



# Longmont Humane Society Foster Program

## Common Foster Needs

### Common Cat Foster Needs

#### **Pregnant/ Mother Cat with Nursing Young:**

Sometimes we will have pregnant cats and nursing moms with kittens dropped off at the shelter either as strays or surrenders, or a cat will give birth while already here. Mom will need to be kept with her kittens until they are weaned around 4-6 weeks of age, and the kittens will need to remain in foster until they are ready for surgery and adoption (around 8-9 weeks of age). May require up to 9-10 weeks in the foster home.



#### **Bottle Baby Kittens:**

We get newborn kittens in to the shelter who do not have a mother and will need to be bottle fed until they are able to eat on their own. These little guys generally require round the clock care, including overnight feedings, until they are at least 2-3 weeks old. They will not be very mobile or able to eliminate on their own until they are at least 3 weeks old as well and will always need to be kept warm. They can live in a carrier for the first couple of weeks. May require up to 9 weeks or so in the foster home.



#### **Slurry Kittens:**

These little guys are just past the bottle-feeding stage and have just started eating on their own around 3-5 weeks of age. The slurry refers to a mixture of canned kitten food and kitten formula, as they may not be able to eat the dry food on their own and will just be learning to drink water on their own as well. They will sometimes need some assistance via syringe or supplemental bottle feeding until they really get the hang of it and will require at least 4-5 daily feedings until they are eating more consistently on their own. They should be starting to use the litter box on their own but may need some help with that at first as well. Will usually require 4-6 weeks in the foster home.



## Weaned, Underage Kittens:

These kittens will be about 5-8 weeks of age and should be fully weaned and eating completely on their own and generally be pretty good with the litter box. They will usually be independent and playful and will only require two wet food feedings in addition to their dry food. Will usually require about 2-3 weeks in foster depending on their age.



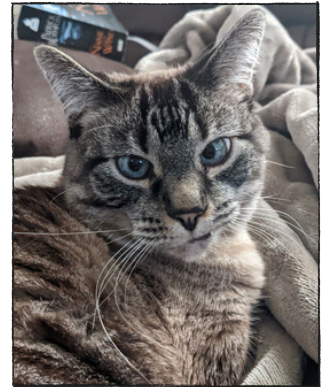
## Under-socialized Cats/ Kittens:

These kitties can vary in age and need some work learning how to fully trust people so they can become adoptable. Some will have come from feral cat colonies or hoarding situations and may never have known people before, and others just may be very shy. They will require a lot of patience and work with safe handling techniques to properly socialize them. The time in foster will be extremely variable depending on how easily they are able to be socialized.



## Sick, Injured, Surgery Recovery, Break from Shelter, and Hospice Cats:

These are many various scenarios that we may have a need for. These felines can vary in age, temperament, and need level. Most just need some TLC until they can come back for adoption, or a comfortable place to live out their days due a terminal illness. We will give complete instructions for their care both in the home and any necessary follow up back at the shelter. The time in foster will be extremely variable depending on the reason for foster.



## Common Dog Foster Needs

### Pregnant/ Mother Dog with Nursing Young:



Sometimes we will transfer in pregnant and/or nursing moms with their puppies from out of state, or a dog will give birth while already here. Mom will need to be kept with her puppies until they are weaned around 4-6 weeks of age, and the puppies will need to remain in foster until they are ready for surgery and adoption (around 8-9 weeks of age). May require up to 9-10 weeks in the foster home.



## Weaned, Underage Puppies:

We will occasionally have a single puppy, or a litter come into us as a stray, or surrendered by their owners. We also frequently transfer in puppies from out of state to give them a new chance at life here! They are usually between 5 and 8 weeks of age and should be eating well on their own and should be very playful! They will need work with general manners, leash walking, and house-training, but should be a very fun foster to have! Will usually require about 2-3 weeks in foster depending on their age.



## Unicorn Foster:



The term "Unicorn foster" describes someone that has the perfect home set up to take an animal that may be harder to place in the standard home. This home may have no kids or pets with infrequent visitors. However, a Unicorn foster can be **anyone** willing to give a "Unicorn" a chance and the foster needs **no prior dog experience**. Each dog is an individual, so as long as the Unicorn foster has the right setup for that dog, then we will place the dog with them.

Unicorns can be dogs that exhibit the following traits:

- Wariness of Strangers
- Dog Selectivity & Reactivity
- Resource guarding from people
- Extreme jumpy/mouthy
- Separation anxiety
- Anything behavior-related that causes a barrier for the dog.

By focusing resources on moving these at-risk dogs into foster homes, we can significantly decrease the length of stay and avoid many behaviors exhibited by sheltered pets. Additionally, we can better determine if a dog's behavior is purely environmentally- specific to shelter stress or something likely to be displayed in an adoptive home.

Our Training and Behavior Team will be there to support you throughout the foster and will be happy help you with any issues that arise. The time in foster will be variable depending on the individual needs of the animal.



Mischa  
Adopted May 2020



Ryan  
Adopted March 2021

## Sick, Injured, Surgery Recovery, Break from Shelter, and Hospice Dogs:

These are many various scenarios that we may have a need for. These dogs will vary in age, temperament, and need level. Most just need some TLC until they can come back for adoption, or a comfortable place to live out their days due a terminal illness. We will give complete instructions for their care both in the home and any necessary follow up back at the shelter. The time in foster will be extremely variable depending on the reason for foster.



## Other Animal Needs

### Small Mammals:



We have a variety of small mammals here at the shelter and it is always possible that some may need to spend some time in a foster home. In most cases, they don't have any particularly special needs, but every foster is unique. Most often we have animals that are too young and need some time to grow, a specific medical issue, or just to get a break from the shelter and free up some space when we are overcrowded. The foster period is extremely variable, but the average is between 2 and 4 weeks.

### Birds:

We do adopt out birds at the Longmont Humane Society, but they are probably the rarest of our foster scenarios. They may have a medical issue that needs time, or we may need to free up some space in our aviary. The foster period will be rather variable depending on the needs of the individual animal.

### Other Animals:

While we are generally unable to care for and adopt out reptiles, ferrets, and pigs; those are just a few examples of the other types of animals we have had in the shelter. If we are unable to transfer them to an appropriate shelter environment, we may solicit foster until we are able to find them a more permanent home. These will be extremely rare but are certainly a possibility! As with all listed above, the foster period will be variable.

## Safe Keep:

Safe Keep is a program to provide temporary housing for owned animals whose people are experiencing a crisis. This can include pet owners who:

- Are experiencing temporary homelessness
- Need to enter some sort of rehabilitation
- Are experiencing a hospital stay or another medical situation
- Are moving into assisted living who need time to make arrangements for pets.

This is a great opportunity to help the community in a substantial way and varies from our regular foster opportunities because these are owned animals. (No chance for a foster fail!) We'll typically know more about the animals' background too: whether the animal is housetrained or not, any preferences for food, people, other animals etc. The foster period is rather variable here, since it may take time for the owners to get back on their feet. Depending on the owner's situation, the foster period can be as short as 1 week or as long as a few months.

## Foster Home Requirements:

Longmont Humane offers all foster families a supply room to gather any supplies you may need. This supply room is open when the shelter is open. If you need something that isn't available, please contact the Foster Department for those specific items. If you do buy something for your foster animals, please save your receipt as you can claim it as a donation on your yearly taxes. All foster homes with Longmont Humane Society will be required to have a yearly home inspection as well as current home/renters' insurance.



Please contact our Foster Program Supervisor if you have any other questions!

**Email:** [foster@longmonthumane.org](mailto:foster@longmonthumane.org)

**Phone:** (303) 772-1232

