



Willamette Humane Society



Cat Foster Manual



Introduction

Welcome, new foster parents!

Thank you for participating in the Willamette Humane Society (WHS) Foster Care Program. We appreciate your willingness to open your heart and home to homeless animals. Your dedication allows our organization to rescue animals we would not otherwise have the resources to adopt out.

The guiding mission of the Foster Care Program is to give animals individualized care, training and socialization to prepare them for adoption. Additionally, information gathered during the foster process helps us place animals in homes and with families who can best meet their needs.

Specific goals of the program include:

- Providing a safe, healthy, nurturing environment for nursing cats and dogs, as well as puppies and kittens too young to be in the shelter.
- Providing behavioral and obedience training to dogs and puppies.
- Giving our long-term residents time away from the shelter in a home setting.
- Socializing shy or timid cats and dogs.
- Allowing sick or injured cats and dogs to heal in a relaxing, uplifting environment.

This manual outlines the responsibilities and expectations of WHS's foster volunteers as well as the resources and support that you can expect from us. This manual should serve as a resource throughout your foster care experience.

Mentors

Foster parents will be assigned a mentor if desired. This is a person with at least two years of experience fostering kittens. The mentor can answer questions for you regarding kitten-proofing your foster space, behavioral and dietary concerns, and basic health and medical questions.

You should contact your mentor with ANY questions or concerns you may have about your kitten's health or well-being. If you are worried that one of your kittens may be sick, try to get some information together before you call: how long have the symptoms been going on? Is kitty eating, drinking, pooping, peeing, and playing? Any vomiting? Diarrhea? What is the kitty's temperature? Normal temperature is 100.0-102.6 F. If you are worried but you aren't sure about the symptoms mentioned above, call your mentor anyway – that is what they are here for.

If you don't have a mentor assigned to you at the time you collect your kittens, please call the Foster & Rescue Manager or email her and let her know. She will also be your interim mentor if you have any questions and your back-up mentor if yours is not available.

Mentor Contact Information

If you have any questions, problems or issues while fostering, please contact your assigned mentor. Mentor contact information below:

Kim Angle
(503) 580-1800
kada503@msn.com

Ellen Carter
(408) 933-8385
whoamax@gmail.com

Vickie Clarke-Ellis
(503) 871-3333
golden_dreams@comcast.net

Shannon Custer
(503) 559-8948
custr1@yahoo.com

Peggy Stroope
(503) 428-1780
pstroope97317@gmail.com

Julie Wallin
(503) 798-3216
jwallin997@hotmail.com

Maryam Shad
Foster & Rescue Manager
(503) 585-5900, ext. 303
foster@whs4pets.org
Thursday-Monday 11-7

Caitlin Forste
Feline Support Specialist
(503) 585-5900, ext. 303
foster@whs4pets.org
Wednesday-Thursday 10-2; Friday 10-6

Pet Proofing Your Home

Pet-proofing, and especially kitten-proofing, your home is much the same as child-proofing it! That means hiding or removing cords, removing small items that animals can choke on, etc. Use the following tips as a guide to make your foster room and home safe for foster animals:

- Make sure the garbage, cleaning supplies and medicines are secure.
- Make sure to put all dog/cat food, treats and medicine, etc. somewhere where your foster animals won't get into it. If you are fostering dogs or puppies, depending on size, they may be able to access items on tables, counters, etc. Take this into account and put things away accordingly.



- Get into the habit of checking your refrigerator, oven, washer, dryer, freezer, dishwasher, etc. before these doors get closed. Kitty may have leaped in. **These horrible accidents happen more often than you would expect.**
- Watch that hot iron, curling iron, or any other hot or heavy items a rambunctious animal may knock down or pull down upon itself. Use Sticky Tack, a nontoxic gummy substance available in office supply stores used to mount posters on the wall without nails, to tack down small knickknacks and prevent breakage.
- Review the toxic houseplant list and remove all poisonous plants from your household. Or, to deter animals from munching on poisonous and non-poisonous plants, you should spray with a product like Bitter Yuck.
- Keep all small items like rubber bands, paper clips, needles, fishhooks, socks, underwear, loose change, etc – anything an animal can swallow – out of reach.
- Never leave razors or other sharp objects in the bathroom or tub. Kitties love to play with these things and can cut their paws, tongue or gums.
- Keep plastic bags, which can cause suffocation, out of reach.

