

General Foster Volunteer

General Foster Volunteers support the Edmonton Humane Society by providing a temporary living situation outside of the shelter environment for animals of many different backgrounds. This allows the animals to have the opportunity to mature, heal, and/or socialize while continuing to receive essential care from the shelter in preparation for their adoptive home.

Some examples of the types of animals needing foster placement are orphan kittens, mother cats with nursing kittens, puppies, kittens, rabbits and small animals, among others. By providing a safe and respectful environment that is conducive to the growth and wellbeing of the animal, you will be an integral part of finding their forever home. Applicants will be given the opportunity to select which classification(s) they would be most comfortable fostering.

Responsibilities & Tasks:

- Feed foster animal(s) daily using the recommendations provided by EHS. Follow and respect any dietary restrictions set for the animal.
- Ensure the animal is able to rest. Follow guidelines for exercise/socialization as per care plan.
- Ensure the animal has a safe and quiet environment to facilitate calm and respectful socialization opportunities.
- Ensure resident pets are healthy, up to date on vaccinations, and spayed/neutered
- Transport the animal to and from the shelter to attend appointments as needed (appointment frequency varies depending on the nature of the foster placement, generally anywhere from 2-3 days to every 2 weeks)
- Administer medications and treatments as required per the care plan.
- Maintain regular communications with the Foster Coordinator(s).
- Report any concerns/issues to the Foster Coordinator(s) immediately.

Skills and Capabilities:

- Experience in a professional setting or as a pet owner is beneficial
- Great communication skills required: verbal and written via email/phone.
- Previous experience in a professional setting and/or knowledge of pet ownership is beneficial
- Attention to detail – able to follow verbal and written instructions as per care plans
 - Able to administer medications (training/instructions will be provided)
- Organized and punctual
- Patience and flexibility

Commitment and Scheduling:

- Short or long-term depending on preferences selected

Role Requirements:

- Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older to apply.
- Resident pets must have current vaccines and be spayed/neutered.
- Resident pets must be calm and social.
- Must have a separate room to isolate foster animals with bleachable surfaces.
- Must have time and lifestyle to support specified foster care plans.
- Regular and reliable access to a vehicle.
- Additional requirements (only applicable to dogs):
 - Resident dog(s) required to attend a meet and greet with foster dog prior to placement.
 - Residents of the household (family members including children) must be willing to attend a meet and greet with any foster dog(s) prior to placement.

Screening:

- Please share your previous experience with animals. Do you have any medical, behavioural, or fostering experience with pets?
- Are you willing to learn how to administer medications with instructions provided by the EHS medical Department?
- Are you willing to follow a behaviour modification plan with guidance from the EHS Behaviour Department?
- Do you have experience handling fearful or under-socialized animals? Please explain.
- Are you willing to foster animals that are reactive towards other animals?
- Do you have experience handling reactive and/or impulsive animals? Please explain.
- Are you willing to foster animals that may house soil and/or require training to resolve house soiling concerns?
- Are you willing to foster animals who are vocal? (ex. Barking or yowling)

Onboarding & Training:

- General Foster Volunteer Orientation
- Additional training based on preferences selected (ex. Dogs and Puppies, Cats and Kittens etc)

Benefits of Being an EHS Foster Parent:

- Joining a team of like-minded individuals who value animals and their welfare
- EHS provides all supplies and veterinary care.
- Over 1,400 animals benefit from foster care each year; spending time in a loving home environment sets them up for success in their future adoptive homes.

Ready to Get Started?

[Apply to Foster with EHS](#)