

# FOSTER CARE HANDBOOK



Can we crash at your place for a while?

A Reference for Foster Care Volunteers

Live Release Team

[ccacsrescues@cctexas.com](mailto:ccacsrescues@cctexas.com) or 361-677-3272

Table of Contents

1.	Introduction to Foster Care.....	3
2.	Health and Disease.....	5
3.	Appointments.....	6
4.	Emergency Protocol.....	8
5.	General Care.....	10
6.	Foster to Adopt.....	11
7.	Foster Supply Check Lists.....	11
8.	Adoption Ready.....	14
9.	Disease Charts.....	15
10.	Foster Agreement.....	17

## Introduction to Foster Care

## Welcome to Our Foster Care Team!

If you have never cared for a foster animal before, you are about to experience the joys of helping to **save lives!** The rewards of fostering are innumerable. You will be taking part in changing the world for the animals in our care and it will likely change you, as well.

In becoming an active part of our foster care program, you are expanding our capacity. You will be aiding in our success of maintaining a 90% live release rate for our shelter. In doing this, you are offering the homeless animals of the Coastal Bend a new chance to find happy lives in forever homes. You are about to become part of an amazing team! We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. And so, do the animals!

## CCACS Foster Care Mission

The Foster Program at CCACS exists to engage the people of the community to actively help in the direct live release of animals that are taken in by CCACS by bringing them into their own home, networking for adoption and caring for them for a length of time determined by the CCACS staff. By having an active foster care program, CCACS is expanding in capacity by opening holding kennels each time animals go into foster care.

## The following is a list and short description of all the foster opportunities provided by CCACS

**Little Paws Foster Team– Foster Families that foster puppies and kittens that are eating on their own but are too young to be spayed/neutered and placed up for adoption.**

Puppies and kittens that need bottle feeding.

Puppies and kittens that are too immature/underweight for adoptions.

Families: Mother with puppies or pregnant/Mother with kittens or pregnant.

- **These foster families only foster animals until they are ready for adoption and are returned to CCACS to be housed on the adoption floor once that is determined by staff.**

**Adoption Ambassador Foster Team – Foster Families that care for “Green Sleeved” dogs (fully worked up, healthy, good behavior temperament). Dogs will be placed in foster homes depending on the foster family’s guidelines filled out in the application NOT chosen by the foster family specifically.**

Adoption Ambassadors will aid in extra exposure to the community to show the dogs’ adoptability. Dogs will be reevaluated after 2 months in foster care to determine why they have not been adopted or tagged by rescue.

Adoptions Ambassadors will be given tools to aid with adoption networking.

All adoption paperwork and transfer of ownership must be done through CCACS.

All Foster families are labeled as below:

- **On Call = You will be called or texted when the corresponding animals are in CCACS care and cleared by vet staff to go to foster care. All animals placed in foster will be chosen by the Live Release Team not the foster families.**

- **Unavailable** = If you need a break from fostering, please just let our Live Release Team know to mark you as unavailable for a certain amount of time (ex. 2 weeks, one month). That way you do not receive phone calls and texts to foster available animals. You can return to the “on call list” at any time.

*\*\*\*All foster families will be asked not to foster animals for any other agency while fostering for CCACS. They will also not be permitted to foster the same animal for another agency.*

**\*Please note that the following is not permitted:**

**Intake upon foster-** When we would not normally take that animal into our care (due to condition, space, etc.) but the person bringing the animal in offers to foster it until we are able to bring it into our facility.

**\*Please note that you will be contacted once your application is processed and approved to begin foster care as soon as you are able. You do need to have an approved application before you begin fostering for CCACS\***

**Training Requirements and Opportunities:** All Foster Care providers are recommended to schedule a one-on-one Foster Care Meeting which can be done at their pickup of their first foster. If fosters are taking bottle babies, they are required to go through Bottle Baby Feeder Training. All Foster Parents are provided a copy of the Foster Parent Handbook which lists all protocols they need to adhere to. Please see Handbook for further operations regarding appointments, vet care, etc.

## **Preparations & Emotional Considerations**

Before taking on the responsibility and commitment of taking on a foster animal, please consider your time availability, your ability to provide adequate facilities, and your emotional involvement in a foster animal.

**Time:** The time commitment for foster care may range depending on what type of foster animal you sign up for. On average, a foster parent will commit between one and eight weeks to a foster animal.

The time spent caring for and socializing your foster animal in your home varies according to the foster animal’s needs. **Foster families are responsible for bringing their foster pets into CCACS for any appointments requested.** This can include medical, check ins, and meeting potential adopters. Please also consider the possibility of additional time for emergency vet checks, cleaning, socializing, and return of the foster to the shelter during business hours.

We ask that you only take on the number of animals that you can house comfortably. If you find that you are in ‘over your head’ please contact the Live Release Team to discuss the situation and, if necessary, arrange a return appointment. We are always here to support you.

