

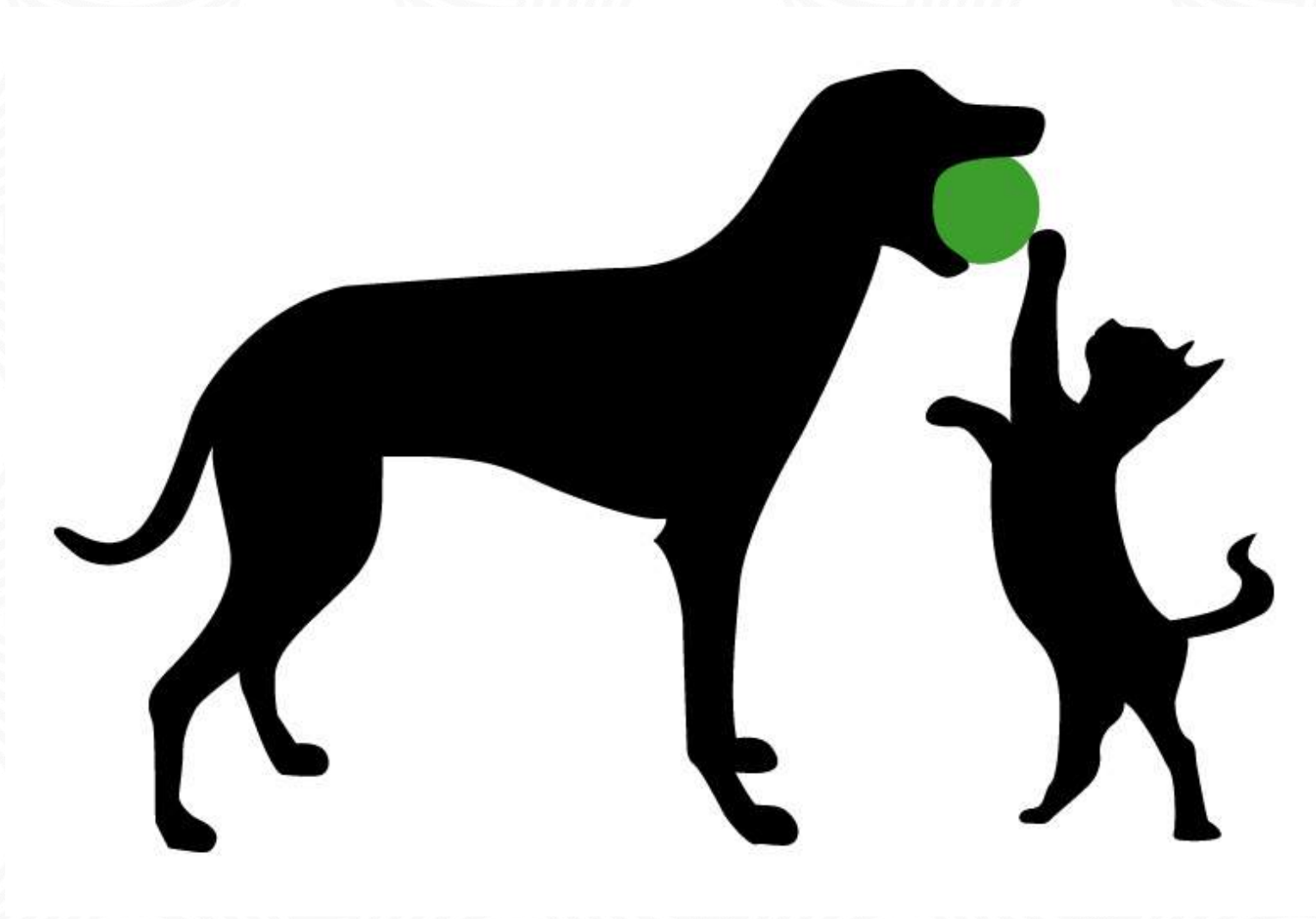


CAT & KITTEN FOSTER MANUAL



Asheville Humane Society is about hope, not heartache. As Buncombe County's critical safety net since 1984, we are always here to save and protect every animal. We have mastered the art of saving lives within our walls and now we are going even further, helping our community's pets and their people thrive together. We are going beyond a no-kill community to ensure that each animal has the quality of life they deserve — a life worth living.

BEYOND NO KILL - A LIFE WORTH LIVING



Asheville Humane Society

Foster Program

Thank you for deciding to become a life-saving foster parent for the Asheville Humane Society! Our foster program allows us to save hundreds of lives every year, and it is all thanks to the dedication and care of over 300 wonderful foster parents.

The animals you will be helping are those who are not yet ready for the adoption floor. These animals can be sick, injured, underweight, overweight, in need of surgery, and/or too young, and as such need a little extra TLC before they can have a chance at finding their forever home.

This is where you as a foster parent come in. We cannot promise it will always be easy; puppies and dogs that have never been indoors before may have no concept of house training, and kittens and older cats may not always be able to make it to the litter box on time. Some animals, despite everyone's best efforts, will simply fail to thrive.

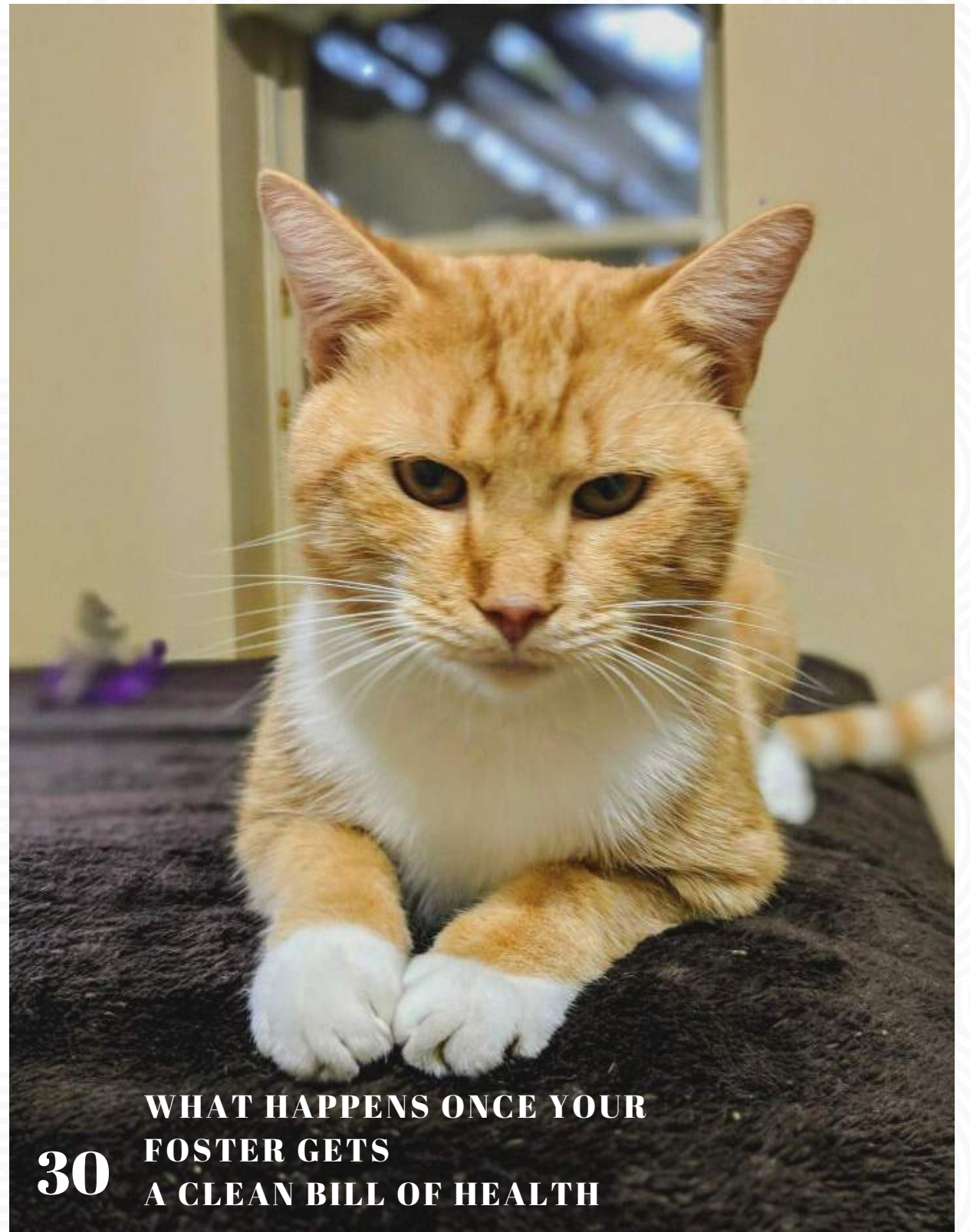
However, when the time comes and your foster gets a clean bill of health, moves to the adoption floor, and becomes a new cherished family member, you can know that it was due to your hard work and dedication.



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How It Works

Stay in the Loop!

- Asheville Humane Society Fosters Facebook page to talk with other foster parents & see pleas for immediate needs
- Check which animals need foster homes by visiting our foster-only website ashevillehumane.org/fosterdaily
- Check emails regularly for pleas for specific animals needing help
- Opt in to our urgent needs texting system by texting NEONATES or CATMOM to 828-521-2681

Once the Foster Coordinator has accepted your foster application, you will be asked to join our Facebook Group “Asheville Humane Society Foster Parents” where weekly lists of animals in need of foster will be posted. If you decide not to join the Facebook Group, you will still receive emails of animals in need of fostering, but these will not be as frequent, and will only highlight specific animals. Available foster animals can also be seen at www.ashevillehumane.org/fosterdaily; we recommend saving this website to your bookmarks bar for easy access. Lastly, if you wish to receive text messages about our urgent neonatal puppy, nursing mom dog, or behaviorally advanced dog foster home needs, opt into our texting system by sending a message with either NEONATES or CATMOM 828-521-2681.