- Exposed electrical cords are a very real danger. Animals might chew them and end up getting an electrical shock – this can cause mouth burns or even death. Encase cords in the plastic flexible tubing available at office supply stores. Bitter Yuck can be sprayed at regular intervals on the cords to discourage chewing, as well.
- Never leave stove burners on without a pot on them; serious burns can result if kitty gets curious. Pipes behind hot water heaters can cause burns if kitty hides there. Wood burning stoves and open fireplaces are also hazardous. The best way to prevent accidents is to house foster animals away from these things.



Emergency Foster Care Protocol

Recognizing signs of illness and knowing when to call the shelter

<p><u>Abnormal signs to watch for:</u></p> <p>Frequent clear or colored discharge from eyes or nose Lack of appetite Lethargy (lack of energy) Diarrhea lasting more than 3 or 4 feedings Vomiting Weight loss Repeated coughing and sneezing Dramatic behavioral changes Anything else that concerns you</p> <p><i>**It is very helpful to shelter staff & veterinarians if you provide a detailed history of symptoms you've noted, e.g., diarrhea: how often, consistency, blood, or mucus, recent changes in diet or treats</i></p>	<p><u>Signs that require immediate action:</u></p> <p>Continuous diarrhea-more than 2-3 days Continuous vomiting-more than 2-3 days Bleeding of any kind: from nose, in urine or stool Any trauma: hit by a car, dropped, limping, stepped on, unconscious Difficulty breathing-labored or open-mouthed A kitten under 4 months of age that hasn't eaten for more than a day</p>
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Call these numbers in the event of an emergency

<u>Your Mentor</u>	<u>On-Call Mentor</u>	<u>Lead Mentor</u>
	<p>Ellen Carter 408-933-8385 <i>whoamax@gmail.com</i></p> <p>Shannon Custer 503-559-8948 <i>custr1@yahoo.com</i></p>	<p>Kim Angle 503-580-1800 <i>kada503@msn.com</i></p>
<u>Foster Program</u>	<u>Exam Staff</u>	<u>Emergency Phone</u>
<p>Maryam Shad (503) 585-5900, ext. 303 <i>foster@whs4pets.org</i></p> <p><i>Thursday through Monday 11:00am-7pm Closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays</i></p>	<p><i>(503)-585-5900, ext. 319</i></p> <p><i>8AM-7PM 7 days a week</i> LEAVE A MESSAGE</p>	<p>WHS Cell</p> <p><i>503-585-5900, ext. 333</i> ANSWERED 24 HOURS</p>

It is vital that you leave a message so that we may return your call.

If you take a foster animal to any veterinarian without contacting the Foster Care Department first, you will be entirely responsible for any financial obligations incurred.

Picking Up Your Foster Animal

If you see an email about an animal that you would like to foster, reply to the email. The Foster & Rescue Manager will get in touch with you to set up a pickup time if the animal has not already gone out to foster with someone else.

At the time of pickup, you will:

- Schedule a time with the Foster & Rescue Manager to come back for revaccinations, or a vet check, etc. if applicable.
- Receive any medications the animal is on, along with instructions on how to administer them, and a form to keep track of when they were administered.
- Pick up any additional supplies that you need such as a crate, bedding, food, litter, or toys (based on availability).
- Receive any additional care instructions and ask any questions you may have before taking your foster animals home.

Foster parents should always use the back door by the crates and Isolation. Please ring the doorbell when you arrive, and a staff member will assist you.

