

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
68-78 76TH STREET
MIDDLE VILLAGE, NY 11379



FOSTER GUIDE

PUPPYKITTNYC IS A 501(C)3 NON-PROFIT ANIMAL RESCUE BASED IN MIDDLE VILLAGE, NY. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL THAT YOU ARE CONSIDERING FOSTERING WITH OUR RESCUE. THIS GUIDE WAS CREATED TO HELP MAKE SURE THAT YOU AND YOUR HOME ARE PREPARED FOR FOSTERING. SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS, PLEASE REACH OUT.

FOSTERING GOALS

 **Socialization**

 **Cage-free living**

 **Preparation
for adoption**

 **Safe, loving
and caring
environment**





FOSTER GUIDE

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PAW-LEASE NOTE

It is impossible to include every situation that might arise all in one guide. If anything comes up that you need help with please ALWAYS reach out to us. We are here to support you on this journey!



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ABOUT FOSTERING



WHAT ANIMALS ARE AVAILABLE?

PuppyKittyNYC has a mission to "never say no to an animal in need". This includes, but is not limited to: Cats & kittens, dogs, bunnies, ferrets, guinea pigs, turtles and even birds. When you apply to foster we can discuss current available options or animals we know that may be coming soon.

WHAT IF I HAVE A RESIDENT PET?

You can still foster! We encourage you to consult with your regular vet for guidance. A quarantine period and then slow introduction of the animals is required to ensure your resident pet and foster get along. It also ensures no diseases or illnesses are spread.

WHAT SHOULD ALL FOSTERS KNOW UP FRONT?

Fostering is a commitment you make to take care of an animal until they are adopted. That can take days, weeks, months or longer. It is incredibly rewarding, fun and it is also really hard work. Animals in a new environment take time to warm up and acclimate to their new home. Just like humans, they each have their own personality. Many of them have had it rough before settling in with you. It is not always instant puppy kisses and kitten cuddles. Fostering is a lot of patience, cleaning, feeding, sometimes medicating and did we mention cleaning? At the end of the experience almost all of our fosters continue to foster. The goodbyes are hard, sometimes fosters end up being the adopters ("foster fail" is the technical term) but at the end of it all fostering saves lives and is a very rewarding experience.

WHAT ANIMAL CAN I FOSTER?

Our greatest daily need is fosters for cats, specifically older cats and cats with special needs. Everyone wants the little baby kittens, (I mean, they are super cute), but they are also more work. That said, any animal that can be fostered in a home creates shelter space for us to save more lives, which helps.

WHAT SPACE DO I NEED?

The space will depend on the type of animal. Dogs need room to run. Feral mama cats with babies just need to stay in an XL crate. Have a spare room, bathroom or space for a crate? We have options to accommodate the space our fosters have available.



PROTECTING YOUR PETS

Before bringing home your first foster, make sure that your current pets are up to date with their vaccinations. Consider if you can separate fosters from resident pets for a short (precautionary) quarantine period. Talk to your vet about fostering, and always follow their advice and guidance regarding any precautions you should take.

PROTECTING YOUR SPACE

You may want to spend a little time prepping for your new arrival and protecting anything fragile or valuable.

Puppies think shoes are toys, always keep closet doors closed and personal items protected. There may be accidents that need clean up. Pets zoom around and may knock into things. Store fragile items in a safe place.

Cats and kittens scratch. Declawing is inhumane, painful and illegal in NYS. Even with a cat tree and plenty of scratchers, they may still scratch things like furniture, bedding or carpet.

(Trimming their nails may help)

YOUR SPACE AT HOME



SAFE SPACE

Fosters need a clean safe space to grow and thrive in. If you rent, please ensure your apartment/landlord is pet friendly. If you live with anyone else, please check to make sure they don't have any animal allergies before taking on the commitment to foster.

