



One of our greatest needs – **Good Foster Homes!**

Why should I foster cats or kittens?

Fostering is an incredibly rewarding and fun way to volunteer and make a difference!

The adoptable cats & kittens that Feral Fixers rescues from outside need socialization and love to prepare them for adoption. Without enough foster homes, we are forced to return adoptable cats & kittens back outdoors after their spay/neuter surgery.

Feral Fixers offers support for our foster homes with connections to foster counselors available to answer questions throughout the process. There is also a community of supportive foster families who share their challenges and successes!

What will I need to do as a foster parent?

Foster homes are responsible for the daily care of their cats or kittens. This includes feeding, cleaning, maintaining the litter box, monitoring the cats' or kittens' health and administering medication if directed. Most importantly, playing with cats or kittens, and, giving them lots of love!

Our cats & kittens have been rescued from outside, so they are generally rather shy around new people. Socialization is therefore an important part of fostering. Socialization involves holding, petting, loving, playing with them, feeding them on your lap, etc. Getting them used to human touch and different situations. When kittens are socialized at an early age, they can easily become friendly house kitties in no time.

We ask that you keep your foster cats or kittens in a single room (e.g. spare bathroom, bedroom, office). Many kittens need to be crated at first. Initially limiting their boundaries is critical for more rapid socialization. This also ensures they are safe overnight and when you are not at home.

What if I already have a pet?

Resident pets are generally a benefit to the fostering. Foster cats or kittens will stay in their designated foster room, so interaction with resident pets can be managed.

Positive interactions between foster cats or kittens and resident dogs can help prepare the foster cats or kittens for introduction into a home with dogs, thereby increasing their adoptability. All resident pets need to be up to date on core vaccinations.

Do I need to be home with the cat or kitten all day?

That is not necessary. Many of our foster families are employed outside the home. All of our cats and nearly all of our kittens are litter box trained and able to eat on their own. To ensure their safety, it will be important to keep them in your designated foster room while you are away. The more time you can spend with the cats or kittens, however, the quicker they will socialize and become ready for adoption.

What will it cost to foster cats or kittens?

Feral Fixers can provide you with the necessary supplies for fostering and we cover all medical care. Since we survive on donations, if you can supply the necessary food and litter, it is most appreciated. If not, we can provide that as well.

How is the medical care of my foster cats or kittens handled?

In general, adult cats require little medical care other than their spay/neuter surgery and vaccinations. Kittens require periodic deworming, vaccinations and possibly other medication that Feral Fixers will provide. It will be helpful if you can drive the kittens to/from Lombard for vaccinations.

If your foster cat or kitten becomes ill, you will consult with Feral Fixers and either be provided with the necessary medication and guidance, or a vet visit will be scheduled at Glen Ellyn Animal Hospital (GEAH). You will be asked to drive your foster to/from the visit. Some drop off or evening vet appointments are available.

Most of our spay/neuter surgeries are performed by DuPage County Animal Services (DCAS) or ADOPT Pet Shelter. You will be contacted when it is time to schedule the surgery. You will be responsible for getting your fosters to and from our building. Volunteers handle transport between our building and DCAS/ADOPT for the surgery.

How long do cats or kittens stay in foster care?

The fostering interval for a cat or kittens can vary from a few weeks to several months, depending on cat's or kitten's age, medical condition, and social ability. We generally ask our foster homes to keep their foster cats or kittens until they are adopted.

Arrangements can be made for vacations or other circumstances. Becoming a vacation coverage foster home is a need we have especially during the summer and holidays.

Feral Fixers conducts adoption events at our building and local pet stores generally 2-3 times/month. Foster parents will be notified if there is cage space available for them to bring their foster cats or kittens to the event. In between events, adoptions are done from foster homes or our building.

If possible, we ask foster families to host the visits of pre-screened potential adopters with their foster cats or kittens in their home. This enables foster families to meet potential adopters and provide their input on adoption approval. Additionally, a visit from a potential adopter at in a foster home allows cats or kittens to be where they are most comfortable and relaxed to show off their personalities.

What if I become attached to my foster cats or kittens?

Foster families can apply for adoption of their foster cats or kittens before the cats or kittens are posted for general adoption. Our standard adoption screening will be conducted to ensure it is a good match. Our community of foster families will provide support when it's time to send your cats or kittens off to their forever home. Saying goodbye means they get to say hello to a better life that is only possible because of foster homes!

I'd like to foster for Feral Fixers. What do I do next?

Please complete our fostering application on our website: <https://www.feralfixers.org/cf-foster-questionnaire>. Send inquiries to foster@feralfixers.org.