What to Expect in the First Few Days

Depending on the age and overall health of an animal, it is not uncommon to see these symptoms when bringing home a new foster animal:

Loss of appetite – many animals, especially cats, can stop eating and drinking for a couple of days while adjusting to their new routine and surroundings. Cats can also go several days without using their litter box. If this continues for more than 3 days, please contact us.

Diarrhea – This is a symptom of stress and will usually resolve itself. It can also be caused by a sudden switch in food. We suggest and will provide NutriSource food for all foster animals.

Hiding – Very common in cats. We recommend giving foster kitty access to one room or keeping confined in a crate until he or she has acclimated and become used to the surroundings.

These three things seem to be the most common concerns. If you have any other concerns, feel free to contact the Foster & Rescue Manager.

Housing

You must provide a clean, safe environment for your foster cats/kittens. WHS recommends that you use a spare bedroom or large bathroom as your “foster room.”

If you are fostering a pregnant cat or young kittens, keep the following tips in mind:

- Consider protecting your furniture and carpet with sheets or plastic table covers. Kittens can be messy, especially when they’re learning to use the litter box! Make sure sheets/covers are securely tacked down so kittens can’t get under them.
- Until the age of 3-4 weeks, the mother cat will clean the genitals of her young to stimulate the bowels and bladder. As the kittens start showing interest in the litter box, provide them with an easily accessible box – such as a shoebox lid, cookie sheet, or cake pan. Once the kittens are more mobile, you should give them a larger litter box. Dollar stores have lots of inexpensive options.



Litter Box

Kittens should be introduced to the litter box when they start eating solid foods. They need a box with shallow sides: a cookie sheet or cake pan is perfect. After they have eaten, place them in the box. They will learn how to use the litter box very quickly. Sometimes they learn how to use the litter box without any help from us, as they have been watching Mom use her box.

Observe how the kittens watch all of Mom's actions: they find her quite fascinating and are learning how to act like cats by observing her.

Orphans may need a little more assistance from you. Simply pick them up and place them on the litter after each meal. When you bring home your foster kittens, show them where you placed their litter box. Keeping the box clean is very important...daily cleaning is a must. No cat or kitten wants to use or smell a dirty litter box. Make sure the litter box is as far away from the food and water as possible. Place the bed near the food, not the litter box.

When first learning to use a litter box, kittens do best with store-bought recycled paper litter or clay litter. Once the kittens are older (around 8 weeks old) you can give them clumping litter. Please do not use clumping litter with kittens under 8 weeks, as they may eat it, and it will cause intestinal blockages.



Clumping litter for older kittens



Recycled paper litter for younger kittens (WHS uses wood pellets)

Feeding

Cats and Kittens

- We feed our cats NutriSource dry food. If your foster cat has a special diet, we will send you home with food and ask that you keep feeding them the amount and type of food prescribed. If you run out of food, you are always welcome to come back and get more.
- The recommended diet for nursing cats and their kittens is a mix of canned and dry kitten food. Kittens generally start showing interest in “real” food around 3.5 to 4 weeks of age. Wet food should be fed 3-4 times a day in small amounts (about 1 tablespoon per kitten). Dry food should be left out all day for them. If they are showing no interest in wet or dry food, try baby food in a single meat formula like Turkey or Chicken, or mixing Kitten Milk Replacer (KMR) in with the kibble to make it more palatable.
- **At four weeks**, you can start introducing canned food (they usually start showing interest in what mom is eating). Mixing a little warm water with the canned food and placing it in a container with low sides (plate, cake pan, etc.) will usually do the trick. Expect them to walk through it too. No one ever said kittens were neat. After a few attempts, they will get the idea. Feed them their last meal just before bedtime. They usually eat and then go straight to sleep. You can warm the food in the microwave for 6-15 seconds. This makes it more stimulating to them because it enhances the smell. Make sure to stir the food and test it with your finger. Do not give hot food to kittens.
- **5-6 weeks old:** four small (approx. 1 level tablespoon) meals per day per kitten. Always leave plenty of dry food out for them to eat during the day. If you are having trouble getting them to eat the dry food, try adding water, and microwaving it for 15 seconds. This will make it softer and will also enhance the smell.



