



FOSTER CARE

Thinking about becoming a foster care home?

Please ask yourself these important questions first.....

1. Are you able to work with harsh cleaning chemicals, such as bleach?

Between sets of foster animals, you should thoroughly clean the foster area with a disinfecting chemical.

2. Are you able to separate the foster animals from your own?

Foster animals should be isolated from your own companion animals. A separate room or enclosed area with NO carpet will work best.

3. Are you aware there is a great deal of clean up and even possible damage to your home when you take a foster animal home?

Foster animals have ruined drapes, carpeting, clothing, shoes, and other valuable items. Preparing your home and the area the animals will stay in can prevent most accidents, but not all of them.

4. Are you able to monitor the health of the foster animals?

You will need to pay attention to signs of illness and worsening of symptoms and call a member of the CARE foster program if you are concerned. [The Foster Care Manual describes what to look for and the CARE foster team will help you decide if you should bring the animals to the vet for treatment.]

5. Can you get the animals to the vet in case of emergency?

If the animals you are fostering need medical attention, are you able to transport your foster animal to Island Veterinary Services for immediate care?

6. Are you emotionally prepared to return the animal to CARE after the foster period?

It can be very difficult to let go once you have become emotionally attached to the animals. Be prepared for tears and heartache when the day comes that you must bring your first foster animals back to CARE.

7. Can you place your trust in CARE to decide what is best for the animal regarding its medical care and adoptability?

Sometimes adoption is not an option even after the animal has been fostered. Knowing that an animal you have fostered may need to be euthanized can be very hard to deal with.

8. Do you feel comfortable explaining to friends that these animals are not yours to adopt out and that they must go through the regular adoption process with CARE because CARE is the legal owner of the animal?

If you are interested in helping to find homes for your foster animals, refer your friends and family to a member of CARE, to complete an adoption application when the foster animals are available for adoption.

Thank you for taking the time to review these questions before applying to become a foster care home. It is important to understand the full scope of responsibility you will be taking on as a foster care family.

We appreciate your interest in the CARE Foster Care Program.

If this is not the program for you, there are other ways to assist our cause. Please feel free to ask a member of CARE for more information in the areas in which we need assistance.