If you see an animal that you would be interested in fostering, email the Foster Department at fosteradmin@ashevillehumane.org with the animal’s name and ID number. They will then be in touch with you with details about the animal, and a date and time will then be scheduled for you to come and pick the animal(s) up.

Picking Up Your Fosters

When it comes time to pick up your foster animal(s), you will go to the Adoption Center, located at 14 Forever Friend Lane. There are a couple of dedicated Foster Parent parking spots to the right of the main entrance, but if these are already taken you may park in any available space. Upon arriving at the Adoption Center, we ask that you please stay in your car and call us at 828-776-1203 to let us know you’ve arrived. We will meet you at your car to hand over supplies, go over any special needs and/or medications the animal(s) have, and then, the exciting part – we’ll hand over the animal(s)!





Setting The Scene

WHERE TO KEEP THEM

Housing expectations vary depending on the animal being fostered. Cats and kittens should always be kept indoors only. AHS asks that all foster animals are kept in a quarantine room for the first two weeks of foster care, to prevent the spread of any contagious disease and protect your home for future fostering.

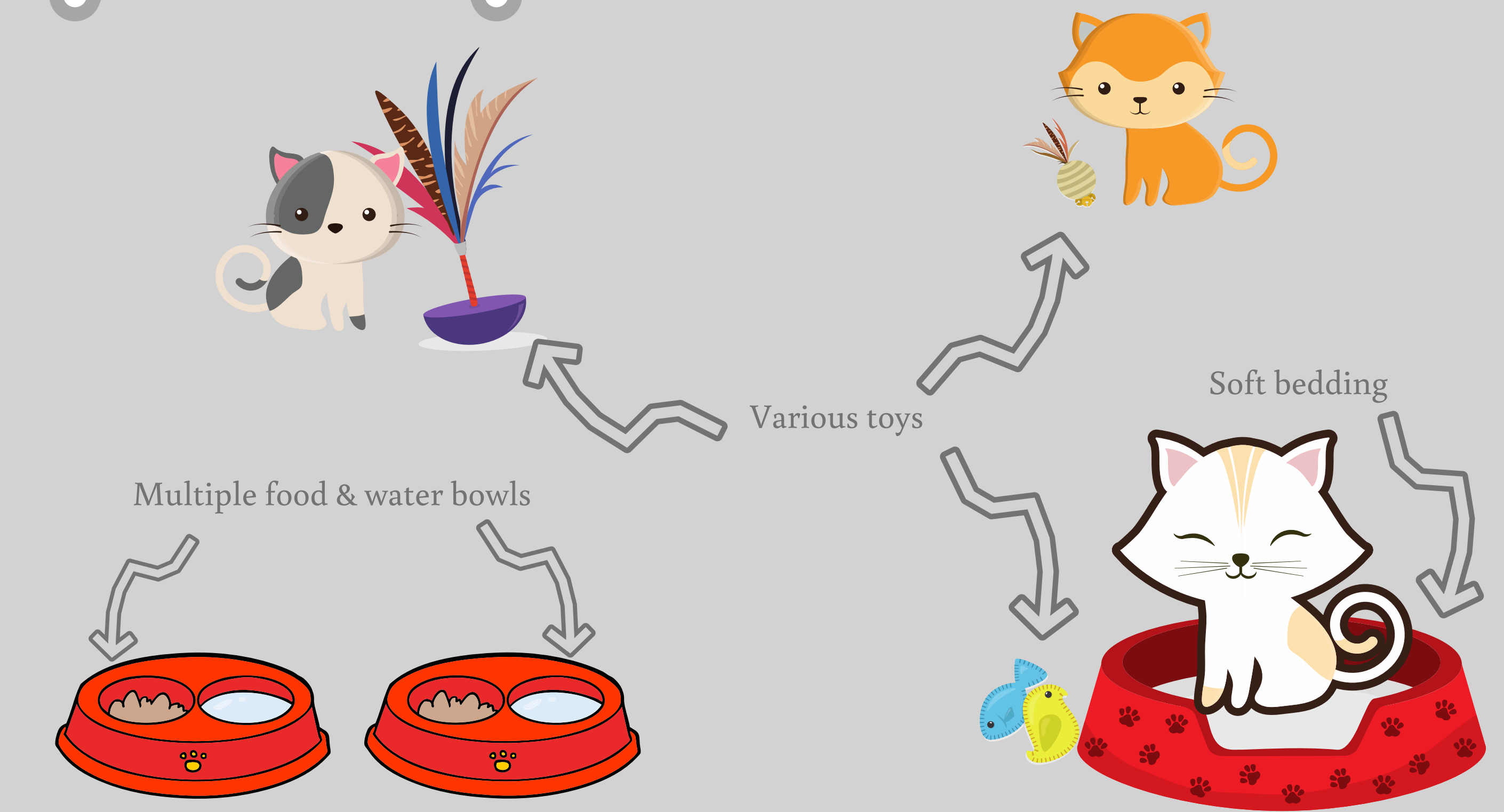
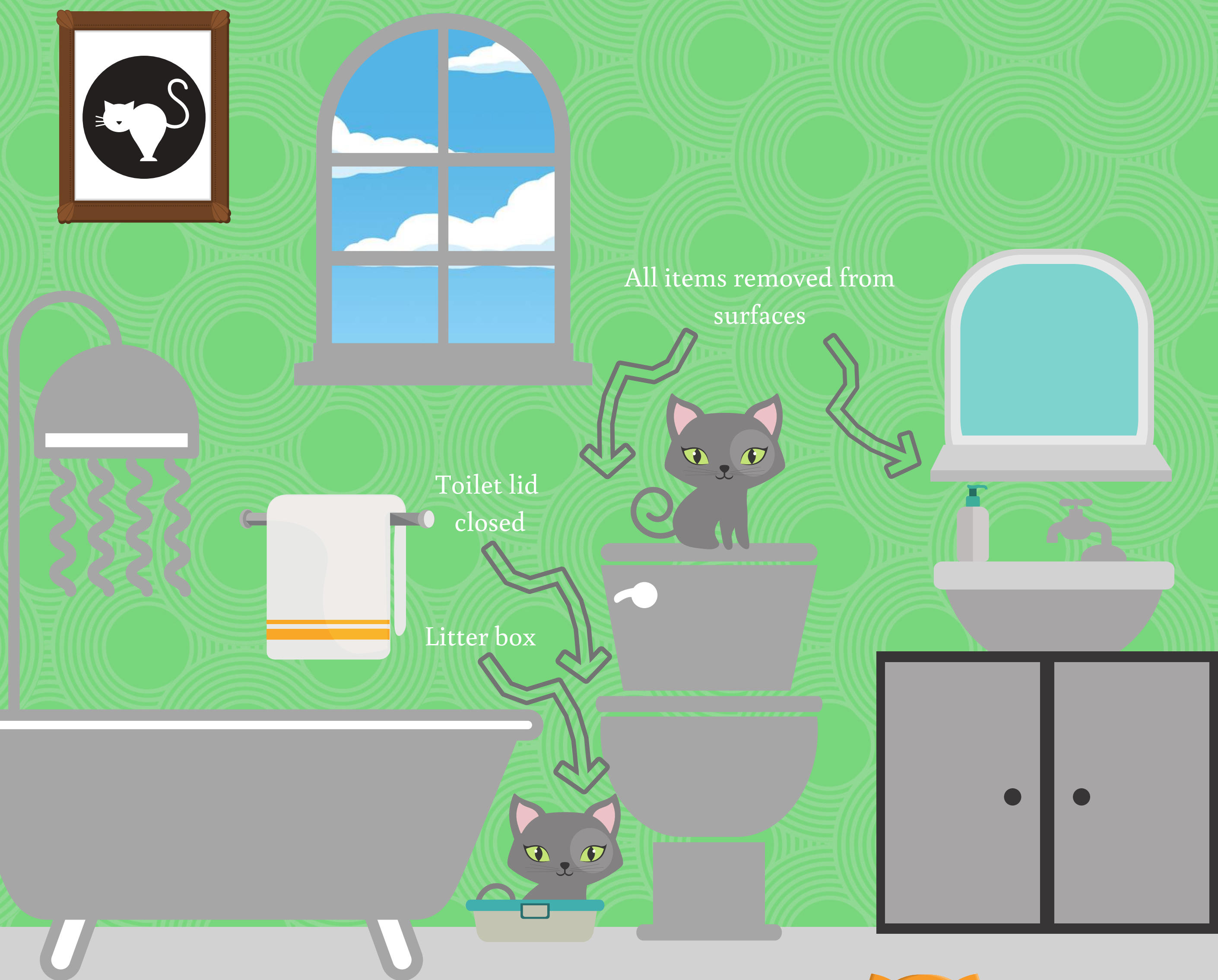
Sick foster pets should be kept in this private room until they are no longer contagious, as per our medical department. Keeping sick animals in a smaller, easily cleaned space (such as a bathroom) will allow for much easier and much more effective disinfection once the foster animals leave.



Housing

- Cats & kittens should ALWAYS be kept indoors at all times
- Bathrooms are great as they are easily disinfected
- Scared fosters should stay in a small, single room to avoid overwhelming them
- Make sure the ambient temperature stays between 68 & 75 degrees
- Kibble & water bowls should be cleaned every other day, but wet food bowls should be cleaned twice daily
- Keep the litter box as far away as possible from the food & water, and keep the bedding as far away as possible from the litter box
- Remove any loose items on surfaces & tuck cords safely out of reach
- Make sure all windows are locked shut, or have pet specific screening. It's not uncommon for cats to try to get out through windows.