- **6-8 weeks of age:** three meals a day (about 1/8th of a can) per kitten, and free feed dry food. Keep dry kibble out at all times for the kittens to eat. If you can, start weaning the kittens off of the wet food, and get them to eat more dry food. This will help ensure that they don't lose weight when they come back to the shelter.

Overfeeding can cause digestive problems. Frequent small meals are preferred to large meals. **All cats and kittens need fresh water at all times!**

Kitten Development and Vaccine Schedule

The following is some general information about what to expect at each stage of development. Remember that these are averages. Please weigh your kittens regularly to keep an eye on development. Several times daily is best for the first 3 weeks or at any time if the kittens get sick; otherwise every 2-3 days is fine.

Newborn	Completely dependent on mother. Eyelids closed, ears folded forward – cannot see, or hear. Sense of smell is the first to develop completely and is the most developed sense of birth.
2-3 Days	Umbilical cord falls off.
One Week	Eyes begin to open – all kittens have blue eyes. Kittens huddle together for security and warmth.
10 Days	Ears unfold, hearing will develop. Can move along with belly on the ground, “paddling” limbs for movement.
Two Weeks	Begin to play with littermates, learning how to socialize. Can stand and balance, but cannot walk easily. Teething begins. Eyes are fully open.
16-18 Days	Incisors (tiny front teeth) break through.
20-24 Days	Canine teeth break through.
Three Weeks	Mobile and eager to explore, making mock aggressive rushes and stalking littermates. Cannot retract claws. Weigh the kittens regularly to keep an eye on development. Should be played with and handled at least 1 hour every day for good socialization.
24-28 Days	Molars begin to break through.
Four Weeks	Introduce solid food. Begin litter box training. Will begin wrestling with littermates. Will receive first deworming (Anthelban). Ask your mentor for help with dosing and administration. First vaccination for kittens.
Five Weeks	Learning to hunt by pouncing on toys and each other.
Six Weeks	Adult eye color begins to appear. Kittens are vaccinated against common agents that cause upper respiratory infection and feline distemper (FVRCP). Receive second deworming.
Eight Weeks and Older	Mom and kittens need to be brought to the shelter for their scheduled surgery appointment. The exam will include: FeLV testing if not previously done, deworming if needed, spay or neuter (if weight is at least 2 pounds and kitten is healthy), microchip, treatment for fleas and ear mites as directed by the veterinarian, and possibly another vaccine. It is expected that you will notify the Foster & Rescue Manager as soon as your kittens reach 2 pounds so they can be scheduled for surgery as quickly as possible. Revaccinations are due every 2 weeks until 4 months of age.

Neonatal Guidelines

Neonatal Care

Handle newborns gently, but make sure to check on them at least twice a day. Are they nursing? Hanging out with mom? Crying a lot (this could be an indication that they are cold or not getting enough milk). Make sure to count each time you check on them. Sometimes a mother cat will take a kitten out of the nest and leave it somewhere else in the room. If this happens, put the kitten back in the nest and call your mentor right away.



Be careful! *Mother cats can be very protective of their young and become overly aggressive toward resident pets. This means watchful attention when entering or leaving the area you have set aside for mom and her babies.*

Neonatal Signs of Trouble

If all kittens and mom seem well, your only obligation to the mom and new kittens for the first week or so is watchful supervision. Mom will need kitten kibble and water at all times. Contact your mentor immediately if you observe any of the following in the mother cat:

- Acts lethargic, or as if she is in pain or continues to strain.
- Ignores her kittens.
- Continues bleeding from the vulva for more than two days.
- Has painful, hard, or swollen mammary glands

Kittens should be nursing up to 3 times an hour. The mother cat should be grooming each kitten after feeding, and licking their bottoms to stimulate elimination. Contact your mentor if you observe any of the following in the kittens:

- Constant crying and failure to stay at the nipple.
- Refusal to nurse.
- Feels cold to the touch.
- Withdrawing from the other kittens.
- Rejected or ignored by the mother.