**Adequate Support System:** Please have the approval of everyone in the household prior to taking home a foster pet. If you require help from any family members or roommates, please be sure the family members or roommates are appropriately informed and educated about the required care.

**Emotional Considerations: Be aware of Compassion Fatigue.** (Compassion Fatigue: also known as secondary traumatic stress, is a condition characterized by a gradual lessening of compassion over time.) Fostering can be fun and rewarding, but it is also a lot of work and can be emotionally taxing. The intensive care required for some fosters may be emotionally as well as physically demanding.

You will develop an emotional attachment to your foster animals, and you must face the reality that, despite our best efforts, not all foster animals will thrive. While CCACS tries to give every animal the chance it deserves to find its happy ending, we cannot save every animal. We do everything in our power to work with health and behavior problems that may befall all the animals in our care and reach out to our rescue partners to take our most in need animals in, but you must be prepared for the fact that some issues are not within our ability or in the best interest of the animal to treat.

In addition, you may find that even a happy ending can be bittersweet. Consider returning a litter of kittens that you bottle-fed since birth: they are all adopted within days, but you do *need* to say goodbye. Some fosters find this too difficult and opt to adopt their foster pets: before you make this sort of decision, be sure to read the section of this handbook entitled “Foster to Adopt.” You may also discuss if this is the right decision for you with the Foster Care or Volunteer Staff.

If you need to speak to someone, please contact our Live Release Team.

## Health and Disease

Animals can carry diseases that can be transmitted across species boundaries (zoonotic) and diseases that are only transmitted between members of the same species (non-zoonotic). All animals placed in foster care have been seen by a veterinarian or clinic staff before being placed. We try our best not to place any transmittable diseases in your home without your consent, but sometimes it does happen if the animal is not showing signs when being evaluated. ***Please abide by our health and safety protocols to protect yourselves and your resident pets.***

**Protecting resident pets:** When bringing any new animal home, we strongly recommend that you keep your fosters, and your resident pets separate at all times for a minimum of 5-7 days. This should help to provide the opportunity for many common infectious diseases to surface. You should *never* leave your resident pets and fosters alone together for any amount of time, unless approved by CCACS staff. We also require that Little Paws fosters do not take their foster puppies or kittens to any public areas like dog parks, etc. unless approved by CCACS staff.

All resident pets should be fully vaccinated and on flea prevention before a foster animal enter the home. If you have an immune-compromised animal, you need to be extra-cautious in your decisions to foster certain animals.

**Protecting yourself:** Zoonotic diseases are always of concern to those who handle or work with animals on a regular basis. You need not come into direct contact with an infected animal to contract a disease. Many zoonoses are transmitted via bodily fluids, and they can travel on skin, shoes, clothing, tools, litter boxes, and dishes (*i.e.*, fomites). All medical advice should be directed to your family physician. Here are some guidelines to help prevent the spread of contagious diseases (if you have children, please be sure they follow these guidelines as well):

1. All fosters should **wash hands frequently** when handling animals.
2. Please use protection (gloves) when cleaning feces and other animal-related messes.

3. One of the most effective and efficient methods to disinfect is with a 10% (10:1 dilution rate) fresh bleach-and-water solution. All areas (floors, walls, furniture, etc.) and materials (bedding, toys, litter boxes, food, and water dishes, etc.) that have come into contact with foster animal(s) must be bleached before you expose new foster animals.
4. If possible, use ceramic, glass or stainless-steel water and food dishes. These are easier to disinfect.
5. When you use a plastic litter box, it must be disinfected in a bleach solution as described above before use by the next foster animal.
6. Be familiar with the disease information provided on the tables (pages 18-20) and be sure to let your physician know that you work with shelter animals.

The vaccinations to protect against diseases are included in each description.

CCACS will provide needed vaccinations, deworming, and parasite tests for your foster animal. Please contact the Live Release Team if you suspect that your foster animal has parasites; an appointment will be set to assess and/or treat the animal.

## Appointments

Once foster animals have been placed in your care contact will be made at least once a week. Our contact methods are via text message, phone call, or e-mail. During this time our Live Release Team will help you schedule any appointments, get your supply refills, and answer general questions.

**Protocol is that you contact a member of our Live Release Team directly if you have any issues or questions. You can contact Live Release Team directly at 361-677-3272 or e-mail [ccacsrescues@cctexas.com](mailto:ccacsrescues@cctexas.com). If you do not receive an answer in a timely manner, please direct your call to the CCACS live release office at (361) 826-4633 during open hours (Monday-Saturday 8am-5pm).**

**Please be familiar with the following appointment guidelines:**

1. When you arrive for an appointment please arrive on time. Our Clinic and Live Release Team have many animals to attend to, if you will be more than 15 minutes late, we may have to reschedule, or you may have a longer wait.
2. **Staff only are allowed to enter certain areas.** Foster parents may only enter areas accessible to the public unless assisted by a staff member.
3. If you are a foster parent that is deemed “on call” you can be contacted at any time to provide a foster home. An appointment will be set to pick up your new foster animal and supplies. You can contact our Live Release Team to place yourself “on call.”