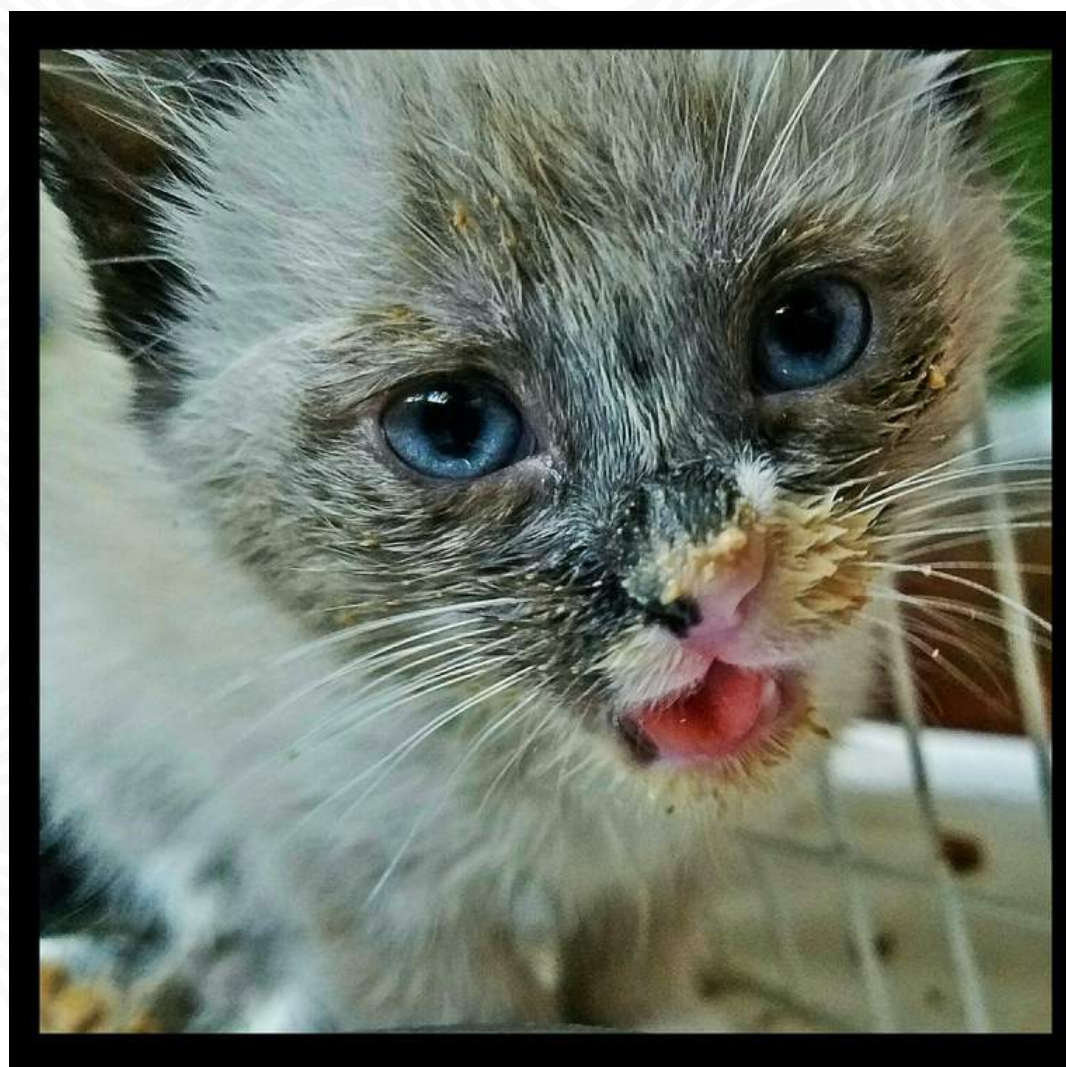






Feeding Time

Feeding guidelines vary depending on who you are fostering. AHS will provide you with all food necessary to care for your foster animals, so if you are running low on supplies please let us know and we'll set more out for you to pick-up! We prefer to keep all our animals on a consistent diet, so please avoid switching brands of food or feeding what your personal pets eat, as this can cause upset G.I. systems. Please follow the following graph for protocols on meals, unless instructed otherwise by our medical department.



You are welcome to purchase your own supply of food for your foster animals if you so desire, we just ask that you please use the same brands as we do so that there is no need for a food adjustment period when the animal returns for adoption. The foster department uses Science Diet kibble for both kitten and adult cat food, and for most cases we use Friskies Country Style Dinner pate canned food.

AHS FEEDING GUIDELINES

Nursing Queen - Kibble

Free feed kitten kibble. This will ensure mom stays at weight & produces milk

Nursing Queen - Canned

1/2-1/3 can, 3 times a day. Drop down to 1-2 tablespoons twice a day after kittens have weaned

Weaned Kittens - Kibble

Free feed kibble. Grazing throughout the day is healthier than set meals

Weaned Kittens - Canned

Offer each kitten ¼ can, 3-4x a day for the first week or two, then gradually decrease to just a tablespoon twice a day by 8 weeks

Sick Kitten - Kibble

Free-feed. Congested kittens may not eat kibble at all and will require a wet food diet.

Healthy Adults - Kibble

½ cup daily. If cat is large or underweight/over weight, follow instructions given by medical

Healthy Adults - Canned

1-2 tablespoons, twice a day.

Sick Kitten - Canned

1-2 tablespoons, twice a day IF kitten is eating kibble reliably and is 8 weeks or older. If no kibble is being eaten, contact the foster medical team ASAP for guidance.

Sick Adult - Kibble

½ cup daily. Very congested cats may not eat kibble at all, but it should always be provided

Sick Adult - Canned

1-2 tablespoons, 2x/day IF cat is eating kibble reliably. If no kibble is being eaten, feed one ounce of wet food per pound of body weight a day and alert the medical department.

Kibble will provide all the necessary carbohydrates & calories needed for growth & development, while wet food will help with hydration and can give some extra calories. In most cases, wet food is only given as a "bonus" to the diet.



Bathroom Behaviors

Cats and kittens should instinctually use a litter box, starting around the age of 4-5 weeks. While small kittens just starting to use the box may have the occasional accident, older kittens and adult cats “missing the box” or eliminating in their bedding is usually a sign that something is wrong.

Sometimes this can be an easy fix - make sure their box is cleaned regularly (up to 3x a day for messier kitties or ones experiencing diarrhea), and make sure there are enough litter boxes for the number of cats (a good general rule of thumb is one for each adult, plus at least one extra). If you are fostering a large litter, you may need to request an additional litter box from AHS as the kittens grow.

The type of litter could also be a cause of litter box problems; some cats do not like scented or clay litter, and declawed cats may be experiencing pain upon digging if the litter has larger granules of clay.

If you witness your foster cat eliminating outside of the box on a regular basis please alert the medical team ASAP and we will work together to fix the problem.

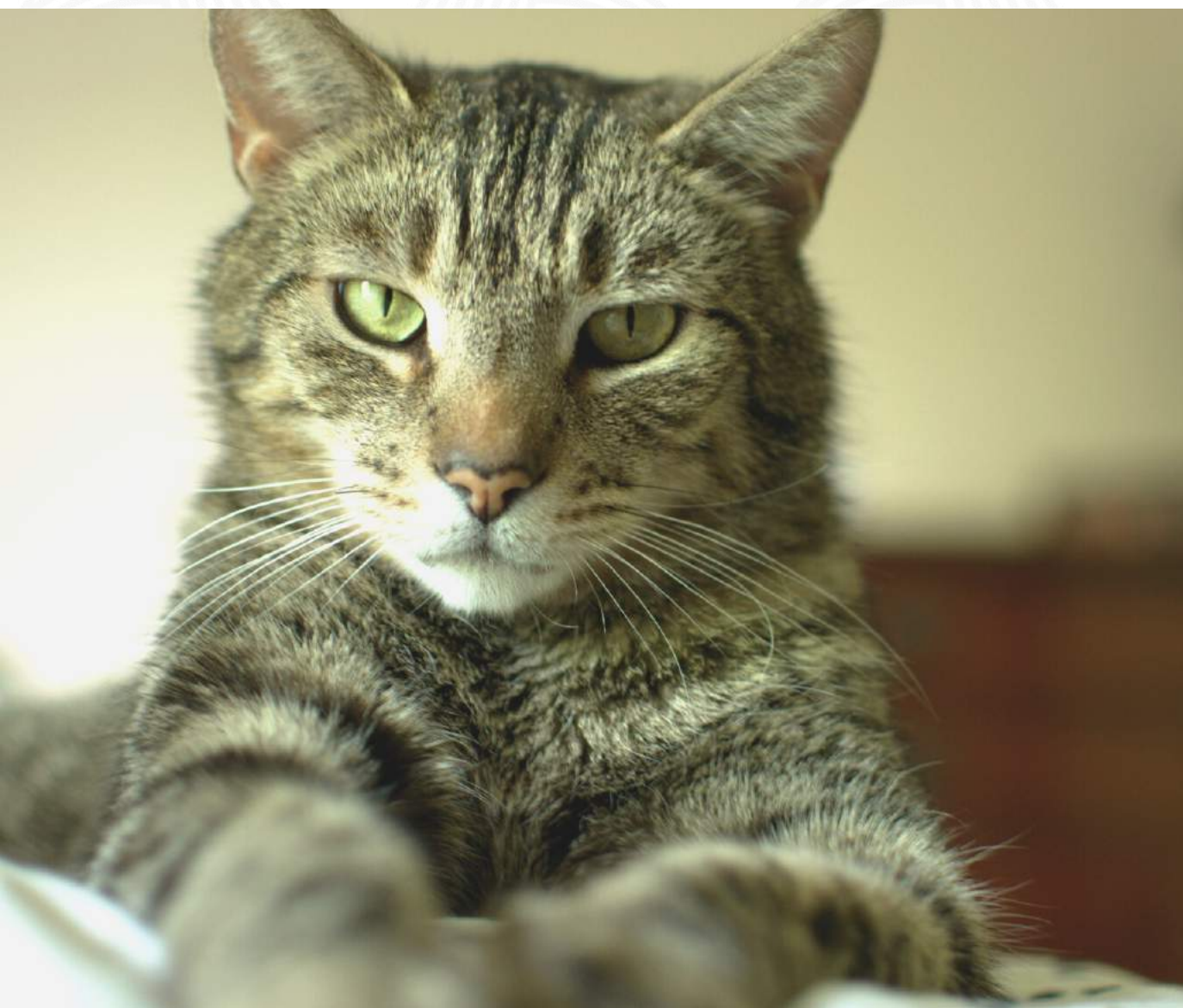
Litter Specifics

The type of litter you go home with will vary depending on the situation:

Nursing Queens, kittens under 6 weeks old, & kittens of any age experiencing G.I. upset will be sent home with non-clumping litter. This is the safest litter to use until the kittens are bigger.