*Mimzy and her Newborn Kittens
Photo by Madeleine Barker*

Socializing Your Foster Cats and Kittens

First and foremost, we ask that you treat your foster cats/kittens with the same love and care that you give to your own companion animals. Daily attention (at least one full hour a day) from you and other family members or friends makes them more people-oriented, and more adoptable. This includes petting, playing, cuddling, trimming nails, and grooming.

Special Care

Semiferal kittens are a special challenge. These kittens can be socialized, but only with daily handling. Sometimes they will hiss and spit when you attempt to pick them up. Gently pick them up and hold them close to your body, giving them a sense of security. Speak softly as you pet them. These kittens need plenty of reassurance and attention. **DO NOT give them a room in which they can hide from you.** They need a box or crate in which to feel secure but you must have access to them at all times. They will not become socialized unless they are handled many times each day. They need to become accustomed to the sights and sounds of people and a working home. This should be done gradually but consistently.

By spending time with your foster cats on a regular basis, you will not only increase their chances of being adopted quickly, but you will also be able to determine their likes and dislikes – this helps us place them in homes with families that best meet their needs.

You should also monitor your foster cats for behavior problems, such as inappropriate urination or scratching furniture. If problems arise, contact your mentor to discuss behavior modification strategies. Willamette Humane Society is not responsible for damages that might occur to yourself, others in your household, or your personal property as a result of feline behavior problems while in foster care.

If you have “cat friendly” dogs in your household, please consult with your mentor about proper introductions with your foster cats/kittens. Felines who have been raised with dogs, and adult cats who enjoy (or at least tolerate) the company of canines, often have an advantage on adoption days!

Health Concerns

The following is a list of common medical issues you may encounter as a foster parent with you mother cat and/or kittens. This information is not meant to be extensive, just to give you an idea of what common ailments may look like and how they might be resolved. This is not a substitute for the expert advice of a trained medical professional.

If your foster kitten displays any of these symptoms, call your mentor immediately:

- Sneezing and/or congestion with green or yellow discharge from the nose and/or eyes.
- Coughing, wheezing, or heavy breathing.
- Diarrhea or vomiting – **this can be life-threatening to kittens!**
- Straining to urinate or defecate – **this can be life-threatening, especially for male cats!**
- Bleeding from any part of the body.
- Lethargy.
- Fever.
- Paralysis.
- Extreme change in attitude or behavior.
- Not eating or drinking regularly.
- Temperature too low (below 98°F) or too high (above 104°F).



Please have specifics ready to give when contacting your mentor. You will also need to take your kitten's temperature before you call.



Common Ailments

Upper Respiratory Infection

An occasional sneeze is expected. Lots of sneezing, yellow or green nasal discharge, and congestion is cause for concern. Please contact your mentor if you suspect your kitten(s) of having an upper respiratory infection (URI). They may be able to advise you to start the kittens on amoxicillin. *DO NOT ADMINISTER AMOXICILLIN WITHOUT BEING ADVISED TO DO SO.* If symptoms do not resolve after 7 days of amoxicillin, please contact your mentor.

Creating a steamy environment with a humidifier or running the shower can also be beneficial to URI kittens. Nothing should ever be added to the water.

A product called “Little Noses” can also be used on URI kittens. Dosing is different depending on whether the product contains a decongestant. For Little Noses with decongestant, one drop can be applied to a single nostril twice a day for three days. Rotate nostrils so they do not get irritated. Little Noses without decongestant (saline-only solution) can be used as long as needed and can be used in both nostrils up to three times a day.