We recommend keeping fosters separated from resident pets for a "quarantine period", typically 7-14 days. This not only helps resident pets adjust to having a guest, but can help keep your pet safe and healthy. Like humans, any change/stress an animal experiences can impact their immune system. Additionally with rescue animals, there are things that can pop up after foster placement. We like to make sure we have time to address everything before pets and fosters are sharing space. (sharing food or water bowls, litter boxes, etc...)

Pet Proof your space. Whether you are fostering kittens or puppies, remember that they will play with or chew anything they can find. ***NOTE: Marijuana is toxic to pets***. Pay attention to any small or potentially harmful objects, such as paper clips, nails, string or rubber bands. All toxic products, medications, laundry or cleaning supplies must be stored in a secure area. Check for dangling wires or cords that an animal can chew on or get stuck in. Check blind pulls, electrical chargers, etc...

Kittens get into very small places. They love to hide. Get down on their level and see what spaces might be dangerous. Check between cabinets, under couches, behind TV stands, dressers and open shelves. Keep trash cans covered (or in a secured cabinet) and toilets closed.

Always, always keep your washer and dryer closed. Double check before turning on. Cats and kittens can and will climb in while you're doing laundry. ALWAYS double check before running!



TOXIC PLANTS

Homes must be free of all toxic plants. You'd be surprised how many plants are toxic. Easter lillies and lillies are not just toxic, they are deadly. Cats and kittens will climb so putting plants "out of reach" is not a solution, Your home must be free of any toxic plants. You can find the complete list here: WWW.ASPCA.ORG TOXIC PLANT LIST



SECURE WINDOWS

Be sure all windows are fitted with secure, undamaged screens. You should never leave animals unattended with a window open, even if it has a screen. Former outdoor cats can easily break through many standard types of screens. If there are no screens, windows must remain locked at all times with a sign "Never Open Window".



SECURE DOORS

Know the whereabouts of any animal and use caution when opening/closing entryway doors as well as closets. Cats who have lived outdoors or cats who are scared tend to dart and hide. **Never allow a cat outside without a secure carrier under any circumstance.** If a cat does get out, we need to know ***immediately***.

HOW MUCH SPACE DO YOU NEED?

It's not a perfect science, and it is possible that a specific animal may need more or less space than recommended below. This is simply a general guideline to start. Let us know what space you are able to foster in and we can help with tips for how you can make it work.

SMALL ANIMALS	CAGE OR TANK	MED CRATE	XL CRATE
• Guinea pig	✓	✓	
• Ferret		✓	✓
• Rabbit			✓
• Feral Cat Mom (with babies)			✓

MEDIUM ANIMALS	BATH ROOM	PEN OR GATED AREA	FULL ROOM
• Rabbit		✓	
• Small Kittens* (5-16 weeks)	✓	✓	✓
• Small Puppy		✓	✓
• Adult Cat			✓

*kittens in a pen or area without a door have a very limited time as they learn to "climb out" early on. Large pop up tents with all sides enclosed and/or panel pens are recommended - but they are only short term holding space.

LARGE OR MULTIPLE ANIMALS	FULL ROOM	APARTMENT	HOUSE
• Older Kittens (16+ weeks)	✓	✓	✓
• Small Dog	✓	✓	✓
• Multiple Cats	✓	✓	✓
• Large Dog		✓	✓

DAILY CARE FOR YOUR FOSTER

There's no way around it: Puppies and kittens are messy. They get into everything! These babies will rip things up, step in food and play in their litter box... it's not only messy, sometimes it's just plain gross. If you plan on fostering tiny ones be prepared for extra cleaning, dirty butts & paw baths!

✓ FEEDING

- Fresh water 1x per day, more if spilled or food gets in the bowl
- Wet food 2x per day for dogs & cats
- Wet food 3x, or more as needed, for kittens
- Young kittens may need to be bottle fed (every 2 hrs) or syringe fed a slurry (every 4-5 hrs), depending on age. Including overnight.
- A small, measured portion of dry food to snack on is good for kittens or if there are long hours between wet food feedings
- Treats you can give a few a day, ideally as a reward or to aid in socialization.