Cats or kittens recovering from injuries or surgeries will have special pelleted litter or shredded paper litter so it does not get stuck in their wounds.

Healthy kittens over 6 weeks & adults can use clumping litter.





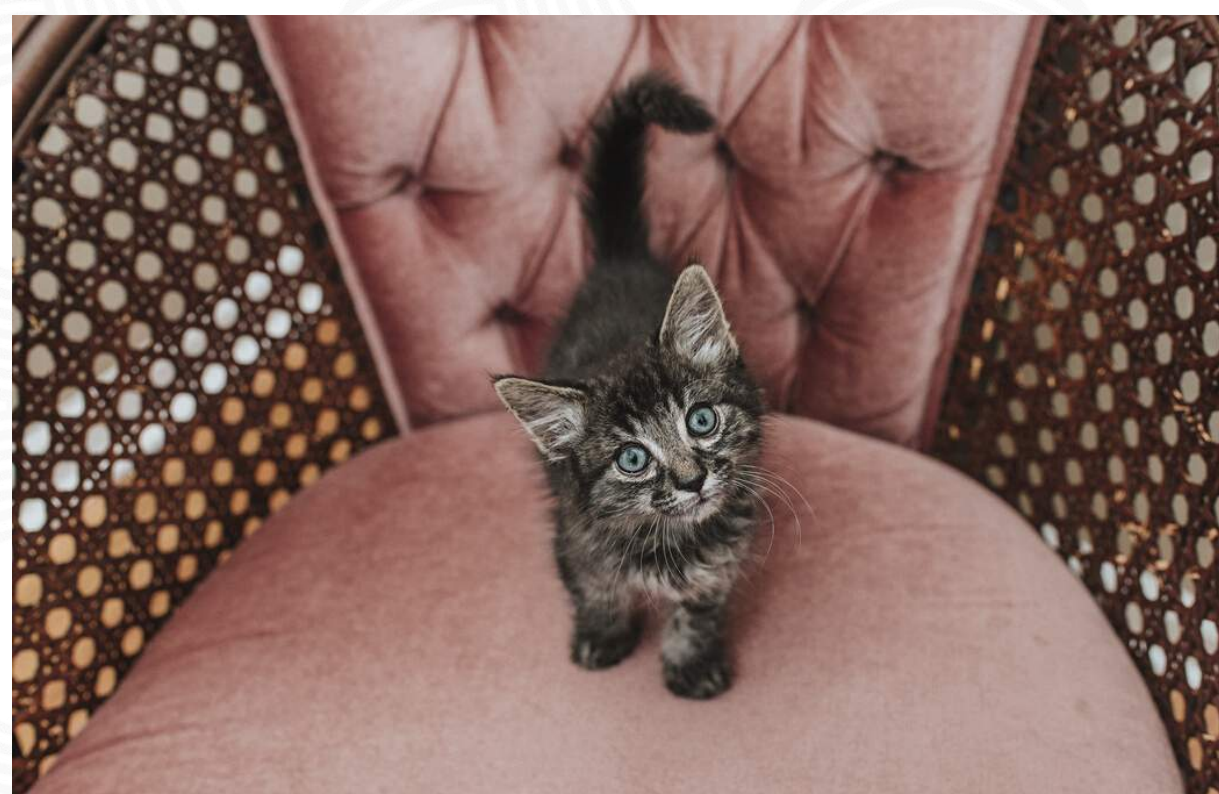
Keeping Things Clean

Kittens are usually attended to by their mother, so if you are fostering orphaned kittens or a mother with a very large litter, it is up to you to help out.

Kittens just learning to eat and use the litter box are pretty messy, so it is imperative their faces and rears are wiped off several times a day. Dried-on food can become very itchy and even painful for the kittens, and can lead to ulcers, fungal and bacterial infections, and hair loss. Dirty bums can lead to serious issues such as UTIs, scalding from diarrhea and urine, or impaction from stool stuck over the anus. Dirty litter can get stuck in between toes and harden to become a painful rock. Be sure to give every kitten a nose-to-tail check every time you interact with them, and clean any necessary body parts.

Sick cats and kittens very often need their eyes and noses wiped to free them of dried discharge that can crust eyes and nostrils closed. If you are fostering a sick kitty, be sure to check their faces several times a day, and clean any debris away with a cotton ball or tissue dipped in warm water.

- Clean litter boxes 2-3 times a day
- Clean faces after messy meals, or when fostering sickies
- Give every foster a nose-to-tail check several times a day
- Make sure bums stay free of fecal matter & litter
- Check bedding daily



Long haired cats and kittens are sometimes too luxurious for their own good, and often develop mats in their armpits, around their rears, and on their neck/chest areas. These can develop quickly, and can be very painful for the animal. If you notice mats on your foster, ask the foster department for a cat comb, and gently work at the mats for small time periods, multiple times a day. If the mats are not easily worked out with your fingers or a comb, please contact the foster team and we'll schedule a groom appointment for your foster with our volunteer groomer..

Bedding should be checked throughout the day for odd smells, debris or potty accidents and cleaned accordingly. Bedding should be replaced every 3-4 days if unsoiled. If your fosters are regularly soiling their bedding, please contact the foster department for guidance.

AHS is always happy to take your dirty foster laundry and exchange it out for clean linens!



Proper Socializing

If you are fostering a cat specifically to socialize it, please follow the specific protocols and procedures given to you by the Foster Coordinator

Socialized kitties are adopted kitties! Once your foster cat/kitten(s) is adjusted to your home (usually within 24-48 hours), start interacting with them beyond feeding and cleaning. Inviting friends over to visit is a great way to socialize them, too! Once their initial quarantine period is over, slowly introduce them to the other parts of your home and to your healthy (feline-safe) pets.

Holding each kitten up off the ground and walking around with them will help them learn to tolerate this as an adult. Get them used to their paws & ears being handled, and expose them to normal household sounds such as the vacuum cleaner, the TV, and the blender. These simple things will help them grow up into confident, bold adult cats!





Keeping Kitty Enriched



Fun & Easy Enrichment Ideas


- Catnip toys
- Easter Eggs with treats hidden inside
- Boxes with holes cut in the sides & kibble placed inside
- Rope toys
- Watching out a window or watching an aquarium
- The internet is full of many, many more ideas!



Making sure your foster cat or kitten is enriched is a very easy (and fun!) thing to do, and helps to make sure their brains stay active and gives them a break from the mundane day-to-day. Enrichment should be an ongoing thing that includes novel objects as well as taking ordinary things and making them more fun and challenging.

For cats, enrichment items can include catnip toys (given sporadically), treats or kibble meals inside of boxes with holes cut out, rotating their through their toys every couple of days, or simply a bird feeder planted outside of a window (if their room has one).

These simple things, along with daily, interactive play sessions, will help keep your foster cat entertained and will keep them using their beautiful brain to solve puzzles and get a break from the mundane.





Nursing Queens & Their Kittens

Fostering a nursing Queen and her kittens can be one of the most enjoyable fostering experiences! Mom does all the hard work while you get to watch her babies grow and develop personalities. Whenever possible, we will keep a Queen with her babies, as kittens raised with their mothers are much healthier, and have a much higher chance of survival than those that are separated.



Nursing mothers of any kind should be kept in the quietest room of the house, and should be separated from any other animals in the home. Once the mother is comfortable in your household, she may want to wander out of her quiet room and into the rest of the house; this is O.K. as long as no other animals can get to her babies in her absence and she can return to them when she feels the need.



Never leave the house
with mom separated
from her babies!

Possible Problems

THINGS YOU MAY ENCOUNTER WHEN FOSTERING A NURSING QUEEN

On occasion, you may wind up having a foster experience that doesn't quite go as planned. The following problems may arise without any rhyme or reason, but if the foster team is given enough notice that there is a problem, we can work together towards the best outcome possible in these tough situations.



MATERNAL NEGLECT

When moms stop caring for their babies and supplemental care is necessary

FAILURE TO PRODUCE MILK

When mom stops making milk, or doesn't make enough, and supplemental feedings are required by the foster

MATERNAL AGGRESSION

When moms become too protective and take it out on their caretakers or their kittens

FADING KITTEN SYNDROME

When kittens just don't thrive, no matter how much extra care is given

KITTEN-ON-KITTEN NURSING

When kittens comfort nurse on each other, causing major health issues.

UPPER RESPIRATORY INFECTION

The kitty head cold.



Maternal Neglect

Sometimes, Queens will fail to care for their babies. This could stem from a variety of reasons, but most often it is because the mom is young and inexperienced, or there are genetic defaults with the kittens that we are not aware of but the mother is. On occasion, stress can also be a factor in causing a queen to neglect her babies.

With litters that have been neglected it is imperative to their survival that they receive supplemental feeding and care as soon as the neglect is noticed. Please contact either the foster department or call the after-hours on call phone if you suspect your queen is neglecting her litter and we will guide you on how to provide this level of care.