Conjunctivitis

Conjunctivitis is characterized by swelling and/or yellow or green discharge around the eyes. An eye ointment or drops are typically prescribed to treat the infection. *DO NOT ADMINISTER WITHOUT BEING ADVISED TO DO SO.* To administer the ointment, hold the kitten’s eye open and squeeze the ointment into the eye, moving across the eye without touching the tip of the tube to the eye. To administer eye drops, hold the kitten’s eye open and let then let the drop fall into the inside corner of the eye near the tear duct. Open and close the eye a few times to get ointment or drops worked in well.

To clean the kitten’s eyes, use a clean cotton ball or gauze moistened with warm water. If the eye is sealed shut, you will need to use the warm cotton ball as a compress and let it sit there for a few minutes. This will soften the crusted material around the eye. Once it is soft and pliable, you can wipe it from the eye. Start at the area closest to the nose and wipe outward. Don’t force the material off of the eye. You may need to continue to let the cotton ball sit on the eyelid longer to soften the material. Once everything has been cleaned around the eye, you can administer eye medications. It will be helpful to the kitten if you can gently wipe the eye clean multiple times a day. If you do not have a cotton ball or gauze square, you can use a soft washcloth. Make sure that you use a clean washcloth each time. Never share between kittens.

Vomiting

Vomiting can be very dangerous for kittens because they dehydrate so quickly. Vomiting is not as common as diarrhea, so it's especially troubling, especially if the kitten is vomiting repeatedly. Call your mentor ASAP.

Dehydration

Dehydration can kill a small kitten quickly. Mentors should train you on how to do a skin tenting test. With smaller kittens, another way to test hydration is to feel the gums. If they are sticky instead of slippery, the kitten is dehydrated. Also look at the color of the gums. If they are white and colorless, please report this when you call your mentor.

Diarrhea

A few things to keep in mind when examining your kitten's poop:

- A little bit of bright red blood on a poop is ok. So is a little bit of bright red blood on a kitten's bottom. It's usually a reaction to something that they ate, new food, stress, new location, etc.
- A **lot** of blood is not ok.

Diarrhea is probably the most common problem with kittens. Runny poop seems to be a kitten's preferred response to almost all stress or illness. It can be dangerous for kittens because the water lost in the stool tends to dehydrate them rapidly.

Diarrhea Protocol

If one of your kittens experiences diarrhea, the steps below represent an effective treatment for kittens in foster care. Please remember that these are only advisory steps and are not meant to represent the knowledge of a trained medical specialist.

When diarrhea is first seen

Call your mentor first. They will have you do the following:

- Feed canned pumpkin (plain, not with pumpkin pie spice)
- Feed FortiFlora
- Feed 1 type of canned kitten food only (moisten with water if needed)

If no improvement is seen in 3 days

Drop off a stool sample to the shelter. You do not need to call ahead, but be advised that results may not be available for several days. The shelter will call you if any

parasites are found. If it will be impossible for you to return for necessary medication in the next few days, then please contact your mentor for assistance.

If there are no parasites found and still no improvement in 3 days

Call your mentor to discuss further treatment or whether an appointment should be scheduled for the kittens.

If kittens are eating well and gaining weight, the diarrhea may not need treatment and may be something the kittens just need to outgrow. Please note that if your kittens are vomiting, refusing to eat for more than 24 hours, or acting very lethargic you should immediately alert your mentors.

We hope that this protocol will make things simple and less frustrating for the foster parents, as well as allowing the medical staff to treat the kittens as efficiently as possible.

