untreated skin irritation/hair loss
- Eye discharge/swollen eyes
- Vomiting more than twice a day for 24+ hours
- Limping



GREEN: EMAIL OR TEXT THE FOSTER NURSES

Please be patient while the Foster Nurses take time to reply. You may not receive an immediate response. Contact 561-513-0513 or fosternurse@peggyadams.org.

- Visible worms in feces
- Concerns/updates on current treatment(s)
- General questions about health/treatments

Puppy & Kitten Care



Weighing



Weigh your foster kitten daily at the same time each day to make sure they are steadily gaining weight. Even small changes can indicate how well they are growing. Record each weight on your kitten's weight chart to easily track progress and spot any concerns early. Puppies should also be weighed daily using the provided scale or a home scale to ensure they're growing properly. Consistent weight gain in both kittens and puppies is one of the best signs of good health.



Medication



It's important to ensure all prescribed medications are given to your foster animal exactly as directed. This may include dewormers, eye or ear ointments, antibiotics, or other treatments. Always follow dosing instructions carefully and complete the full course, even if your foster seems better. Consistent treatment supports a full recovery and helps prevent recurring illness. If you have any questions or trouble administering medication, contact the Foster Team for assistance.



Socialization



Socializing your foster kittens or puppies is an important part of their development and greatly improves their chances of adoption. Spend time gently handling them - touch their ears, paws, and tails to help them get used to being touched. Encourage positive interactions with different people, such as friends or family, so they become comfortable around new faces. Use toys like wands, balls, or chew toys for playtime, and avoid using your hands so they don't learn to bite or scratch. Provide scratching posts for kittens and appropriate chew toys for puppies to encourage good behavior. If you notice any behavior issues or need guidance, reach out to the Foster Team for tips and support.

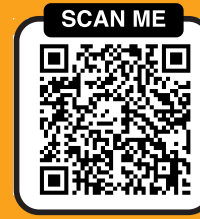


Kitten Specific Care



Download Guide for
NEONATE CARE

<https://bit.ly/4shodTL>



Download Guide for
TRANSITIONAL CARE

<https://bit.ly/4pnzIGO>



Set Up/Care



Kittens can become easily disoriented with even small changes, so they require patience and gentle guidance as they adjust to a new home and learn how to "cat". To reduce stress, start them in a small, secure space, spacious closets or bathrooms work as well. Make sure the area is kitten-proofed by closing toilet seats, hiding exposed wires, and removing hazards. A smaller space helps them feel safe, as they settle in. Neonates should be kept in a carrier to help contain heat. Please ensure that there is always a heated warming disk available in all kitten enclosures. Kittens should have the choice to stay on the disc or to move off of it.



Litterbox



Only use the non-clumping pine litter provided, as it is the safest option for kittens. If a kitten has an accident outside the litterbox, try placing it back in the box to show them where it belongs. When cleaning up, use the provided Rescue disinfectant spray, as strong odors can reinforce the urine scent in an area. If all else fails, you can request 'Cat Attract' from the Foster Support Team, a powder that can be sprinkled in the litterbox to encourage its use.



Feeding



Kittens can have dry food available at all times. Don't worry if a kitten doesn't seem interested - some prefer wet food only - but always keep dry food offered just in case. As long as they are eating wet food, drinking water, and maintaining weight, they are doing well.

We have several wet food varieties. Take note of what your kittens enjoy. If they stop eating a particular flavor, let us know, and we'll provide alternatives to try.

Feeding Kittens & Puppies



See enclosed feeding chart.



Neonatal kitten



Transitional kitten



Older kitten

Neonatal Kittens (0-3 Weeks): Bottle only.

Transitional Kittens (3-4 Weeks): Offer wet food and then supplement with bottle. Formula can be mixed into wet food to encourage the transition.

Older kittens (5+ Weeks): Combination of wet and dry food.

Always keep fresh water available. Do not give cow's milk or milk alternatives, such as almond or oat milk, as these can upset their stomachs.

If your kitten finishes everything and still seems hungry, it's okay to give a little more! Every kitten is different, so watch their appetite and weight and adjust as needed. When in doubt, reach out to us for guidance.



