



PO Box 149 • Montclair, NJ 07042 • 973-746-5212

## Cat/Kitten Foster Policies and Guidelines

PAWS Montclair has no facility to house rescued cats. We depend on compassionate and caring people who are willing to volunteer as Foster Parents to provide a home environment for cats while they await permanent placement. Foster homes provide a less stressful environment than a shelter, or other facility, and speeds up the socialization process by allowing the cat to interact with people. Foster Parents are essential to the welfare and proper placement of our cats as they increase the cat's chance of finding a loving, permanent home.

### Foster Policies:

- You must be able to transport the cats/kittens to and from the fostering location to adoption events and a veterinarian for treatment, when necessary.
- You must always keep the cats/kittens inside and provide them with suitable food, fresh water, clean litter, a warm and safe dry place to sleep, and lots of loving attention.
- You may need to give the cats/kittens medications or baths. Many of the cat/kittens that come to PAWS are rescued from less than ideal environments and may be dirty, have fleas, mites, worms and other medical issues.

### You will need the following items to care for the cat/kittens:

**Dishes for food and water and cat/kitten food:** Food and water dishes should be heavy and sturdy so your cat/kitten can't flip them over. Ceramic or stainless steel bowls are recommended over plastic. Food should be of formulas specific for their age and growth.

**A litter box, cat litter, and scoop:** Make sure the litter box isn't too big for them to get in and out of easily (especially kittens), or too small so they have trouble using it. Cats tend to prefer unscented litter and open topped litter boxes.

**A sturdy scratching post(s):** You can train them by redirecting their efforts to the post each time you catch them sharpening claws elsewhere. The scratching post(s) can be part of a cat tree or perch.

**A comb and brush:** Regular grooming helps prevent hairballs and is an absolute necessity for longhaired cats/kittens. Grooming time is also excellent to help in socializing cats/kittens.

**Toys:** Cats, especially kittens, are naturally quite playful. You can purchase toys, or make your own from bits of cord and wads of paper, but don't let them eat the string or cord. Catnip is not recommended for young kittens. Never use your hands or fingers as cat toys; otherwise they will learn to play "attack" hands when petted.

**Places to play hide and seek and to sleep:** Cardboard boxes with towels for bedding make inexpensive places for play and sleep. Cut holes in the boxes for them to go in and out of.

## PAWS Cat/Kitten Foster Policies and Guidelines, cont.

**Safe Environment:** Cat, especially kittens, are naturally inquisitive and things they want to play with might be harmful to them, like the cords on blinds, electrical cords, or plants to nibble that could be toxic.

They can also do a certain amount of damage with their sharp claws by climbing curtains or your good furniture. Therefore, a certain amount of cat proofing will be necessary.

### **Caring for cats/kittens:**

**Litter training:** Usually it is just a matter of placing them in the box once when they first arrive in your home, and again if they have an accident. If you have more than one cat, you will need more than one litter box, ideally placed in multiple locations. Most cat/kittens catch on to litter training pretty quickly. Keep the litter box clean and do not use harsh chemicals to clean it as they can be toxic.

**Food and water:** Change water daily and provide a steady supply of food as recommended. Kittens, can eat a lot, after all, they have lot of growing to do. A few don't for kittens under 16 weeks: No cow's milk as it can cause diarrhea, and No seafood-based foods or raw meat.

**Socialization:** This is the most important part of a kittens' life! Play with your kittens, let your kids play with your kittens, carefully, or course. However, do not introduce them to other cats in your household unless they have been tested negative for FIV/FelV. Do not mix litters unless they have been screened by PAWS Montclair to be together. Don't tiptoe around your kittens or be afraid to make noise.



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## Cat/Kitten Foster Application

### **Section 1: Tell us about yourself:**

Last name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Place of employment \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

When are you available to start fostering? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want to foster? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever fostered for another organization? If so, which organization and when? \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you live? House Condo Apartment Trailer Student Housing Military Housing Other

Length of residency \_\_\_\_\_ Do you plan on moving in the next 1 – 2 months? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you: Own Rent Live with parents/relative Live with friends Other \_\_\_\_\_

If rent, list landlord's name/telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

If live with parents/relatives, list homeowner's name /telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

### **SECTION 2: Tell us about your household:**

How many people live in your home: \_\_\_\_\_ Do children under 18 live there: Y N

If yes, list their ages and if they are there full or part time \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any health conditions that could restrict your ability to care for your fosters, either now or in the future? If yes, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

Who will be responsible for your fosters? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you or any members of your household allergic to cats? Y N Unknown

How many hours per day will your fosters be without human companionship? \_\_\_\_\_

### **SECTION 3: Tell us about your pets:**

Do you currently have any pets? If so, please fill in the chart below:

Species (cat or dog)	Breed	Name	Age	Sex	Spayed/neutered		Declawed		Current on shots/vet visits	
					Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
					Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
					Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
					Y	N	Y	N	Y	N

Please list your veterinarian's name and phone number \_\_\_\_\_

If you do not have a vet reference, please list two personal references that can describe your experience with pets

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Relation \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Relation \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever surrendered an animal to a shelter or rescue? Y N  
If yes, to whom was the animal surrendered and what were the circumstances? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a fenced yard? \_\_\_\_\_ What is the fence height? \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 4: Tell us about fostering:**

Do you agree to a home visit from a PAWS representative before and during the fostering process: Y N

Please select the types of fosters in which you are interested. Choose as many apply:

Bottle feeding kittens , Nursing moms with kittens , Kittens , Adult Cats , Special needs cats

Do you have any special criteria for a foster that would live at your residence (age, sex, activity level, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

How long are you willing to keep a foster cat/kitten? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be able to provide food and litter approved by PAWS for your foster? \_\_\_\_\_

Where will your foster sleep? \_\_\_\_\_

What expectations do you have from PAWS during the foster period? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you able to bring your fosters to a designated PAWS veterinarian for medical treatment if needed?

Y N

If necessary, are you able to give your fosters oral or topical medication? Y N

Are you able to monitor your fosters for signs that they may need medical attention, such as diarrhea, vomiting, dehydration, lethargy, etc.? \_\_\_\_\_

I declare that I have accurately completed this foster application, and that if any of the information given on my application is discovered to be inaccurate or false, I must immediately return my foster animal(s) to the care of PAWS.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name Signature Date

**FOR INTERNAL USE:**

Date application received by foster coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

Vet check results: \_\_\_\_\_

Landlord check results: \_\_\_\_\_

All family members in agreement: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED / DENIED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_