General and Emergency Veterinary Care

- Willamette Humane Society covers all **approved** medical expenses for the cats and kittens in the shelter's foster program. General medical care for Willamette Humane Society foster cats is provided at the direction of the veterinarian and veterinary technician at Willamette Humane Society's onsite vet clinic. You should call your mentor before calling the hospital for an appointment. **Appointments are required.**
- Once a foster cat or kitten is in your care, you are responsible for transporting him or her to the shelter veterinarian for necessary medical care. Always use a secure carrier designed specifically for companion animals when transporting cats.
- Should foster cats require care from veterinary specialists, Willamette Humane Society will arrange appointments with approved veterinarians in the Portland metro area.
- Foster parents **must not** medicate or shave any cats in their care without prior approval from their mentor.
- If the onsite veterinarian or local veterinary clinics are not available, then you may be able to seek emergency medical care. Emergency care must be approved **PRIOR** to the vet visit. Call the Foster & Rescue Manager for guidance and approval. Otherwise, Willamette Humane Society *will not*

reimburse the veterinary expenses. On approval, you will be directed to one of the following emergency clinics:

Salem Emergency Clinic
3215 Market St NE
Salem, OR 97301
(503)588-8082

VCA Salem Animal Hospital
4053 Commercial St. SE
Salem, OR 97302
(503) 581-1438



Be sure to get copies of the medical records of the emergency visit for the cat's file.

Adoption Procedures for Cats/Kittens in Foster Care

- Kittens are available for adoption after 8 weeks of age as long as they are 2 pounds, healthy, and spayed/neutered.
- Foster kittens are adopted at an offsite adoption center July through October called Kitten-Kaboodle.
- Foster parents who wish to adopt their foster cats are entitled to one free adoption per calendar year. If adopting a second kitten or cat at the time of that adoption, fosters pay half the adoption fee for the second cat/kitten. Fosters are required to complete adoption applications and go through the regular adoption process.
- Willamette Humane Society does not refuse adoption to indoor only homes. We do counsel prospective adopters against this because we believe cats live longer, safer lives indoors, and because we believe cats can live happy, active lives indoors.
- Willamette Humane Society does not refuse adoption by a family who are planning on declawing a cat. We counsel the prospective adopter that declawing a cat involves the removal of the claw up to the first knuckle joint and recommend humane alternatives. If someone is interested in a declawed cat, the staff or adoption counselor will direct them to the cats in our care that have been previously declawed.
- All cats and kittens must be spayed or neutered before they go home. No exceptions.

“Test Driving” a Kitten

While some people may want to take a kitten home and first see how it works in their household, “trial adoptions” are not allowed. The entire adoption process must be completed before a cat/kitten is taken to an adoptive home. Willamette Humane Society's open return policy assures adopters that they may bring the cat/kitten back to the shelter within 30 days should the adoption not work out.

Willamette Humane Society Cat Adoption Fees

- Kittens (2 – 6 months): \$125
- Juveniles (7 months – 11 months): \$75
- Adult Cats (1 year - 7 years): \$50
- Seniors (7 years and up): \$25
- Special needs (FIV+ or others): \$25
- Working Cats: Waived adoption fee (free)
- Desirable Breeds: Base adoption price + \$25
- Hospice: Waived adoption fee (free)

Returning your Foster Animals

When your foster animals are ready for adoption, you have the following options:

Bringing them in for surgery

- Make your spay/neuter appointment by calling the Foster & Rescue Manager. **Appointments are always required.**
- **Don't give them any food after midnight the night before surgery (or the morning of surgery).** Water is fine. However, kittens 6 months or younger may eat on the morning of surgery.
- Bring animals to the clinic entrance of the shelter at 7:15 on the morning of their surgery, or arrange to drop them off the night before with the Foster & Rescue Manager. **Cats must be dropped off in carriers and wearing the appropriate color tab band with the cat's name and animal ID written on it.**
- Unless you have arranged otherwise with the Foster & Rescue Manager, your foster animals will stay at WHS after their surgeries are completed. Please submit a biography and pictures of your foster cat(s). Your information and recommendations are a big help in finding them the perfect forever homes. If the Foster & Rescue Manager has decided that the animal should go back to you after surgery, it will be ready for pickup at 4:00 pm.



Bringing them to the shelter when they are not scheduled for surgery

- If your foster animals are ready to come back and have already been altered, please call the Foster & Rescue Manager to make an appointment for you to return them to the shelter. **Appointments are always required.**