



Foster Care with Cowra Pet Rescue

GENERAL INFORMATION

Caring for foster pets is a wonderful way to bring joy and companionship to your family and home. A pet Foster Carer provides a temporary home for rescued animals while their forever family or home is found. This may be for a single weekend, a week or several months. The role of a Foster Carer can range from providing a loving and safe environment, transitioning an animal from Pound to a new home, and sometimes assisting with medical care and training.

Who can foster?

We welcome foster homes of all shapes and sizes, from couples to families with kids, apartments to farms, with or without existing pets. We have an extensive application form, and will come to visit you before approval, and can answer any questions you may have.

If you are renting or boarding, you will need to show permission from any Strata/Body Corporate involved, and/or your Landlord/Real Estate agent allowing dogs and/or cats in your home (outside and inside).

Is Animal Foster Care Right for You?

It's important to know whether you are personally and situationally ready for a foster animal. Rescue cats and dogs, the most common type of foster pet, will need to be treated with gentle, constant attention. You will need a home where pets are permitted, and a household who can handle pets who may be ill, injured or may experience behavioural problems.

How long on average will an animal require foster care?

It varies based on the type of animal you're fostering, the reason for foster care and how long it takes for the animal to be adopted. Kittens and puppies will generally stay in foster care for 2-8 weeks due to their popularity, they are often spoken for before they are old enough. Young and adult dogs and adult cats can stay in foster care for 6+ months, and is dependent on their needs as well as the interest we receive/successful adoption applicants.



Who needs fostering?

- Puppies and kittens who are not old enough to be rehomed
- Pregnant animals, cats with kittens and dogs with puppies, needing a stable calm environment in which to raise their young
- Animals recovering from surgery or short-term, treatable illnesses
- Animals suffering from stress and anxiety, not coping in the Pound etc
- Animals in protective custody, or those from domestic violence situations
- Dogs with mild behavioural issues requiring behavioural enrichment
- The rental crisis sometimes means pets have to be surrendered
- Strays and surrenders who need a safe place to land in the best environment we can give them, so they can be ready to move into their fur-ever home when they are ready.

Do you have the time required to foster care?

Make sure you have enough 'free' time to take care of a foster pet who might need extra attention as they transition into life in a home. A demanding job or family schedule can make it difficult to foster, while extra free time makes for great, attentive foster parents for pets.

It does depend on the needs of the animal. Some require a quiet home with less activity and a routine, and some thrive or need socialisation into a busy family. Dogs require outside exercise, socialisation, walking training, whereas cats need indoor exercise, socialisation and adaptation to home life with a person or a family.

What do you need as a Foster Carer with CRRP?

A safe and secure, home environment that can provide love, attention and regular handling. A willingness to learn new things and be hands-on. Own transport is helpful, however we do provide where needed. The application form will help you investigate further if you are fully available to be a Foster Carer. As always, contact us for advice or a visit.

Cats must be kept indoors, or only allowed out into a secure outdoor enclosure. Some small dogs may also be mostly indoor dogs, other than exercise or toilet. Most dogs will require outdoor space for a larger part of the day, whilst also learning how to behave when inside.

Foster Care can be emotionally draining at times. Animals can get sick, need special medical attention, have stressful behaviour, and even pass away or have to be put to sleep with the Vet. You do need to consider this may happen, even though it's rare. We are here to support you through it all.



What do we provide?

Vet care is provided for by the Rescue. If you need help transporting your Foster to and from a vet visit we can help with that also. Our main Vet in town is:

Central Vet Services - 102 Darling Street – Ph: 6341 1768 (main vet, 1st option – **always contact first in emergencies**)

Cowra Vet Centre - 32 Grenfell Road – Ph: 6341 3113 (backup vet, 2nd option)

Scheduled vet visits for vaccinations, desexing and other non-urgent matters are booked by Admin and you will receive the date, time, and pre-op instructions if necessary. We can help with transportation.

Emergencies

Central Vet Services can be contacted for advice if you have concerns that are emergency/urgent, and they will contact the Rescue to confirm an animal can be taken in for an emergency assessment. At all times you can contact the Rescue Admins by phone, using Messenger via Facebook, or text. You will be given all these details when you are accepted as a Foster Carer.

Items you will need to provide

All other necessities are provided by the Carers. Food, toys, cat trees, bedding, litter, towels, shampoo etc.

Litter and food/feeding

Litter is your choice. Paper pellets, crystals or clumping. If you are not sure, just ask.

Supermarket foods are fine, excluding Smitten. In Australia, there have been documented kidney and liver failure which the treating vets diagnosed as a direct result of eating this brand a few years ago, so please avoid this one. It's a good idea to buy a mixture of brands, (biscuits and wet) so the animals get a variety, and it won't be such a change if discontinued, or the new owner uses something else. Same as kids – variety early on, and no sudden diet changes unless medically necessary.

Note any foods that upset their tummy, and try something else. Some animals will need a stomach or skin sensitive diet, hairball deterrent, vet only food such as urinary disease protective foods etc. Kittens must have kitten food as it has the fat and nutrients they need, and a good guide is to feed them Kitten food until they are one.

We sometimes receive donations from ARC and Rescue Resource and can distribute to Carers including food, but this is not in place of Carer's own commitment to provisions. We don't get the same items each time though. Crates and pens may also be available for loan from other Carer's if you have animals who need them. You must be able to finance what you will need as a Foster Carer. Physical, mental stimulation, emotional care is all part of Foster Care and all equally important. See 'Terms' below for indemnity and risk acceptance.



Animals have Rights

Foster carers don't need to be home all day to look after their four legged charges. However you must provide for their welfare. Towards this goal, we endorse what is know as the Five Freedoms:

The Five Freedoms

- ✓ Freedom from Hunger and Thirst by providing ready access to fresh water and diet to maintain health and vigour.
- ✓ Freedom from Discomfort by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
- ✓ Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease through prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
- ✓ Freedom to Express Normal Behavior by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.
- ✓ Freedom from Fear and Distress by ensuring conditions and treatment avoid causing mental suffering.

What if it doesn't work out, can I return the animal to the Rescue?

We will always have a spot at the shelter for any foster animal which comes back for any reason. Sometimes it just doesn't work out or the animal isn't suitable. When the animal is returned, it is helpful for us to know why so we can place the animal in another more suitable foster home in the future.

What if I am going away, what happens to the foster animal if it's still in my care?

You can arrange for a CPRR approved person to take care of the pet whilst you are away, but it does depend on the animal and if we agree that person is suitable. They may be better to have their own holiday with another Carer. Please give us as much notice as possible so we can provide an easy transition.

What happens if I want to adopt (keep) my foster animal?

Yes! When they are living with you, they became part of your family and you will get to know your foster pets in a way that no one else will. We take this into consideration when they go up for adoption. As long as you are suitable as a long term (10-20 years) option, then we definitely consider "foster fails".

Foster Carer Risk Acceptance (part of the Foster Carer Application process)

I understand that although CPRR takes reasonable care to screen animals for foster care placement, it makes no guarantee relating to the dogs health, behaviour or actions.

I understand that I receive foster care animals at my own risk and can reject or return any animals for which CPRR has asked me to provide care.

I indemnify and hold CPRR free and harmless from all liability arising out of any and all claims, demands, losses, damages, action, judgment of every kind and description which may occur to or be suffered by me, members of my household, or any third parties by reason of activities arising out of this agreement.