If an animal has dietary restrictions, feeding guidelines may change

✓ BATHROOM BUSINESS

• KITTENS

Young kittens still learning to use their litter box will need their box scooped and changed more frequently than adult cats. They will play in their litter box in the beginning so it's important to check it more than once a day, if possible. This may also result in a few kitten baths. Kittens sometimes have a hard time when first learning to use litter box, it's helpful to have a couple of small litter boxes in different areas.

NOTE: Young kittens may require stimulation, depending on age

• CATS

Litter box kept clean, scooped 1x a day,

Shy cats please use an **uncovered box, or they will hide in there all day**

Change litter & clean/sanitize litter box 1x per week, more if needed

• DOGS

Walked at least 2x a day. (Walked on leash only, NEVER off leash)

✓ 1:1 TIME AND SOCIALIZATION

Rescues need love, time, and understanding. Some have been abandoned, neglected or abused. You are providing a safe haven for them. They might not be cute and cuddly right away, or at all. An animal in a new environment will need time to decompress and get used to you and their new space. Encourage play. Offer treats as rewards. Be kind, patient and understanding.

We do ask that you do not allow a cat or kitten to continually hide. If we send a crate or pen with a cat, it's for a reason. We sometimes think it's best for a cat to remain in the pen or crate until properly socialized or acclimated.

Whether you are fostering a dog or cat, please work daily to encourage their social behavior. A well socialized (friendly) disposition may take a little extra foster parent love + work, but it aids in the adoption process.



HOW LONG WILL I HAVE MY FOSTER?

Fostering is temporary but it is not short-term. It could be days, weeks, months or longer until the right adopter comes along.

When we place an animal in foster care, we spend our time and resources screening and approving each applicant.

Should you need us to move an animal prior to their adoption, please understand it takes time to coordinate a new foster and arrange transport. This can take 1-2 weeks if we do not have an available, approved foster.

If the situation is not an emergency, please give us as much notice as possible. If you have known time constraints when you accept an animal as a foster or if you have travel plans please let us know in advance.

HELP WITH ADOPTION

AS A FOSTER PARENT, YOU ARE A VALUABLE PART OF THE ADOPTION PROCESS. HELP YOUR FOSTER FIND A FURR-EVER HOME! BELOW ARE THE BEST WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP:

GOODBYE IS THE GOAL!

- 🐾 Socialization & love, shy fosters need TLC**
- 🐾 Share pictures and videos on your social media, always tag us!**
- 🐾 Create a social media account for your foster pet, like an IG or TikTok (optional, but so fun!)**
- 🐾 Training, grooming and maintaining a schedule**
- 🐾 Snap pictures of all of the adorable snuggling playing and sleeping**
- 🐾 Send us cute post-worthy pictures and short videos so we can share on our social media and website**

SOMETIMES OUR FOSTER HUMANS JUST CANNOT BEAR THE THOUGHT OF LETTING US GET ADOPTED. IT'S CALLED A "FOSTER FAIL". IF THIS HAPPENS AND YOU'D LIKE TO ADOPT YOUR FOSTER, PLEASE DISCUSS OPTIONS WITH THE PUPPYKITTYNYC TEAM, ASAP!



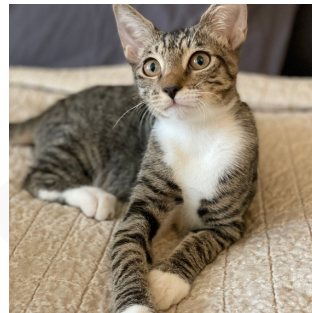
HELP WITH ADOPTION

TIPS FOR TAKING GREAT PICS!