It is important to note that sometimes, even with the best supplemental care, neglected individuals or even entire litters may not survive.

Maternal Aggression

Nursing mothers are naturally protective over their babies. On occasion, this is elevated and can translate into aggression towards her caretakers and other animals. Alternatively, on rare occasions a nursing queen will act aggressively towards her babies and can cause physical harm or death. It is essential that nursing moms have their own quiet space in the home free from other pets to decrease stress and the likelihood of maternal aggression. If their aggression becomes severe to the point you are unable to provide basic care, please alert the foster department ASAP.

If you are fostering a feral mom and kittens, maternal aggression towards caretakers is to be expected. She is feral, after all! Be sure to follow steps given to you by the foster department to reduce the stress on caregivers and animals.



Failure to Produce Milk

When a mother is very young, sick, skinny, or stressed, she can sometimes fail to produce milk for her babies. Foster parents should be diligent about checking the weights of each nursing kitten daily until the kittens are about 6 weeks old to make sure they are gaining daily. If they are not getting enough milk from mom, supplemental feeding will be required to keep them growing healthy and strong. If they fail to gain or begin to drop weight immediately contact the foster department for assistance. Switching kittens over to being formula-fed can be difficult on them, so please refrain from starting any supplemental feeding without being instructed to by the foster department.



Upper Respiratory Infections

Upper Respiratory Infections, otherwise known as “URIs,” are the equivalent of a human head cold. They are caused by various bacterias and viruses and are generally treated with oral antibiotics to prevent secondary infections. Eye infections may accompany URIs and eye ointments may also be necessary. Keep an eye out for the symptoms outlined below, and be sure to contact the foster medical department if you notice the following:

- Nasal and/or ocular discharge
- Congested breathing
- Frequent sneezing
- Lethargy
- Lack of appetite





Fading Kitten Syndrome

Some kittens, despite everyone's best efforts, will just fail to thrive. Others may be doing great and growing strong, but then will suddenly and rapidly decline in their health. Both of these situations are examples of Fading Kitten Syndrome. There are many contributing factors for FKS, but with quick emergency action kittens can sometimes bounce back from FKS. Be sure to keep a very close eye on young kittens and call immediately if you sense there is a problem.

Symptoms of FKS:

- Failure to gain weight
- Lethargy (sudden or extreme)
- Muscle wasting
- Gasping for breath
- Odd vocalizations
- Dehydration/pale gums
- Hyper/hypothermia



Even kittens who are with their mom can develop FKS so be sure to keep a close eye on all kittens you foster for symptoms!



Kitten-on-Kitten Nursing

As strange as it may sound, this is a very real and very dangerous problem you may encounter. It isn't seen quite as often with kittens who have mothers but it is something every kitten foster needs to be very vigilant about checking for.

Kittens will nurse on each other for comfort (like a human child sucking its thumb), or if they are not getting enough to eat during mealtimes. Most often, the one doing the nursing will suckle on the genitals of its' siblings, but sometimes they will nurse wherever they can (bellies, sides, etc.). Tell-tale signs a kitten is being nursed on include:

- Rosettes suddenly appearing in their fur
- Genital area is constantly wet, smells like urine, and/or swollen and irritated
- The kitten does not urinate when stimulated

When kittens nurse on each other's genitals, two things happen - the kitten doing the nursing fills up on urine and excrement and, therefore, does not feel hungry at the next meal time and does not eat any milk/food. This leads to several health issues, most notably rapid weight loss. Additionally, the kitten getting nursed on can develop a UTI and/or ulcerated genitalia, making elimination very difficult and painful. Occasionally, the genitalia become so ulcerated and infected that it becomes impossible for the kitten to eliminate, and humane euthanasia is needed.

If you see (or suspect) your kittens may be nursing on each other, please separate the kitten doing the nursing immediately, and contact the foster team on the next available business day. If you have to separate a kitten from a nursing mom please give it a heat source, such as a rice sock, and allow it individual time with mom to nurse, as often as is appropriate for its' age:

- 0-2 weeks: every 2 hours
- 2-4 weeks: every 3-4 hours
- 4-6 weeks: every 4-5 hours
- 6+ weeks: supervised group play times, several times a day



Panleukopenia

Similar to the Parvo virus in dogs, Panleukopenia most commonly affects young kittens and cats without a good vaccine history. This disease attacks the rapidly dividing cells of the body, which include the GI system and the immune system. Symptoms include vomiting, bloody diarrhea, anorexia, and extreme lethargy. Unfortunately, there is no way to test if a kitten has Panleukopenia before they begin showing symptoms.



If your kitten is diagnosed with Panleuk, we will immediately begin a critical care regimen for the animal consisting of daily sub-cutaneous fluids, antibiotics, antiemetics, and pain medications - if we feel it is fair to the animal to do so. Sometimes, however, an animal may be so sick that we do not feel it is fair to put them through treatment, or they do not respond to the supportive care, and the decision may be to humanely euthanize them.

Panleukopenia is very prevalent in our area, and is part of the reason we strongly suggest a 14 day quarantine for all foster kittens.

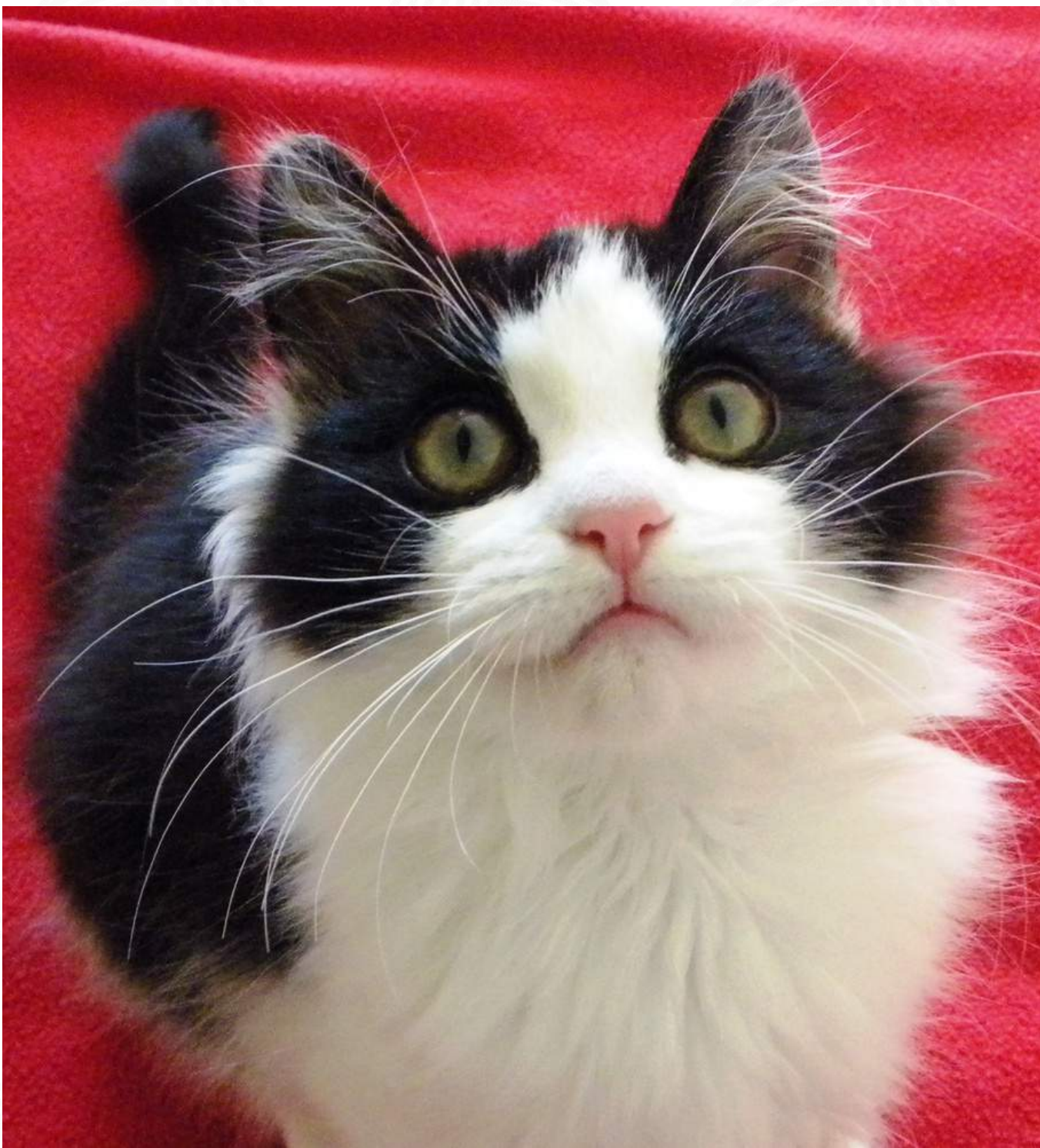
Other Commonly Seen Health Concerns



We ask that you please
DO NOT give your
foster animals flea or
tick preventatives
yourself - if you suspect
your foster animal has
fleas or have any
concerns about
preventatives please
contact the foster
department for a
treatment plan.

Fleas

All kittens aged 6 weeks and over will receive a topical flea prevention upon intake to the shelter, and so will be treated before entering your home. AHS uses Frontline Gold for flea prevention, which is effective for six weeks with cats. Kittens under the age of 6 weeks and under 1.5lbs are not safe to treat with topical medications and will need treated for fleas on a case by case basis. If you notice your foster kitten has fleas, alert the foster department ASAP, and begin brushing your foster with a flea comb and bathing them daily with blue Dawn dish soap. Be sure to dry each kitten entirely by using a hair dryer on the low setting before moving on to the next one and/or leaving them alone. Fleas can quickly cause other problems, such as tapeworms and anemia, and there is a risk of them getting into the carpets and upholstery in your home so be sure to contact the foster department at the first signs to begin treatment.



