

Foster Program FAQs

What is a foster home?

Our foster families provide shelter animals with temporary homes before they are available to be adopted into a permanent home. Kittens are our most commonly placed foster animals, but the ARLGP also works with foster families who care for adult cats, small animals, as well as dogs and puppies.

Who needs a foster home?

Kittens

Thousands of cats come through our doors every year. Over half of them spend time in a foster home before they are able to be adopted into their permanent home. Kittens are young and delicate, and are best suited to grow in a healthy and loving home until they reach an ideal age for adoption. Foster kittens can range in age and needs—from new-born bottle babies to older “tweeners.” Some foster homes take one or two kittens, other homes take a mother cat and her litter.

As you can expect, fostering kittens is fun and rewarding! Kittens are playful, spirited and entertaining. It's a win-win for all!

Adult Cats

We often see adult cats who are going through a medical treatment or who are recovering from illness or injury and need a few days or a few weeks in a foster home. Some adult cats may be lower-maintenance, but others may require daily medicine.

Puppies

Who doesn't love puppy time? When puppies arrive at the shelter, we know the best place for them to prepare for adoption is in a foster home. Fosters provide puppies with socialization, enrichment, and a fun and healthy environment for them to grow.

Adult Dogs

Adult dogs at the shelter often just need a night or two of rest and relaxation. Whether it's a sleepover or a weekend in a cozy home, fostering a dog short-term is mutually beneficial.

Most needed at the ARLGP are long-term, adult dog fosters for seniors, dogs undergoing specialized treatment or training, and dogs who become overwhelmed in the shelter environment.

Small Animals

The ARLGP takes in rabbits, guinea pigs, and other small animals. Sometimes a foster home is needed if a small animal is undergoing medical treatment, or if they are overwhelmed in the shelter environment. Small animal fostering is fun and rewarding, and is a great activity for families.

How much time does it take to foster an animal?

Depends on the animal and their needs. We are flexible, and match an appropriate foster animal with the time and level of care that your foster home can provide.

How do I know if I am a good fit to become a foster?

Our foster families vary. Some fosters are retirees, while others work full-time. The common thread is a love and passion to provide for an animal in need. The ARLGP provides orientation and training to prepare foster families with all of the tools needed to be a successful foster home.

What about food, pet supplies, and veterinary care?

The ARLGP provides foster homes with the supplies they need to provide care to their foster animals. You will bring your foster animal to the ARLGP for routine exams and check-ups. All medications, food, and supplies will be provided to you by the ARLGP.

Can you foster my personal pet, while I move or find a new home for it?

The ARLGP foster program is for shelter animals only, not owned animals in the community. If you are looking to learn more about admitting a pet to the ARLGP, please call and speak to a member of our intake team at (207) 854-9771.