THESE TIPS WORK FOR ALL TYPES OF FOSTER PET PHOTOS, NOT JUST CATS & KITTENS. ALSO CHECK OUT KITTEN LADY'S VIDEO ON YOU TUBE : [HOW TO TAKE PHOTOS OF KITTENS: CELL PHONE EDITION](#)

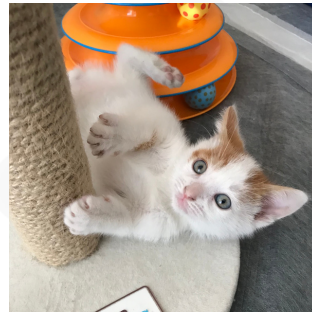
✓ GOOD LIGHTING & POSE

- Natural light/close to a window is always your best light
- If using indoor light, make sure it's bright and clear
- Try to avoid shadows
- Sleeping, playing, popping out of a box or any great "pose"
- No one knows your foster better than you - highlight their personality



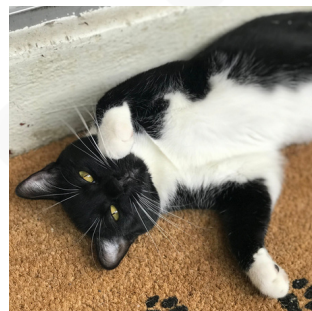
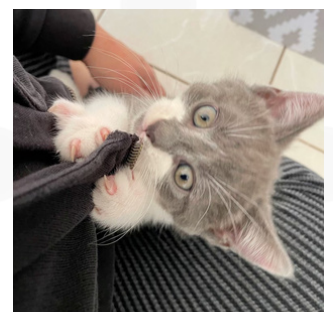
✓ MAKE THEM LOOK!

- When you are ready for your shot do something to make them stop and look at you (at the camera)
- Make some noise, squeeze a toy, shake some keys, wave a piece of paper - get creative!



✓ CLEAN & CLUTTER FREE

- A clean background is important
- Think about it like a professional zoom call, what can you see in the background that will look messy or distracting
- If you do not have space for a clean background, try draping a solid color blanket or sheet behind the animal to hide clutter
- Toys, cat trees, pet beds are ok
- Clean floors/surfaces, no dirty messy litter, piles of mail, etc...
- Solid neutral color blankets are best, cute simple patterns like small dots, stripes or stars are ok
- Bold colors and busy patterns are distracting, the goal is to really show off your adorable foster



FEATURING PICTURES OF FORMER PKNYC FOSTERS: BOURBON, WHISKEY, RONNIE, GOOSE, CROISSANT, KAY, ZITI AND GIN 🐾



SUPPLY LIST CATS & KITTENS

It's an added bonus when our fosters are able to help with the cost of some or all of the supplies needed. It enables us reserve funds for medical care. We do cover all medical costs. Some of our fosters create Amazon wish lists to share with friends & family and on their social media to help with supplies. If you want to foster and you do need for us to provide all of the supplies, we can arrange that. Just make sure to let us know!

CATS

- Cozy bed
- Food dish
- Water bowl
- Wet food & dry food
- Litter box & litter
- Secure carrier
- Toys
- Scratchers

OPTIONAL, BUT RECOMMENDED

- CAT OR KITTEN SAFE TREATS
(THEY LOVE SQUEEZE TREATS!)
- CAT NAIL TRIMMER
- GROOMING GLOVE (ADULT CATS)

PET SAFE CLEANER

A good, pet safe cleaner, such as Rescue brand. Rescue is safe and it is effective against pathogens like SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19), parvovirus, kennel cough, ringworm and more.

KITTENS

Everything on the Cat list *PLUS*:

- Small, washable blankets
- Baby shampoo/pet safe wipes
- Small towels (for bathing)
- Small litter box to start with
- Wee wee pads, if needed
- Pop up tent or panel pen, if needed

TINY KITTENS

Everything on the Cat & Kitten list *PLUS*:

- Kitten formula
- Kitten feeding bottles
- Plastic syringes
- Digital food scale (weighing)
- Shallow litter box(es) to start
- Wee wee pads
- Pop up tent or panel pen

CHECK OUT [FIGARO THE SURVIVOR KITTEN'S FAVORITES LIST HERE](#): [LINK TO AMAZON FAVORITES](#)