Puppy Set Up/Care



Puppies thrive when they have a predictable, safe environment as they settle into a new home. Start by confining them to a small area using a puppy gate or exercise pen, lined with soft bedding and absorbent pee pads for easy cleanup. This helps them feel secure and encourages proper potty habits. Remove anything they could chew or swallow, and make sure cords, shoes, and small objects are out of reach. Young puppies need warmth and comfort, so include a soft blanket. For neonates, consider a gentle heating source, such as a warming disk. Do not use a heating pad. Keeping their space cozy and contained allows them to explore safely, build confidence, and adjust at their own pace.



Puppy Feeding

Puppies need frequent, balanced meals to support healthy growth. Under four months old, they should eat 3-4 times per day; from four to six months, they should eat 3 times per day; and from six to 12 months, they should transition to 2 meals per day. Keep them on a consistent schedule, use only the provided food, and always offer fresh water.



Adult Dog & Cat Care

See enclosed feeding chart.



Adult Cat Set Up/Care



Adult cats can be cautious in new environments, so giving them a quiet, secure space helps them settle in. Use a small room or area with their litterbox, food, water, and cozy hiding spots. Remove hazards like loose cords or small objects that they could swallow, and make sure windows and doors are secure. Vertical spaces, like cat trees or shelves, give them options to explore safely. Keep things calm and predictable. Adult cats may take a few days to fully adjust, so let them come out at their own pace.



Adult Cat Feeding



Adult cats do well on a steady, predictable routine. Feed twice per day using only the provided food to maintain proper digestion and balanced nutrition. Make sure fresh water is always available and monitor their weight and appetite to ensure they stay healthy.



Adult Dog Set Up/Care



Adult dogs can feel stressed in new environments, so giving them a calm, secure space helps them adjust. Provide a designated area with a comfortable bed, access to water, and toys or chews to keep them occupied. Remove hazards like loose cords, small objects, or items they could chew that aren't safe. Keep their routine consistent with regular feeding, potty breaks, and walks to help them feel secure. Some dogs may need a few days to settle in, so allow them to explore at their own pace while offering gentle guidance and reassurance.



Adult Dog Feeding



Adult dogs do best with a consistent routine. Feed twice per day using only the provided food to keep their digestion stable and their nutrition balanced. Always offer fresh water and monitor their body condition to ensure they maintain a healthy weight.

Frequently Asked Questions



Booster Clinic

Your foster animal's booster vaccines are due on the date listed on your appointment card. Please visit the Booster Clinic during walk-in hours on that date or within one week after. The Booster Clinic is for vaccines and dewormer only. If your foster pet has any medical concerns, please contact the Foster Nurses to schedule an appointment—medical issues cannot be addressed during Booster Clinic hours. Booster Clinic walk-in hours: **Saturday, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, and Sunday, 2:00 pm-4:00 pm.**

Adoption Holds

Fosters typically get the first opportunity to adopt their foster pet. If you're considering making them a permanent part of your family, you can place a hold to reserve them while you make your decision. As a thank-you for opening your home, foster parents also receive an adoption discount.

Training & Resources

A variety of helpful resources are available online to support you and your foster pets. **Simply scan the QR code below to access guides, videos, and forms on feeding, care, and enrichment.** If you need additional assistance, our Behavior Team is also available to help, offering guidance on training, socialization, or any behavioral concerns.

Using Rescue Spray

Rescue is a disinfectant that when used correctly, will kill germs and help keep surfaces clean and safe.

- How to use:
 - Remove animals and clean the area so that it looks visibly clean. You should not be able to see any organic material (like hair, dirt, urine, feces).
 - Spray Rescue so that it wets the entire surface. Enough should be sprayed that it stays wet for five minutes.
 - Wipe dry.

Avoid inhaling the spray in an enclosed areas to prevent coughing.

Bathing

You may bathe an older kitten with the provided Dawn dish soap. Avoid the ears, eyes, and nose, and towel dry promptly to keep them warm. For more bathing tips, contact the Foster Support Team.

Dogs can be bathed with a fragrance-free pet shampoo. Contact the foster department if you would like to pick up shampoo to bathe your foster dog.