Internal Parasites

Asheville Humane Society has a very thorough deworming policy, however some kittens will need multiple treatments of dewormers to kill all their parasites. The most common types of parasites visibly seen are tapeworms and roundworms. Tapeworms look like flat grains of rice, and can be found in the stool or on the anus. Roundworms look like white spaghetti, and can be seen in the stool or in vomit. If you notice parasites, let the foster department know and/or bring a stool sample by to have a fecal test run on it so we can begin the proper treatment for the entire litter. Some parasites can't be seen by the naked eye, and a fecal test can be run at the shelter to look for parasite eggs. You can always send the foster medical tech photos of any concerning stool or parasites if you aren't sure.

Ear Mites

These pesky mites cause itchy and dirty ears in cats and kittens. If your foster has a large amount of black/brown discharge in their ears, if they are shaking their head consistently, and/or if they are scratching at their ears all the time, contact the foster department to schedule a recheck appointment. Ear mites require a specific medication so please do not attempt to self-treat if you suspect your foster may have ear mites.

Ear mites are transferable between cats, dogs, ferrets, and bunnies. Internal parasites and fleas can affect all species, including humans, so let the foster team know ASAP if you suspect your foster animal is struggling with either.





Diarrhea

It is not uncommon for kittens, especially those weaning, to experience loose stool or diarrhea during their time in foster care. If your foster experiences loose stool more than once, please bring a recent (less than 12 hours old) sample by the shelter for a fecal test to be run by our medical department.

Diarrhea is caused by various things, but parasites, food changes, overfeeding, viruses, stress, and bacteria are the most common causes. Diarrhea can quickly lead to dehydration, so it is very important to begin treatment as quickly as possible. If your foster has loose stool more than once, or diarrhea, please contact the foster department to let them know.



Ringworm

Ringworm is a fungus that is found all over the environment. Most people and animals come into contact with it regularly throughout their lives, but those with lowered or compromised immune systems are at a higher risk of becoming infected. Signs of ringworm on kittens include portions of thin or missing hair with scabby, flaky skin. It is most commonly seen on the face, ears, legs, and paws.

Ringworm is treated with a topical Lyme-Sulfur bath given twice a week, and in more severe cases oral antifungals may be added. If you suspect your foster may have ringworm, please contact the foster department to schedule an exam and a fungal culture. The foster department will provide you with a treatment and cleaning protocol.



Ringworm is not as scary as it sounds! Some people may be concerned about their family or their own pets getting ringworm.

There is, of course, always a possibility of this happening, but the risk is low if you pay attention to hand washing, cleaning, etc. If you did end up with a spot of ringworm, it is easily treated with an over-the-counter fungicidal cream such as Lamisil.

Recheck Appointments & How They Work

All animals in foster care will need to be seen periodically by our medical team. For the majority of animals, this will be every 2-4 weeks. For animals in long-term foster care, time between appointments may increase to once every 4-6 weeks. These appointments will be for a variety of things, ranging from boosters and weight checks to surgery site inspections and URI rechecks. The foster department will work with you to find the best date and time for you to bring in your animals for their rechecks. Once an appointment has been scheduled, you will receive an email alerting you to the appointment date, time, and details. You'll also receive a reminder email and a reminder text message a few days before your scheduled appointment. Please keep a close eye out for these emails! Appointment email notifications will come from SetMore, and may be filtered out by your spam blocker, so be sure to keep an eye on both your inbox & your spam folder.

When you arrive for your appointment, you will come to the Adoption Center (red building to the right). We have dedicated foster parking spaces to the right of the building, but if those are all taken you can park in any available space. When facing the building, you'll see a black gate to the right - go through that gate to the picnic table immediately to the left. Take a seat and give us a call at 828-776-1203 to let us know you've arrived. A staff member will be with you shortly to take your fosters back for their exam. We'll give you a call when we're finished & heading back to the picnic table. During inclement weather, you are welcome to stay in your car and call us - we'll direct you where to go to keep you and your fosters out of the elements.

Please be aware that foster parents cannot accompany their foster animals back to the medical area, as this is a staff only portion of the building.



Appointment email notifications will come from SetMore, and may be filtered out by your spam filter, so be sure to keep an eye on both your inbox & your spam folder. Appointment times are scheduled for a window of time depending on the type of appointment & the number of animals we'll be seeing, but please understand this is **not** a window for arrival time. This is the window blocked off in our schedule to talk to you, examine your foster animal, give treatments, fill medications, and enter notes. If you are running late to your foster appointment, please text or call a member of the foster department to let them know. If you cannot make your scheduled appointment, please give 24 hours notice if possible. We appreciate your promptness for scheduled appointments as this helps everything run smoothly. Thank you for understanding that we cannot always see unscheduled/walk-in appointments unless they are emergencies.

Vaccinations

All animals 4 weeks and older receive vaccinations upon intake to the shelter. Cats under 4 months of age will need regular boosters of the FVRCP (feline viral rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, and panleukopenia) every 2 weeks until they are 4 months old. Once animals are 12 weeks old they will receive their rabies vaccine.



Dewormers

All animals will receive various dewormers, depending on their age, starting at 2 weeks old up through 16 weeks. Some of the dewormers may need to be given at home. If you aren't sure how to draw up or give any medications, always let the foster team know and they can help.

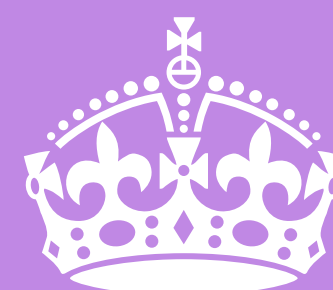


Strange Situations You May Encounter



Animals are predictably unpredictable. If you foster for long enough, you're bound to run into a situation that is outside of the normal.

We've highlighted a few things that occasionally happen, but if you ever experience something with your foster animal and you're not sure what your next steps should be, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Foster Department! That's one of the reasons we're here - to make sure your foster experience is as good as it can be.



**Keep Calm
And
Alert The
Foster
Department!**





My Foster Escaped!

The first thing you should know is that this happens to even the most diligent foster parents - even the most laid-back cat can sneak through an open door! Generally, all adult cats and kittens over 2lbs are microchipped to AHS. Please follow the steps outlined to the right should your foster animal escape.

- Immediately call someone from the foster department. Please do not wait - call as soon as you realize your animal might be missing! If it is after hours, please notify the on-call personnel at 828-231-0365.
- Call the animal control agency for where you are located
 - Buncombe County - 828-250-6670
 - Asheville City Animal Services - 828-252-1110
- If your foster cat was a social, people-loving cat, go ahead and begin looking for it. Start around the house first, then expand into the surrounding area. Ask for a trap to help catch your foster. Place bedding and the cat's litter box outside near the trap to entice the cat to come back to its' own smell
- If your foster cat was a semi-social or fearful cat, it likely will not come to you should you see it. Instead, ask for a trap to set out near your home. Just like with social cats, place things that contain the cats' smell on them to entice it to come back to the area.



My Foster Bit Someone

Again, the first thing you should know is that this happens to even the most diligent, animal-savvy foster parents. Bites can happen for a wide variety of reasons, some of which are highly unpredictable. If your foster should bite you and it breaks through the skin, the first thing you need to do is seek immediate medical attention. Once you have been seen and treated by a medical professional, your next step is to call the Foster Manager and let them know in as much detail as possible what happened leading up to the bite



Once you have spoken with the Foster Manager, your next step will be to call the Animal Control Agency appropriate for your county or city of residence. **IT IS REQUIRED BY LAW TO REPORT ANY ANIMAL BITE THAT BREAKS THE SKIN.**

After you have reported the bite, the foster animal will need to go into a 10-day quarantine as required by law. This can often be done at your home if you are comfortable, but it is at the discretion of the animal control agency and county health department. Please understand having a bite on an animals' record is not necessarily an immediate cause for euthanasia. AHS will take all information surrounding the bite into account and a committee will meet to determine the next steps for the animal.

Please understand that it is imperative for the Asheville Humane Society to know if your foster bit you; lying about the severity and/or circumstances surrounding the bite may put other members of the public/animals at risk.



There are local & internet support resources available:

- Bright Star Studio, Hendersonville; <https://honoringourpets.com/monthly-pet-honoring-memorial-service/>
- 4 Paws Farewell Pet Loss Grief Support; <http://4pawsfarewell.com/pet-loss-support/>
- Day By Day Pet Caregiver Support; <https://daybydaypetsupport.com/>
- The Association for Pet Loss & Bereavement; www.aplb.org
- The Pet Loss Support Page; <https://www.pet-loss.net/>

My Foster Passed Away

As hard as we try to save every life, unfortunately there are some that just don't make it. Should you discover that your foster animal has passed away, please alert the foster department via text or phone call as soon as possible (during business hours).

In most cases, you are more than welcome to bury your foster animal if you would like, or you can bring their body back to the shelter. There are also a few pet cremation organizations in the area if you would like to have your foster pet cremated; our team is always happy to walk you through this process if desired. In some cases, our medical team may request the body be returned to the shelter building so a necropsy can be performed to determine cause of death, so please always check with the foster department before burying your foster animal.