SUPPLY LIST

DOGS & SMALL ANIMALS

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SMALL ANIMALS

this list may vary depending on the type of animal:

- Cage, tank or pen
- Food & food dish
- Water bottle or bowl
- Bedding/shavings
- Toys
- A secure carrier (if cage or tank is not small enough for transport)

NOTE: THE EXACT FOOD & SUPPLIES YOU'LL NEED MAY VARY DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF SMALL ANIMAL

for example: bunnies eat hay, lettuce and some fresh veggies but ferrets eat a high protein diet



PET SAFE CLEANER

A good, pet safe cleaner, such as Rescue brand. Rescue is safe and it is effective against pathogens like SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19), parvovirus, kennel cough, ringworm and more.

DOGS

- Cozy bed
- Food dish
- Water bowl
- Wet food & dry food
- Leash & harness
- Collar & ID tags
- Toys
- Treats
- Crate or Kennel
- Baby gate, if needed
- Wee wee pads, if needed
- Shampoo/pet safe wipes
- Towels (for bathing)
- Nail clipper or grinder
- Car supplies, optional
 - Paper towels
 - Cleaner/wipes
 - Travel water bowl
 - Blanket or seat cover
 - Dog seat belt or secure harness

CHECK OUT [FIGARO THE SURVIVOR KITTEN'S FAVORITES LIST](#) HERE: [LINK TO AMAZON FAVORITES](#)

COMMON & URGENT ISSUES

IN AN EMERGENCY

You must be willing and able to take an animal in need to a vet. We can always assist with transportation issues, whether paying or reimbursing you for a cab in an emergency, or helping to find a ride if it is a non-emergency. Please communicate any issues or concerns ASAP. We cover all vet costs. Contact us to arrange a vet or ER visit and we will instruct you where to go.

All animals are checked for medical issues before going to their foster homes. Sometimes they will arrive with a round of antibiotics to be given, eye meds or a follow-up round of dewormer. Just like with humans, animals get sick without warning. It can be major or minor, if you are ever concerned and unsure what to do - call us!



THIS IS COMMON

New fosters may skip a meal from stress, one meal skipped is OK

New fosters may skip a poop or have short term diarrhea from food changes

Cat is very vocal but still acting and eating normally

A lot of sleep! Animals have sleep hours and crazy zooming around playful hours. If your new foster is bouncing off the walls with bursts of playful energy - that's normal!

Cats sleep 12-16 hrs
Kittens sleep 18-20 hrs
Dogs Sleep 12-14 hrs
Puppies Sleep 18-20 hrs



TELL US IF

A young kitten is not eating, peeing, or pooping*

Worms in poop or puke, fairly common, will require meds

Any injury, limping or swelling

Ingestion of any non-food item or suspected toxin

Lack of appetite

Not peeing** or pooping

Excessive itching, licking, scratching or hair/fur loss

Coughing or sneezing

Watery or swollen eyes



TELL US & THIS IS URGENT

Severe vomiting and/or diarrhea or blood in vomit or poop

Large or deep bleeding wound from trauma

Animals appears ill, lethargic or weak, gums are pale

Difficulty standing or collapses

Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath

Seizures

Cat squatting, appears to be struggling to pee or poop

Cat standing over water bowl staring and not drinking

*Small baby kittens must eat every few hours. Older kittens, cats and dogs will be ok if they skip a meal on the first day (stress) as long as it does not go too long. **Not peeing is more urgent than skipping a poop. Small kittens may need to be stimulated, depending on age.

HELPFUL CAT & KITTEN RESOURCES



**ALWAYS REACH OUT TO US FIRST WITH ANY
MEDICAL QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS**

BELOW ARE A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE ONLINE RESOURCES AND GUIDES FROM
OTHER RESCUES AND SHELTERS THAT HAVE TONS OF HELPFUL TIPS AND INFO!

