



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

Why should I foster cats or kittens?

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

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, playing with the cats or kittens, and most importantly, giving them lots of love!

Our cats & kittens have been rescued from outside, so they are generally rather shy around new people. Our kittens are generally born of a feral mom. As such, socialization is an important part of fostering. If kittens are socialized at an early enough age, they can easily become friendly house kitties. Socialization involves holding, petting, loving, playing with them, feeding them on your lap, etc. Getting them used to human touch and different situations involving people and possibly other pets is the key. The process is a bit different for each cat or kitten depending on their personality.

We generally 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 for the first few weeks. 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 will it cost to foster a cat or kitten?

Feral Fixers can provide you with the necessary supplies for fostering and covers 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. If you have a litter pan, scoop, bowls, beds, scratching surfaces and toys that you don't mind using, that also helps.

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.

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. Most of our spay/neuter surgeries are performed by DuPage County Animal

Services or ADOPT Pet Shelter. You will be informed of the day of the surgery and asked to drive your fosters to/from our building in Lombard. From Lombard, they will be transported, together with many other cats and kittens, to DCAS or ADOPT for the surgery.

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

Kittens require periodic deworming, vaccinations and possibly other medication. Feral Fixers will provide the medication and vaccinations. If possible, it will be helpful if you can drive the kittens to/from Lombard as needed. You will also need to administer the medication as directed.

If you are unable to drive your foster cats or kittens for their medical appointments, alternate transportation arrangements may be able to be made.

What if I already have a pet?

Resident pets are generally a benefit to the fostering experience unless they react negatively to the new arrivals. Foster cats or kittens should typically stay in their designated foster room, so interaction with resident pets can be managed. Once all animals have been vet checked and found to be healthy, introductions to resident pets can be done gradually. Positive interactions between foster cats or kittens and resident dogs prepares the foster cats or kittens for introduction into a home with dogs, thereby increasing their adoptability.

How long do cats or kittens stay in foster care?

The fostering interval for a cat or kitten 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. Special arrangements can be made for vacations or other circumstances.

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. Adoptions are done from foster homes or our building in between events. 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.

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. Adoption screening will be conducted to ensure it is a good match and the foster family will be asked to pay the adoption fee to cover medical expenses.

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

Please send an email to gotfriendlies@gmail.com or call 630-881-7459. At the Kitten Shower and adoption events, we have paper foster applications for you to complete.