## Emergency Protocol

Medical Symptoms and Conditions:

When to call for URGENT help and when to WAIT until open hours of operation

**Emergency/Urgent Medical Issues:**

- Fading kitten: cold, lethargic, unable to stand
- Mouth Breathing
- Aspirating (for bottle babies: milk coming out of the nose) AND choking/unable to breathe
- Head slumped in food or water bowl
- Unable to swallow
- Seizures
- Intense Pain
- Bleeding profusely
- Vomits multiple times in a row and cannot hold down food
- Behavior that seems extremely out of the ordinary
- Straining to urinate or defecate

**Non-Urgent Medical Issues:**

- Aspirates (for bottle babies: milk comes out of nose) but can breathe normally afterward
- Vomits but can hold food down
- Diarrhea
- Sneezing
- Coughing
- Eye infection
- Losing weight
- Decreased/no appetite
- Twitching
- Unsteady walking or walking in circles
- Hair loss
- Bloated belly
- Worms in feces
- Skin lesions
- Fleas, ear mites, other external parasites

**Any foster animal that our staff states is sick will no longer remain in foster and will be treated accordingly at our facility.**

Please follow the following protocol if you feel like your foster pet is sick.:

1. Contact our Live Release Team. Please leave a message if you get voice mail and/or send a text message.
2. If you do not receive a response in a timely manner, contact our front office number at 361-826-4630 during open hours Mon.-Sat. 8am-5:30pm and Sun. 1pm – 5pm
3. Please be prepared to give the staff member information including your name, the animal's name or id number, age of the animal, the symptoms of illness and information regarding elimination, food, and water consumption.
4. **Please do not drop in without calling first!** If you are asked to bring the animal in, our Live Release Team or Clinic staff member will arrange a specific time to see the animal. Please keep in mind

that if you “drop in” you will be asked to schedule an appointment. **Emergencies do not need an appointment, but we do need to know you are coming so please call first!**

5. If an animal is not eating much, vomiting, or has diarrhea, but is still active, alert, eating, and drinking, you can probably wait until the next day to receive help. If the animal is lethargic and shows no interest in food or water, please contact as soon as possible. For kittens under five weeks, not eating, vomiting, and diarrhea may constitute an emergency.

**After Business Hours:** If you find yourself in an after-hours emergency, please follow steps 1 and 2.

**Reminder:** If you choose to take the animal to an unapproved private veterinarian, please be aware that the CCACS is unable to reimburse you for any charges you may incur.

A word on the death of a foster animal:

It is a sad fact that young puppies and kittens, through no fault of your own, and despite our best efforts, sometimes die. We call this failure to thrive. If you are a foster parent to newborn puppies and kittens this is more common.

If an animal in your care should happen to die, please be sure to contact us immediately. It is imperative we have the opportunity to examine the animal to determine the cause of death. We will handle disposal of the animal's remains for you.

Please be aware that the CCACS foster program is made up of wonderful people who, just like you, have dedicated their time and efforts to care for unwanted cats and dogs. They, along with our staff are there to help you face the loss of a foster animal. Please do not be afraid to reach out. The loss of an animal is never easy, but please remember your participation is vital to the foster care program. This program saves the lives of thousands of animals.



# General Care

Your foster animals will have varied needs, according to which animal(s) you take into your home. Here are some tips for the general care of all foster dogs and cats:

**Feeding and Grooming:** We ask that you feed only the foods we provide to you. No table scraps, please. A small bag of food will be provided by CCACS, you will need to purchase more at your own expense (please see the list under “Foster Supply Checklist). For drinking, fresh water should always be available. We never offer cow’s milks, as dogs and cats cannot properly digest it.

If you have a foster that requires brushing or bathing, please keep the animal clean, comfortable, and safe.

**Traveling:** CCACS will provide transport crates as supplies lasts for smaller animals, but we highly recommend you purchase your own if you are going to continue to foster. Not only is this a safe way to transport your foster animals to and from the shelter, but the plastic carrier may also serve as a familiar home and crate-training tool for your fosters. Adult dogs or older puppies you will need to bring a proper leash and collar/harness.

**Confinement Area:** Be sure to house your foster in an appropriate area. Try to use a space that is easy to sanitize (ex., tile flooring). If you are fostering a litter of puppies or kittens, a safe enclosure such as a large kennel, playpen, or folding exercise pen might be desirable. This type of enclosure will allow you to make observations while providing plenty of room for a mother and her growing litter. Your Live Release Team can suggest what may work in your home. **Please do not leave very young kittens in an area with couches, tables, etc. unattended. They can easily fall & sustain injury.**

**Toys:** We all love toys but do keep in mind that the wrong toy can kill your foster animal. Please be sure to keep any toys that can be easily dismantled and swallowed out of reach of your foster animal. Remove any small, loose parts or button eyes, just as you would for a human baby. Discard any toys that become excessively worn. For kittens/cats, toy mice and balls make them happy and can be reused if washed in a bleach solution between litters. Safe puppy/dog toys include sterilized Kong-type toys, Nyla bones, hard rubber balls, and tugs.