SOCIALIZING

- www.alleycat.org - [Cat Socialization Guide](#)
- www.alleycat.org - [Socializing a Kitten](#)
- www.iaabcjournal.org - [Socializing Older Kittens](#)
- www.americanpetsalive.org - [Socializing Adult Cat](#)

HELP WITH ADOPTION

- www.felinefoster.org - [Marketing Your Foster](#)
- www.bestfriends.org - [Creative Ways](#)
- www.dashkitten.com - [Tips for Taking Great Pics](#)
- www.kittenlady.org - [Photographing Kittens \(video\)](#)

ALL ABOUT POOP

- www.kittenlady.org - [Kitten Poop Problems](#)
- www.animalbiome.com - [Cat Diarrhea Causes](#)
- www.allaboutcats.com - [Cat Stool Chart](#)

IF YOU HAVE RESIDENT CATS

- www.jacksongalaxy.com - [Introducing Cats Do's and Don'ts](#)
- www.icatcare.org - [Introducing Cats to Cats](#)
- www.thesprucepets.com - [Introducing Kittens to Cats](#)

KITTEN PROGRESSION

- www.alleycat.org - [Kitten Age Progression](#)
- www.alleycat.org - [Kitten Guide](#)
- www.kittenlady.org - [Determining Kitten Age](#)

PREFER VIDEOS?

Hannah Shaw, "Kitten Lady" has videos on a lot of fun kitten topics. (Please remember to always come to us for medical advice) You can check her out at <http://www.kittenlady.org/> or her YouTube Channel here:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5VvB6tmC4lu_WCx7hEOPZA

Please use this to keep record just in case you encounter health issues with your foster. It's always good to keep notes of when and what an animal has eaten, if and when they took meds (if needed) and note any recent issues or concerns.

FEEDING CHART FOR _____

DATE	AM FEEDING(S)	AM MEDS	PM FEEDING(S)	PM MEDS	WEIGHT 1x/week	NOTES
				TOTAL		

FEEDING CHART FOR _____

DATE	AM FEEDING(S)	AM MEDS	PM FEEDING(S)	PM MEDS	WEIGHT 1x/ week	NOTES
				TOTAL		

Please print this page and keep record of all medical history for your foster including dates, vaccines, medications and any known allergies or health issues

VACCINATION AND MEDICATION CHART FOR _____

DATE	VACCINE TYPE	RECEIVED FROM (ASPCA, VET, ETC)	MEDICATION NAME	REASON FOR MEDICATION

SPAY/NEUTER RECORD

SURGERY DATE _____

LOCATION (ASPCA OR VET) _____

KNOWN ALLERGIES _____

NOTES _____



**NEW
LOCATION!**

**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
68-78 76TH STREET
MIDDLE VILLAGE, NY 11379**

LET'S GET SOCIAL!



@puppykittynycity



info@puppykittynyc.org



@puppykittynycity



www.puppykittynyc.org



@PuppyKittyNYCity Volunteers and Fosters

IMPORTANT CONTACTS



Meagan 203-376-4173



Barbara 917-741-4381



Diane 916-606-5605
(west coast time)



Foster Pro (text preferred)

Alyssa 646-322-8852

general tips and socialization
questions, for urgent medical
issues contact the group text

PLEASE BE OPEN AND HONEST WITH US AND YOURSELF, IF THINGS ARE NOT WORKING OUT OR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS PLEASE TEXT US IN THE GROUP CHAT STARTED WHEN YOU RECEIVE THE ANIMAL. SHOULD YOU NEED US TO MOVE AN ANIMAL PRIOR TO THEIR ADOPTION, PLEASE UNDERSTAND IT TAKES TIME TO COORDINATE A NEW FOSTER AND ARRANGE TRANSPORT. THIS CAN TAKE 1-2 WEEKS IF WE DO NOT HAVE AN APPROVED FOSTER AVAILABLE. IF YOU HAVE KNOWN TIME CONSTRAINTS WHEN YOU ACCEPT AN ANIMAL AS A FOSTER OR TRAVEL PLANS PLEASE LET US KNOW WITH AMPLE TIME TO PLAN.