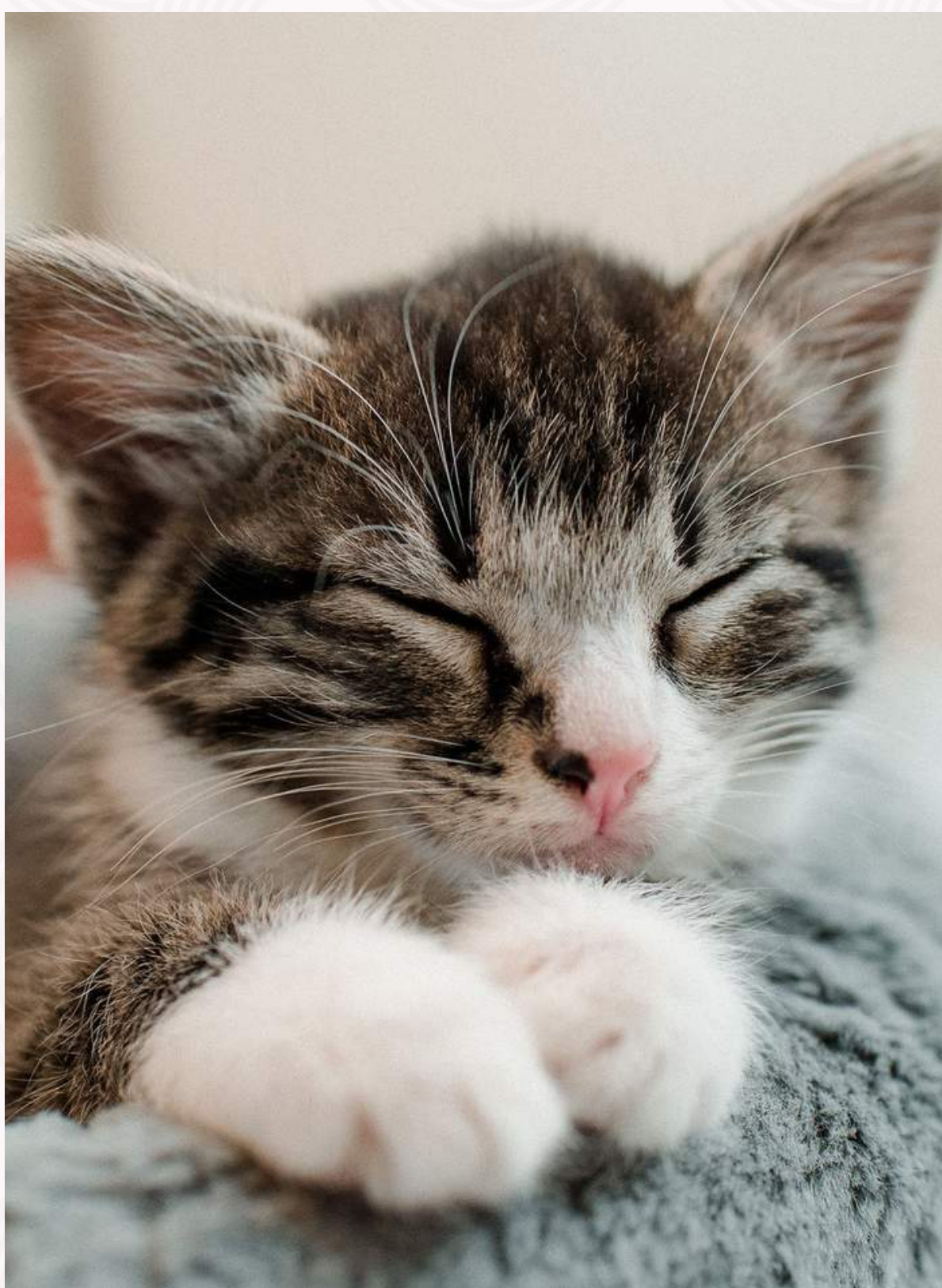
Losing an animal is never an easy thing, especially when it's an animal you have been fighting so hard to save. Should you feel the need for help with your grieving process, please don't hesitate to reach out to any member of the foster department. We will always be here to help you however we can.





What Happens Next?

We all fall in love with our foster animals, but the ultimate job of any foster parent is to get them ready for their next big adventure - adoption. **While it can be incredibly difficult to let them go, the goal is to say goodbye.** This next section will go over what to expect when your foster animal reaches this point in their journey, and lets you, the foster parent, know what next steps your foster animal is taking before they go home with their new family.



If you've fallen completely smitten with your foster animal, and wish to adopt them, let the foster team know! We lovingly call this "foster failing," and we happily provide adoption fee discounts to foster parents.

