

Can't Adopt? Why not foster?

Every day the Humane Society of Portage County (HSPC) welcomes visitors who are not in a position to adopt an animal, but would like to know how they can help support our **lifesaving mission** – to never euthanize any adoptable animal due to space constraints.

Fostering provides a wonderful opportunity for an animal to receive care in a **loving, home environment**, while they await their turn on the adoption floor. It is also a wonderful way to enjoy the companionship of an animal, without taking on the permanent responsibility.

HSPC will cover **all** of the costs of the animal while it is in foster by providing all of the necessary supplies, accessories or medical care if needed.



All of the photos used in this brochure were taken by people just like you who foster for the Humane Society of Portage County.

How can I become a foster home?

The process is **simple**! We invite you to contact our Foster Care Coordinator to set up a foster training session. These sessions are scheduled by appointment, based on your availability.

In your foster training session you will fill out an application to become a foster home. The Foster Care Coordinator will assist you in determining which types of animals are a good fit for you and **your** lifestyle. You provide the love and space – we'll provide everything else! It is just that **simple**.

To schedule your foster training session or to get answers to your foster questions, please contact the Adoption Foster Care Coordinator at:
Adoption Department
715-344-6012 ext. 308
adoption@hspcwi.org



Humane Society of Portage County Foster Program



You provide the love and space – we'll provide everything else!





Foster homes are very important members of the Humane Society of Portage County.

Foster Care in a Nutshell

Animals not yet ready for adoption become candidates for foster care. These could be kittens not old enough for adoption, adult cats recovering from a surgery or an illness, a dog recently transferred that staff would like to know more about, or an animal waiting for a specialized living environment to become available.

By housing animals not yet ready for adoption off-site, HSPC can maximize the total number of adoptable animals housed on-site. Space is precious in our facility, especially during the warmer months of the year. Foster homes are a critical component to sustaining our Life Saving Mission – to *never* euthanize a healthy, adoptable animal for space.

What types of animals need foster care?

There are a variety of reasons why an animal may find itself in need of foster care. Many of our foster parents choose to specialize in particular types of animals, while others will remain flexible to the needs of the shelter. Read more to find out what types of animals may be a good match for you!

Kittens

There is no doubt about it, the animals that represent the largest demographic in need of foster care, are kittens. Cats are seasonal breeders. The homeless cat population rises and falls seasonally as a result. HSPC expects its foster care program to serve 400 to 500 kittens each year between the months of May and November.

Kittens under the age of 8 weeks, go into foster care to learn social skills and to prevent the exposure of their fragile immune systems to harmful viruses.

Every two weeks, foster parents of kittens will bring them to the shelter for a brief checkup. The appointment consists of vaccinations, a nail trim, routine de-worming treatments and a weigh-in.

Adult Cats

Mature cats also find themselves in need of foster care. Cats on special diets, those preferring to live as a single cat, or cats struggling in our community room settings are candidates for individual condo living. These independent living environments are much more

spacious and accommodating. Condo space is very limited. If a condo is not available for an adult cat in need, this cat can

be placed in a foster home to await its turn in the next available condo. Adult cats may arrive at HSPC with

medical issues needing correction before they are ready for adoption. Often, adult cats will heal from surgeries or illnesses in foster care.

Dogs & Small Mammals

Long-term dog residents need a break from the stress of the kennel environment. Foster care can provide this relief.

The foster care program is critical to maintaining the Life Saving Mission of HSPC – to never euthanize for space.

While not utilized as frequently as foster homes for cats and kittens,

and other species of animals such as rabbits, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, and many others are also needed.



The Right Match

The Foster Care Coordinator at HSPC is dedicated to matching up foster animals with foster homes that can meet their needs. They will work with each individual foster home to determine what types of animals are most likely to be successful in their placements. They will also work with your schedule by predicting the length of stay of an animal. Animals, on average, stay in foster care for 4-6 weeks.

We are with you every step of the way

The caring staff at the Humane Society of Portage County want your foster care experience to be as successful as possible. We are invested in the well-being of the animal and in you, the volunteer. The Foster Care Coordinator and the dedicated caregiving staff of HSPC will make sure all of your questions are answered and that you will receive all necessary training. We are just a phone call or email away if you need help. While we hope you will never have to use it, we will also provide a 24-hour emergency phone number to you in case of an overnight problem with an animal in your care.