As with human children, puppies and kittens will play with anything they can find. Drapes, lampshades, table doilies, electrical cords and crystal ornaments may look like as much fun as the safe toys listed above. Take special care to puppy-proof and/or kitten-proof all areas in your home where fosters will have access. As your foster animal grows, their climbing abilities will improve, so anything irreplaceable should be kept well out of reach.

**Socializing Your Foster Animal with People:** Remember: you are the best toy for your foster animal to have. One of the most important parts of your job as a foster parent is to convince your foster animal that humans are kind and loving. Some animals will adjust quickly to you and their new environment, but to some, you may seem like a strange and frightening giant! Be patient and allow your foster time to acclimate to new surroundings. This may mean extra physical attention, or simply allowing the animal to explore on its own. We are always here to lend advice. Invite friends and family over to help socialize! Just remember to make sure everyone is clean and sanitized before interacting, including clothes and shoes.

# Foster To Adopt (Foster Failure)

Yes, we want all our foster animals to find loving, forever homes. But before you do decide to adopt your foster pet, please ask yourself the following questions:

- Is this my first foster pet? If so, is it a puppy or kitten? Please keep in mind that puppies and kittens are highly adoptable once they return to the shelter. In the case of puppies and kittens, we strongly suggest fostering a few different litters over time before deciding to adopt.
- Did I take on a single animal or a litter? If you take home a single puppy or kitten, you are much more likely to get attached than if you try a small litter.
- Can I continue to provide foster care if I adopt this foster? **If we lose you as a foster home, we lose the ability to give many other animals a new chance at life.** Please remember this in making your decision.
- Is there something that may prohibit this animal from being adoptable? Does it have behavioral or health issues that decrease adoptability? If so, then maybe your foster is indeed in need of your forever home.

If you do decide to adopt, please be aware that you must go through the CCACS adoption procedures. This includes the completion of all paperwork, spaying/neutering, and paying any applicable fees.

## Foster Supply Checklists

When you are taking home a foster animal, our staff will use the appropriate checklist to ensure that you have all the supplies you will need to get started, please be aware that most of these items are donated. **If we don't have donations, we may not be able to provide every item on the list:**

### Adult Dogs and Older Puppies

- Blanket and approved toys
- Kennel for kennel training (as available)
- Approved food

### Puppies

- Puppy pads or newspapers (as available)
- Travel Kennel or live-in kennel
- Blankets and Approved toys
- Approved food

### **Bottle Babies/Very Young Puppies: Additional Supplies**

- Bottles or syringe
- Approved formula
- Heating pad if needed
- **Avoid:**
  - Cool, drafty areas: puppies can lose heat quickly
  - Areas with lots of clutter/electrical cords: puppies may ingest items, chew cords, and fall off of high areas
  - Areas with carpet/upholstery/bedding you cannot discard
  - Harsh cleaning products
  - Swinging doors: puppies can be crushed in cracks in doors, by quickly opened doors, and even stepped on.

## Kittens

- Blanket and approved toys
- Approved food

## Bottle Babies/Very Young Kittens: Additional Supplies

- Bottle or syringe
- Heating pad
- Approved formula
- **Avoid:**
  - Cool, drafty areas: kittens can lose heat quickly.
    - **Re-warm cold kitten first & then feed**
  - Areas with lots of clutter and high perches: small kittens may get up and fall, breaking bones. Before 6 weeks, kittens are not as agile or coordinated.
  - Areas with carpet/upholstery/bedding you cannot discard
  - Shampoos and soaps: the chemicals in them can be life-threatening to small kittens! Try using water only.
  - Harsh cleaning products: phenols are toxic to cats (these are found in most household disinfectants).
    - Vinegar & water is good alternative
  - Swinging doors: kittens can be crushed in cracks in doors, by quickly opened doors, and even stepped on.

Supplies we recommend for purchase: appropriately sized wire crate, food/formula, bottles (if fostering bottle babies), litter, collars, leashes, harness, litter box, puppy pads, and toy. CCACS will always provide any medications your foster animal(s) need.