FOSTER RESOURCES

<https://bit.ly/3N7e4ZJ>





Marketing Your Foster Pet



Impactful Photos

- **KEEP IT SIMPLE** - You don't need a fancy camera to capture your foster pet in their best light. Grab your phone and get snapping!
- **GET CLOSE** - Close-up photos will capture the expressions that make your foster pet unique. Zooming in from far away reduces image quality.
- **SNAP FAST** - If your foster pet is in motion, snap lots of photos quickly or use a burst setting to increase your chances of getting a clear shot.
- **MAKE EYE CONTACT** - Eye contact makes a connection. Get on your foster pet's eye level and draw their attention to the camera using a favorite toy or treat.
- **MIX IT UP** - Capturing your foster pet in a variety of settings will help adopters imagine living with them. Show your foster pet on the couch, in the park, or most importantly, with people!



Engaging Videos

- **THE BASICS** - Our photo tips apply to videos too. Get close, record often, make eye contact, and show your foster pet in a variety of settings.
- **SHOOT VERTICALLY** - Social media algorithms favor vertical videos that take up most of the phone screen. Vertical video clips can be used to make engaging Reels on Facebook and Instagram.
- **QUANTITY OVER PERFECTION** - You never know what will happen when the camera is rolling. Don't worry about taking the perfect video; just record lots of clips and delete any unusable ones later.



Posting on Social Media



- **GET INSPIRED** - Check out animal rescue social media accounts for ideas about how to show off your foster pet. Feel free to borrow a popular post format or join in on a fun trend.
- **NO RED FLAGS** - On social media, focus on your foster pet's best qualities, not their challenges. Too much emphasis on 'red flags' like behavior challenges and medical history may turn away adopters who would otherwise be a great fit for your foster pet. Posts should start the conversation on a positive note. Once your pet has interest, Adoption Counselors will help adopters decide whether they're a good match.
- **POST OFTEN** - "The rule of seven" suggests that marketing has to reach consumers about seven times before they take action. Posting often will help your friends form a connection with your foster pet and consider taking action (adopting)!
- **TAG PEGGY ADAMS** - Be sure to tag us in posts about your foster pet so we can repost them to our stories or feature them on our accounts!

Tag @PeggyAdamsARL on Facebook, Instagram, & TikTok



Would you want to meet Fido? This bio is full of red flags: unrealistic expectations for Fido's future home, medical TMI, and the implication that Fido is aggressive toward other pets. Focus on your foster pet's positive qualities and favorite activities. Posts should begin the conversation on a positive note, not scare potential adopters away.

FIDO'S MANY RED FLAGS

"Fido needs a very special home. He would love a big, fenced-in yard and a person who is home all day to cuddle with him. He shouldn't live with other pets: he wants your attention all to himself. His medical records say he had an ear infection last year. He's on medication for diarrhea, but it should clear up soon. Message me if you're interested!"

FIDO'S MANY GREEN FLAGS

"Fido is a sweet, affectionate pup who loves relaxing by your side and soaking up cuddle time. He also enjoys going outside to enjoy the fresh air and happily entertaining himself with his favorite chew toys. If you're looking for a loyal, loving companion, Fido may be the perfect match for you. Message me to learn more or set up a meet-and-greet!"

This is a much better way of writing Fido's bio! This bio is full of green flags: it helps adopters picture what life with Fido will be like and leads with details about Fido's personality and behavior, not warnings. This post highlights what makes Fido a wonderful companion instead of listing unrealistic expectations an adopter must meet.

What does my foster pet's stool mean?

FECAL SCORING CHART



Your foster pet's stool can tell you a lot about their health. Fecal consistency is influenced by moisture levels, while changes in color, shape, or texture may signal a problem. Ideally, healthy dogs and cats should produce stools that are firm but not hard, hold their shape, and are easy to pick up (Score 2).

SCORE	SPECIMEN	CHARACTERISTICS
1		- Very hard and dry - Often expelled as individual pellets - Requires much effort to expel from the body - Leaves no surface residue when picked up
2		- Firm, but not hard; pliable - Segmented appearance - Leaves little or no surface residue when picked up
3		- Log shaped; moist surface - Little or no visible segmentation - Leaves surface residue, but holds form when picked up
4		- Very moist and soggy - Log shaped - Leaves surface residue, but holds form when picked up
5		- Very moist and soggy - Log shaped - Leaves surface residue, but holds form when picked up
6		- Has texture, but no defined shape - Present as piles or spots - Leaves surface residue when picked up
7		- Watery - No texture - Present in flat puddles