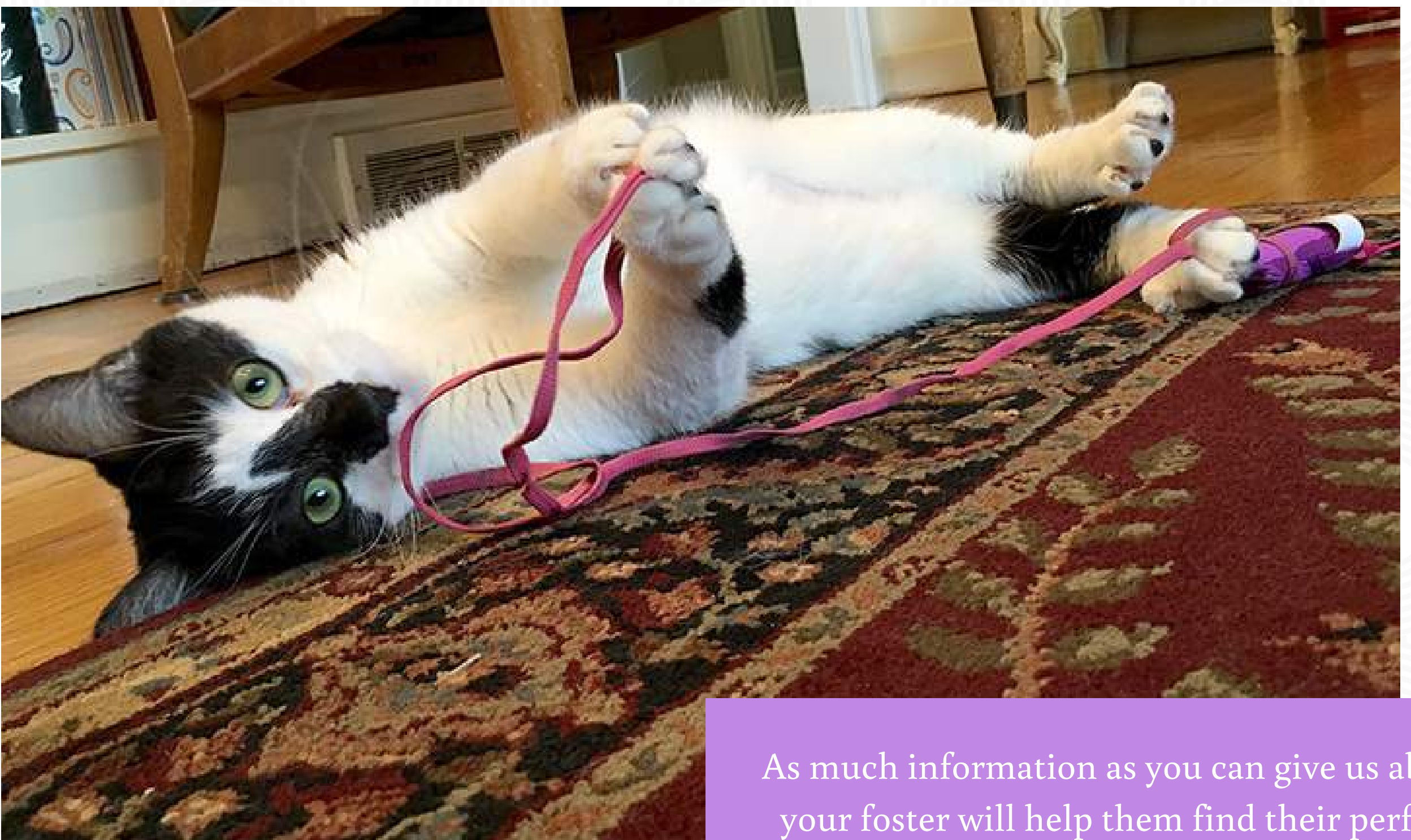




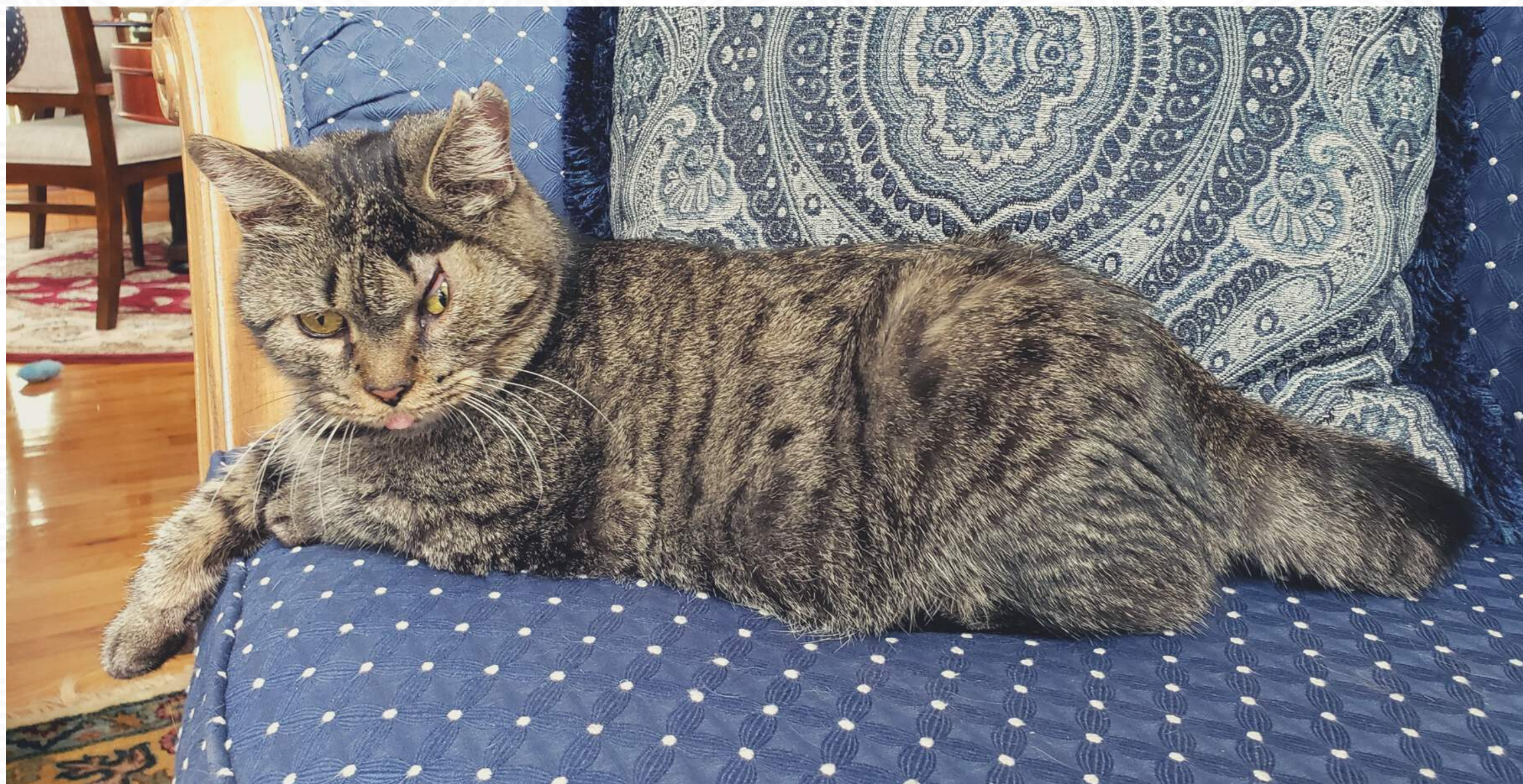
Returning Your Foster

When your foster is ready to be returned to the Animal Shelter and placed for adoption, the Foster Department will work with you to schedule a return appointment. Kittens are returned when they weigh 2.0 lbs and are free from any illnesses. Older kittens and adult cats that were sent out to recuperate from colds must be cleared by our medical staff before they can be returned; this generally takes a minimum of 10 days from the start of medications. Animals that were sent out for weight loss/gain or other medical issues will be returned on a case-by-case basis.

If your foster ends up not working out in your household and you wish to return them, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the foster team. We are always more than willing to help you try to work through behavioral issues, but if you decide the foster animal is requiring more time and energy than you can provide, we will schedule a time for you to bring them back. It is at this time we request you bring back any unused food and litter, as well as toys, litter boxes/scoops, food bowls, crates, and any neonatal supplies you were given, regardless of the condition it may be in.



As much information as you can give us about your foster will help them find their perfect forever home! You can email pictures & adoption bios to foster@ashevillehumane.org.



All animals **MUST** be spayed/neutered before they can be adopted. Please understand we schedule all surgeries through our veterinary partners, and cannot accomodate requests to use personal veterinarians.



Spaying & Neutering

If your foster animal has already been spayed or neutered, they will simply move over into the Adoption Center as soon as a spot is available upon their return. If your foster animal has yet to be spayed or neutered, they will go onto the adoption floor (as space is available) to be pre-adopted until the next available surgery spot opens at the ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance (ASNA). Surgery days are typically Monday - Thursday, and the animal will spend the night at ASNA after their surgery. They'll return to AHS first thing the following morning at which point they'll be ready to head home!

Adult cats can be spayed or neutered as soon as they are deemed healthy by our medical team, and kittens can go once they are 8 weeks old, two pounds, and medically cleared.

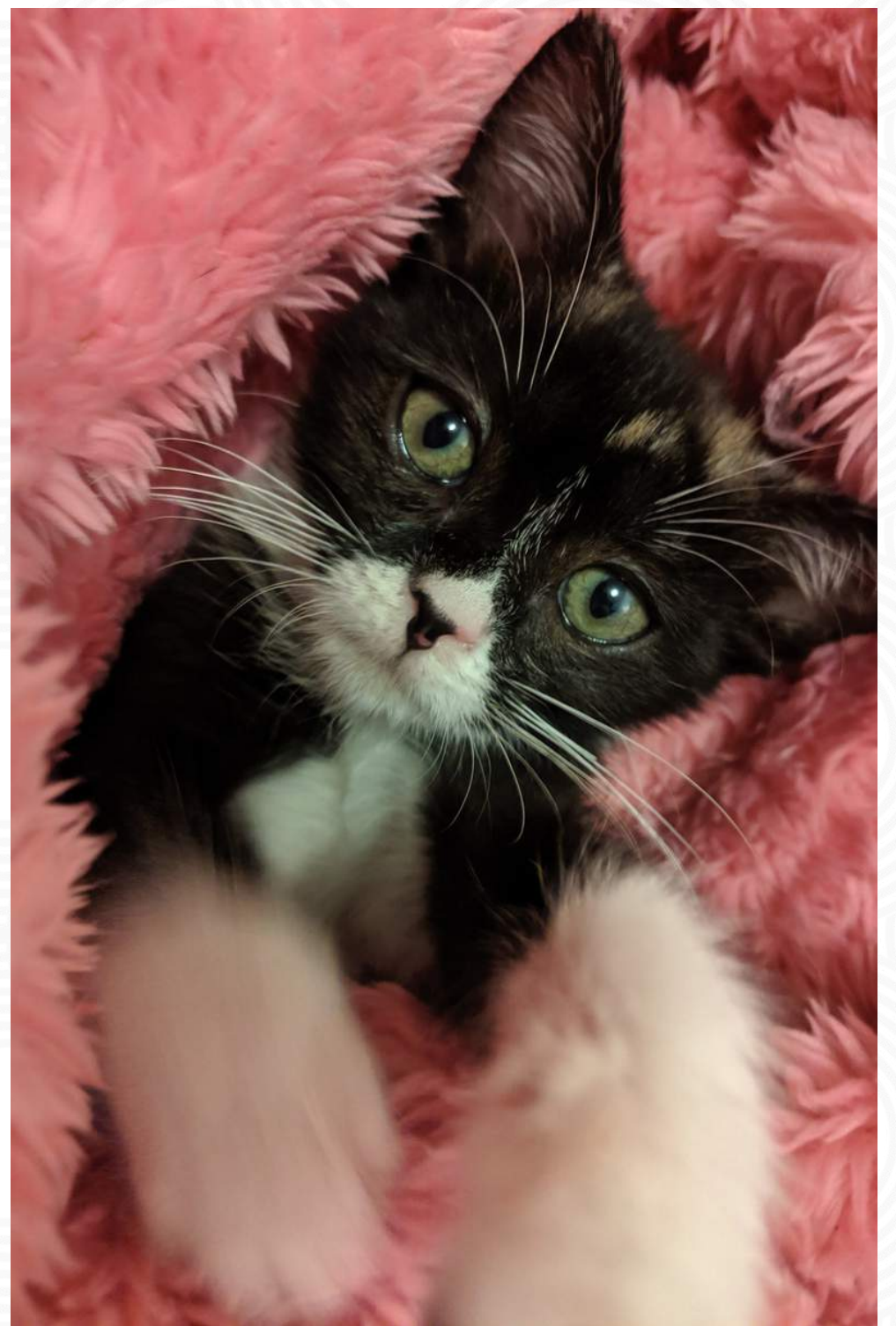




At the discretion of our Adoptions Manager, certain animals may qualify to become Adoption Ambassador animals. This means they stay in their foster home until they are adopted while their foster parents actively help us find their new families. If you are interested in learning more about the Adoption Ambassador program, please ask the Foster Manager for more information.

Finding Your Foster A Home

We are always happy to hear that foster animals have homes waiting for them! Any interested adopters do need to actually meet and spend time with the animals before we will put a note on the animals' file about an interested adopter. If you are not comfortable having interested parties over to your home to meet the animal, simply let them know when the animal returns to AHS and tell them to keep a close eye on the website. We do ask that if you share your foster on social media that you only post them on your personal pages and stay away from community groups or community apps.



Please know that all adopters must be counseled by a trained adoption counselor before making an adoption official, and AHS reserves the right to refuse any adopter for any reason.



EMERGENCIES REQUIRING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

- LETHARGY
- COLD TO THE TOUCH
- DIFFICULTY BREATHING
- EXCESSIVE BLEEDING
- POSSIBLE BROKEN BONES/SUDDEN ONSET OF SWELLING
- SEVERE LACERATIONS
- SEIZURES/NEUROLOGICAL SYMPTOMS
- UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS TO VOMIT
- VOMITING BLOOD
- INJURIES TO EYES
- MALE CATS VOCALIZING WHILE TRYING TO URINATE/UNABLE TO URINATE

CONCERNS THAT CAN WAIT UNTIL THE NEXT BUSINESS DAY

- DIARRHEA
- CONGESTION
- WEEPY/SWOLLEN EYES
- NASAL DISCHARGE
- BLOODY STOOL
- HAIR LOSS/SKIN LESIONS
- LIMPING
- MINOR TAIL INJURIES
- FLEAS
- INTESTINAL PARASITES
- VOMITING



CONTACT INFORMATION & HOURS OF OPERATION

BUISNESS HOURS:

Monday - Saturday

828-776-1203/828-768-5451

9:00am - 6:00pm

CLOSED:

Sundays; Monday - Saturday 6:00pm -

828-231-0365

9:00am

FOSTER MEDICAL TECH:

mfoster@ashevillehumane.org

828-776-1203

Tuesday - Saturday, 9:00am - 6:00pm

FOSTER PLACEMENT

COORDINATOR:

fosteradmin@ashevillehumane.org

828-768-5451

Tuesday - Saturday, 9:00am - 6:00pm

FOSTER MANAGER:

foster@ashevillehumane.org

Monday - Friday, 9:00am - 6:00pm