Brands of food recommended for purchase:

## Kitten & Puppy Growth & Development Timeline

**7-10 days:** eyes open (kittens)

**2 weeks:** walk (kittens); eyes open (puppies)

**3 weeks:** see, and can now regulate body temperature, *start litterbox training* (kittens); walk (puppy)

**4 weeks:** run, *weighs about 1 lb. for kittens, offer wet & dry food bowl*

**5 weeks:** start to climb readily, *encourage wet & dry food eating*

**6 weeks:** kittens climb well (well-coordinated movements), *force wet & dry food eating*

**8 weeks:** kittens approaching 2 lbs.

**PUPPIES and KITTENS taken OUTSIDE need to be on a sanitized surface (concrete, patio, baby pool, etc.) They are not to be taken to any public places or placed directly on the ground for any reason - IT IS A RISK TO THEIR HEALTH**

- For kitten and puppy vaccinations, appointments should be made through our Live Release Team every 2 weeks starting at 4 weeks of age. Adult dogs may also need a checkup for routine medical care. Please check with your Live Release Team for details. **If you are asked to return or bring in a foster animal you must do so ASAP, the animal is still property of CCACS, and you as the foster parent are under agreement to return the animal whenever asked.**
- For kitten and puppy emergencies, first call your Live Release Team. **DO NOT take foster animal to outside vet without prior approval. You will not be reimbursed for outside vet bills.**
- Cleanliness: Puppies and kittens without a mother can get messy. It is important that you do your best to keep them as clean as possible. One way to accomplish this is to stroke each puppy or kitten with a warm, damp cloth, using short strokes to mimic the mother's tongue or use the baby wipes you are provided with at room temperature. A flea comb may be used to remove dried feces or food from the fur. Be sure to dry the puppy or kitten well so it won't get a chill. Check each puppy or kitten frequently and thoroughly from one end to the other—sometimes dried feces can become caked on the underside of the tail or between their toes. Dried feces may be softened and removed by dipping the puppy's or kitten's back end into a basin of warm water and carefully combing through the coat with the flea comb. Many puppies or kittens will not even notice that they are partially wet, but some will protest violently and scramble to escape, so beware of sharp little claws.

# Adoption Ready!

You have survived the past few weeks, and that bittersweet day has arrived. It is time to bring your foster animal back to the shelter to be placed up for adoption, transfer to a rescue, or for them to go to their new forever home.

*First, our Live Release Team will schedule an appointment day to bring your animal back to the shelter.* Your appointment will involve the weighing of your foster (if a puppy or kitten) and upon their weight they will be approved or denied for eligibility for spay or neuter.

Second, show up at the CCACS front office at the scheduled time. Let a staff member know that you are returning your foster animal. Front office staff will alert a staff member. Please note: the front lobby can be quite chaotic at times, and animals will be present that may be sick or aggressive. ***Please do not remove any kittens or puppies from their carriers in the receiving lobby. Keep adult dogs on a short leash and do not allow them to interact with other dogs. Likewise, please refrain from visiting different areas of the shelter or petting stray or shelter animals.***

The third step is to let the Live Release Team know whether you are available to foster again, or if you are ready for a break. If you have difficulty parting with your foster, you may feel like taking another foster animal home right away. If you would rather take a break before the next assignment, that's okay too. Please be sure to let us know when you'll be ready for more, so the Live Release Team can contact you the next time we have a bundle of love in need.

*The final step is to remember to pat yourself on the back for having done a great job. Your hard work and loving care have paid off, and you've quite literally been a lifesaver! We sincerely thank you for giving the gift of life to those animals that might not have been so lucky without your efforts!*

