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Foster Care Volunteer

Description:

Every animal that comes into NOCO Humane is evaluated on a case by case basis to determine the best course of action and outcome. Sometimes, animals that enter through our doors are not yet ready to be adopted for a variety of reasons. Animals can be too young or small to receive surgery, therefore need to go to a foster home to grow for a few weeks. It is possible animals can have a medical issue, either injury or a disease, and need to heal with support from a foster volunteer. Animals can also go to foster homes to work on socializing and to learn basic manners and skills. Foster volunteers provide a safe home environment and a lifesaving opportunity for many animals.

Objective:

To provide a nurturing and safe environment in your home for animals to mature, heal, socialize and become or remain adoptable. Foster Volunteers maintain an open and honest communication with the Foster Transfer Coordinators (FTC) and other shelter employees at all times.

Supervision:

Direct Supervision by the Foster Transfer Coordinators. Indirect supervision by Veterinary Services staff and the Shelter Manager

Requirements:

- One primary caregiver must be at least 21 years of age.** Family members are able to participate in the care and socialization of foster animals while at home. The primary caregiver must attend all scheduled health and behavior appointments. We recommend that any other family member who attends the appointments be at least 10 years old.
- Foster volunteers must live within one hour of NOCO Humane
- Proof of current driver's license and auto insurance required**
- Sign NOCO Humane Driver Agreement & Waiver of Liability**
- Complete a National Criminal Background Check and Sex Offender Search**

Commitment:

Must commit to taking a minimum of two foster cases per year

Most foster experiences are at least 2 weeks long, some can be upwards of 3-4 months. Time commitments depend mostly on the animals and their needs. Please be sure your schedule will fit the animal's needs, which will be relayed to you at the beginning of each foster situation.

Working Conditions:

Volunteer work will be performed in your home setting and transporting animals to and from NOCO Humane. There is a potential for exposure to zoonotic diseases and cleaning chemicals, exposure to dangerous and factious animals, and a potential for animal bites and scratches while handling animals.

Physical Activities:

Kneeling, squatting, bending while providing care for animals, walking dogs on a leash, handling animals of all temperaments, animal restraint, and if fostering large dogs, lifting of up to 50 pounds unassisted.

Training:

- Attend Foster Orientation
- Interview with FTC
- Attend hands-on Animal Handling Training
- Attend Safe Cat Handling Training if open to fostering cats
- Attend species specific virtual training
- Annual in-home inspection

Duties:

- ❑ Provide all elements of care for foster animals, including feeding, grooming, medicating and socializing. Must understand that some animals require extra time or attention to help them thrive.
- ❑ Must be accepting of emotional challenges and decisions shelter staff make regarding foster animals when faced with adoption, illness, death or euthanasia of foster animal
- ❑ Ensure safety of foster animal and respond to each animal's needs
- ❑ Maintain excellent communication with FTCs and other applicable staff members regarding the animals' behavioral/medical progress.
- ❑ Attend animal health and behavior appointments as scheduled
- ❑ Respond to communications from FTCs to schedule yearly home visits and other applicable compliance measures
- ❑ Interact and spread accurate information with the general public, friends and family members in a way that reflects NOCO Humane's mission and values