## Thank You!



## Table 1: Known Zoonotic Diseases

<b>Disease</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Treatment/Prognosis</b>	<b>Vaccination/Prevention</b>
<b>Rabies<sup>1</sup></b>	Rabies is a fatal infection caused by a virus that infects the nervous system of mammals, including humans. The disease is found worldwide in wildlife populations of feral dogs, raccoons, bats, foxes, and skunks. Rabies occurs when infected saliva contacts the bloodstream through an animal bite or an open wound. If you are bitten by a mammal, contact your doctor immediately.	Rabies can be treated through an intensive program of vaccine shots during its incubation period; once symptoms present, it is nearly 100% fatal.	Rabies Vaccines for Dogs/Cats begins at 3 months old. The initial revax is in 1 year; revax thereafter is every 3 years. Dogs cannot be licensed in Pima County without proof of a rabies vaccination.
<b>Roundworms<sup>2</sup></b>	Roundworms are parasitic nematodes particularly common in puppies. In the initial stages of infection, they may produce no symptoms other than diarrhea. Children are particularly susceptible to roundworms because they often play in the dirt and sand where the larvae reside. Once ingested, the roundworms will migrate to the lungs, liver, heart, brain and eyes—causing severe damage.	Deworming treatments are used for infection in pets as well as humans. Medication depends upon the species of worm.  Without treatment, infections can cause severe medical complications for humans and canines.	Deworming treatments are given to all shelter dogs. Puppies receive a series of deworming treatments.  Practicing good personal hygiene can help to prevent roundworm infection. Avoid areas where animals frequently defecate and clean up animal waste promptly. Wash your hands often.
<b>Giardia<sup>3</sup></b>	Giardia is an intestinal infection that causes abdominal cramps, bloating, nausea, watery diarrhea, and weight loss. It is caused by a microscopic parasite found worldwide, and it travels via the fecal-oral route. This intestinal disease is common in cats and dogs.	Giardia infections usually clear up within six weeks. But you may have intestinal problems long after the parasites are gone. Testing & drugs are available. Several drugs are generally effective against giardia parasites, but not everyone responds to them.	Giardia can be prevented through proper and thorough hand washing.  There is no drug to prevent giardia infection at this time.
<b>Toxoplasmosis<sup>*</sup></b>	Toxoplasmosis is caused by a common parasite called <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i> . Symptoms vary from none at all to potentially life-threatening for those with underdeveloped immune systems. Cats are common carriers.	Many infected people and pets require no treatment. In cases requiring medication, antibiotics or anti-malarial are commonly prescribed.	Practice safe hygiene, wear gloves when cleaning feces & dirt, and avoid raw or uncooked meats.  There is no vaccine to prevent toxoplasmosis currently.
<b>Ringworm</b>	Ringworm is a fungus that is transmitted through spores. Physical contact with an infected animal is a common way to catch ringworm. Dry, scaly rings will appear after one to two weeks; these are usually reddish and confined to the hairier regions of the scalp, forearms and face. Hair will break off at the roots, creating bald spots.	Anti-fungal ointments are most used to treat ringworm. Ringworm in humans is easily treated and cured. More intensive treatment for cats may cure ringworm, however it can be fatal to very young kittens.	Ringworm can be prevented through proper and thorough hand washing and sterilizing infected areas with a 10% fresh bleach/water solution. Gloves should be worn when handling animals with known ringworm.
<b>Sarcoptic Mange</b>	The parasite that causes Sarcoptic Mange is transmitted through physical contact. Ask your medical doctor for more updated information.	Infected animals suffer blisters, scabs and hair loss and may require oral and possibly topical medication to treat. Animals should receive immediate attention by a veterinarian.	To help prevent Sarcoptic Mange, physical contact with infected animals and their bedding should be avoided.

<sup>1</sup>Mayo Clinic. (Jan 2009) Rabies. <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/rabies/DS00484>

<sup>2</sup>National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases. (Sept 2007) Parasitic Roundworm Diseases. *NIAID Fact Sheet*.

<sup>3</sup>Mayo Clinic. (May 2010) Giardia Infection (Giardiasis). <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/giardia-infection/DS00739>.

<sup>\*</sup>Mayo Clinic. (June 2009) Toxoplasmosis. <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/toxoplasmosis/DS00510>

## Table 2: Common Diseases of Cats

<b>Disease</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Treatment/Prognosis</b>	<b>Vaccination</b>
Feline Panleukopenia (Distemper) <sup>1</sup>	Cat distemper, or panleukopenia, is caused by a virus that compromises the cat's immune system and causes diarrhea and vomiting.  The disease is thought to be non-zoonotic.	Treatment of secondary infections can be done with antibiotics, fluids, and medications to prevent serious symptoms; direct treatment of the virus is extremely difficult.	Part of the basic annual vaccination (FVRCP) for cats
Feline URI: Upper Respiratory Infection	Feline URI is caused by many viruses and/or bacteria, most often Feline Herpesvirus-1, Feline Calicivirus, <i>Chlamydomphila felis</i> , <i>Mycoplasma</i> , and <i>Bordetella bronchiiseptica</i> . Symptoms include sneezing, running eyes, nasal discharge, red eyes and fever. It is very common in shelter cats.  The disease is thought to be non-zoonotic, however humans with compromised immune systems, or those around a large cat population, may be able to catch a kitty cold.	Although cat colds can resolve untreated, they can also make a cat susceptible to pneumonia and other diseases in a shelter environment. Treatment with antibiotics and IV fluids is common. Eye ointment is sometimes used as well.	Part of the basic annual vaccination (FVRCP) for cats
Feline Leukemia <sup>2</sup>	Feline leukemia virus (FeLV) is a retrovirus transmitted through saliva and nasal secretions. The disease can lead to cancer, blood disorders, and immune deficiency in cats.  The disease is thought to be non-zoonotic.	There is no known treatment for FeLV; cats can live for years with FeLV if secondary infections are treated, and a healthy lifestyle is prescribed.  Foster cats and kittens will be tested. Since kittens under 3 months of age may show a "false" negative when tested, it is a good idea to keep them completely separate from your own cats.	The FeLV vaccine is required for cats that spend any time outdoors. It is an annual vaccine.  If you foster kittens or cats, it is extremely important to be sure that your own pets are fully always vaccinated.
Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) and Feline AIDS <sup>3</sup>	FIV is a retrovirus that is most commonly transmitted through biting. It leads to a compromised immune system and resulting secondary infection along with other, serious medical problems.  The disease is thought to be non-zoonotic.	There is no known treatment for FIV; cats can live for years with FIV if secondary infections are treated, and a healthy lifestyle is prescribed.  The FIV test is valid for cats older than 6 months. This test is usually given in conjunction with the Feline Leukemia test.	

<sup>1</sup>Pawprints and Purrs, Inc. (2010) Cat Health Care: Feline Panleukopenia (Distemper). <http://www.sniksnak.com/cathealth/distemper.html>

<sup>2</sup>Cornell Feline Health Center (2004) Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV). Cornell University, College of Veterinary Medicine. <http://www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc/resources/brochure/felv.html>

<sup>3</sup>Cornell Feline Health Center (2003) Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV). Cornell University, College of Veterinary Medicine. <http://www.vet.cornell.edu/FHC/resources/brochure/fiv.html>

## Table 3: Common Diseases of Dogs

<b>Disease</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Treatment/Prognosis</b>	<b>Vaccination</b>
----------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------

<p>Canine Distemper<sup>1</sup></p>	<p>Canine distemper is caused by a paramyxovirus and can affect dogs of all ages. It can spread through bodily secretions as well as through the air. It is, therefore, highly contagious.</p> <p>Canine distemper can lead to a plethora of respiratory, gastrointestinal, and neurological symptoms. It can also lead to death.</p> <p>The disease is not thought to be transmittable to humans.</p>	<p>There is no direct treatment for canine distemper. Treatment of secondary illness and special care may lead to a complete or partial recovery; however the disease can still be fatal.</p>	<p>CCACS vaccinates our dogs with DAPP. The "D" is the distemper vaccine.</p> <p>Annual vaccinations protect against these serious and often fatal canine diseases. Your own dogs must be kept currently vaccinated at all times.</p>
<p>Canine Parvovirus<sup>2</sup></p>	<p>Parvovirus is a small virus that tends to prefer a single species as host. Canine parvo is not known to be transmissible to humans, though a strain isolated in 2000 has been found to transmit to cats.</p> <p>Researchers have shown that parvovirus is present in almost all environments, however puppies tend to be at the highest risk because of their underdeveloped immune system. Unvaccinated puppies can easily catch parvo by licking themselves or other infected surfaces. Once infected, a puppy can die from dehydration due to vomiting/diarrhea or from septic death.</p>	<p>Active canine parvo is generally treated with a combination IV fluids, antibiotics, nausea control medication, and frequent testing to evaluate treatment regime.</p> <p>Parvo is a serious and potentially deadly canine disease.</p>	<p>CCACS vaccinates our dogs with DAPP. Part of this vaccination combo is the parvo virus vaccine.</p> <p>Annual vaccinations protect against these serious and often fatal canine diseases. Your own dogs must be kept currently vaccinated at all times.</p>
<p>Kennel Cough<sup>3</sup></p>	<p>Kennel cough (or canine URI, or canine infectious tracheobronchitis) is caused by many viruses and/or bacteria, most often parainfluenza, mycoplasma, and <i>Bordetella bronchiseptica</i>. Canine herpes virus and canine adenovirus type 2 may also infect dogs. Symptoms include dry cough, nasal discharge, and fever. It is very common in shelter dogs.</p> <p>The disease is thought to be non-zoonotic, however humans with compromised immune systems, or those around a large dog population, may be able to catch a doggie cold.</p>	<p>Left untreated, kennel cough usually resolves on its own, however it can lead to pneumonia and can be lethal to animals with underdeveloped or suppressed immune systems.</p> <p>For this reason, shelter dogs with kennel cough are immediately isolated and treated with antibiotics.</p>	<p>Intranasal Bordetella (INB) is given to all dogs and puppies at time of intake at the shelter. Your own dogs should be kept up to date on their Bordetella vaccinations.</p> <p>The DAPP also includes an adenovirus component and a parainfluenza component.</p>
<p>Canine Coccidia (Coccidiosis)*</p>	<p>Coccidia are parasitic protozoa. The primary sign of an animal suffering with coccidiosis is diarrhea. Blood and mucous may be present, especially in advanced cases. Severely affected animals may also vomit, lose their appetite, become dehydrated, and in some instances, die from the disease. Most infected puppies encountered are in the four to twelve week age group.</p> <p>The type of coccidia (<i>Isospora</i>) that affects dogs and cats is not thought to be transmissible to humans.</p>	<p>Drugs to inhibit coccidian reproduction can successfully treat infected dogs.</p>	<p>Since coccidian are spread through feces, strict adherence to sanitary practices is recommended. This includes disinfecting, swift removal of feces, and separation of food/water area from area of defecation.</p>

<sup>1</sup> (2009) Canine Distemper. [CanineDistemper.org](http://CanineDistemper.org)

<sup>2</sup> Mar Vista Animal Medical Center. (2009) Canine Parvovirus. [http://www.marvistavet.com/html/body\\_canine\\_parvovirus.html](http://www.marvistavet.com/html/body_canine_parvovirus.html)

<sup>3</sup> Foster and Smith (2010) Kennel Cough (Infectious Tracheobronchitis) in Dogs. <http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?c=2+2102&aid=452>

- Foster and Smith (2010) Coccidia (Coccidiosis): A Cause of Diarrhea. <http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?c=2+2090&aid=727>



# The Foster Care Agreement

I, \_\_\_\_\_ agree to act as temporary Foster Home for Corpus Christi Animal Care Services (herein known as CCACS). I agree to abide by the following conditions whenever fostering animals for CCACS.

## All animals entering foster care must have gone through CCACS protocols prior to leaving CCACS.

1. Any animal fostered by me will be kept in an approved CCACS facility. I understand that any animal I foster is the property of CCACS, and I agree to turn it over to CCACS immediately upon request. I agree to bring any animal fostered by me to the shelter for exams, vaccinations, weight checks, or other reason deemed necessary by CCACS at a mutually agreed upon date and/or time.
2. I agree to inform CCACS if I will be away and/or unable to care for the animal(s) fostered by me. This includes, but is not limited to, illness, hospital stays, vacations, and business trips. CCACS will find a temporary foster home for the animal or may house the animal in the clinic during this time.
3. I understand that CCACS can send an officer to a premises check which can include a visual inspection of the living quarters of all animals in that environment and testing for transmissible disease.
4. I understand that I am responsible for adhering to all standards of care and applicable local and state laws dealing with animal welfare. Any animal fostered by me will be fed, watered, and exercised appropriately. I agree to provide an adequate and nutritious diet and will not feed anything that is not approved by CCACS to my foster animal.
5. I will not allow any dogs or puppies to have any unsupervised off-leash time outside of an enclosed area (ex. dog park, back yard). I will keep them in a kennel, crate, secure room, and/or play pin when I am gone from home for their safety. I will not allow foster cats, kittens, or puppies to go outside unattended at any time. I agree to transport any foster cats, kittens, puppies, and small dogs in a sturdy carrier. I agree to transport any foster animal in an enclosed vehicle only, and I will not allow them to ride in the bed of a pickup or a convertible.
6. I agree that dogs and puppies will not be kept outside unless otherwise discussed and approved by CCACS.
7. I understand that CCACS will take every precaution to ensure that any animal I foster are reasonably healthy and that any known health problems will be disclosed to me prior to my taking the animal into my home, but CCACS cannot be held responsible for any unforeseen health problem that may develop after the animal is/are in my care. I agree to inform CCACS immediately of any health problems with any foster animal in my care. I understand that CCACS may require me to return my foster animal to the shelter to assess or treat any health problem, at its discretion. *If I choose to treat the animal(s) at a veterinarian of my choice, I understand that I will assume full responsibility for payment of the vet bill, and that CCACS will be unable to reimburse me for any such payment.*

8. I agree to provide adequate, positive socialization for any animal fostered by me to help ensure their temperament will be as sound as possible. I also agree, when requested, to give a progress report to CCACS. I agree to bring my foster animal in to the shelter for any required vaccinations, de-worming, or other medication prescribed (provided by CCACS at no cost to me), or adoption events or meet and greets. When the foster period is over, I will return the animal, and will do so at the agreed upon time.
9. I understand that the possibility of foster animals fighting, injuring, or spreading illness to my own pets does exist. I agree that I will keep my own pet up to date on vaccines and de-wormers according to my own veterinarian, while I am fostering any animal for CCACS. I understand that if I choose to allow my foster animal and my own pet to have access to each other, I do so at my own risk, and will not hold CCACS liable for any illness or injury that may occur to my own pet.
10. I agree to keep CCACS animals safe from harm and illness as a result of contact with resident pets.
11. I understand the potential for contagious illness is high in animals. Therefore, I agree I will not foster more than one litter at one time. I agree not to mix animals from more than one litter unless approved by CCACS. I also agree not to foster animals from any other organization while I am fostering for CCACS, unless granted specific approval by CCACS.
12. I assume responsibility for any events that occur in connection with my fostering of an animal for CCACS. I understand the possibility of my children or others being bitten, scratched, or contracting disease does exist. I agree to be responsible for my children and anyone else handling any animal fostered by me in a safe and hygienic manner and will not hold CCACS responsible for any injuries that may result from my failure to do so. ***I agree to notify a CCACS representative immediately of any bites that break the skin*** that occurs to any person or animal while any foster animal is in my care.
13. Any animal fostered by me is to be **adopted to a permanent home only under the supervision of CCACS, to an adopter approved by CCACS**. All foster animals ***must*** be return to CCACS for completion of adoption paperwork prior to permanent adoption. I understand that if I find a suitable home for any animal that I am fostering, all of the above conditions must apply, and that the adopter must pay the adoption fee.
14. If I or any member of my immediate household chooses to adopt an animal fostered by me, I agree to abide by all conditions of adoptions. I also understand that said animal must first be returned to the shelter for sterilization surgery, adoption paperwork must be completed, and any applicable fees paid.

***I have read and agree to the above terms:***

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_