

**Important questions to ask yourself**



**Before you decide to foster for the Waikato SPCA...**

**Are you able to get to us or one of our vets (SPCA/Carevets) quickly in an emergency?**

**Will you be able to spend quality time with the animals?**

On average, it is best to spend **at least 2 hours** a day with your foster animals. Socialisation can be as important as feeding them and keeping them clean.

**Will you be able to commit to appointments ranging from twice a week to every two weeks whether or not they are ill?**

**Are you aware that there is a great deal of clean up and even possible damage to your home when you take a foster home?**

Foster animals can ruin drapes, carpeting, clothing and the Waikato SPCA will not be held responsible for any damage incurred while fostering an animal.

**Are you willing to work with our veterinary care system?**

Please understand that only our vets can treat foster animals without charging you.

**Are you able to separate our animals from your own?**

Foster animals must remain isolated from your resident pets. Can you keep them in an enclosed area away from your animals?

**Can you commit to spending the entire foster period with the animals?**

**Do you feel comfortable explaining to friends that these animals are not yours to adopt out and they must go through the regular adoption process at the Waikato SPCA?**

**Will you be able to bring the animal back at the end of the foster period?**

It can be difficult to let go once you have become emotionally attached.

**Are you emotionally prepared to handle the death of one of your foster animals?**

This can be very difficult, but the sad truth is that it sometimes happens. In this event, the SPCA should be contacted immediately.

***This is your copy to keep – please remove and return just your completed foster application.***



## **Frequently asked questions**

### **Can I let the kittens play with my resident pet?**

No, you are required to separate your foster kittens from your resident pets. Not only could your pets introduce diseases to the foster kittens, but the kittens could also introduce deadly diseases to your pets. It is best to consider the health of all the animals under your care. The Waikato SPCA cannot be responsible for the health of your resident pets.

### **What if I have to leave town and the kittens aren't ready?**

Occasionally things come up that require you to leave town before your foster kittens are ready to be returned. If this happens, call the Feline Attendant to arrange for the kittens' care. You cannot hire someone to 'babysit' without our consent – we need to know who is looking after the fosters.

### **Can I foster kittens if I have a full-time job?**

It depends on the flexibility of your job and your schedule. Most of our foster parents do work full-time, but are able to spend time with their foster kittens before they leave for work and when they come home. They are also able to accommodate their schedule if a kitten is seriously ill and needs to be seen by our vet right away.

### **How much time do I need to spend with the kittens?**

As much time as you possibly can! The more time you spend with your fosters, the more you will help with their socialisation. You'll also spot symptoms that your kittens are not feeling well – with kittens this young that could be critical. Besides, it's a lot of fun to play with kittens! As noted above, it's not that you have to be home with the kittens all the time, but you do need to make a commitment to their well-being. You are responsible for these little lives!

### **How many kittens will I be fostering?**

At least two kittens go out on foster at a time so that they can teach each other kitty manners. In special circumstances, a kitten may go on foster alone but that is usually for behaviour reasons or due to injury.

### **How long will the kitten need to be in foster?**

Kittens need to be fostered until they reach 1kg in weight and can be desexed.

### **What if I get overwhelmed and can't take care of the kittens?**

If you feel that you are unable to give adequate care to the kittens, contact the Small Animal Unit right away and make arrangements to bring the kittens back. We appreciate the effort; fostering is not right for everyone all the time.

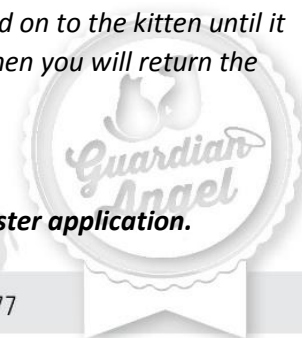
### **Will I need to give medication?**

Almost every kitten will need medication for something. It is not difficult and is very important that you are able to give a kitten the medication it needs. We are more than happy to show you how to administer medication correctly.

### **When a kitten is 1kg, is it automatically ready to come back?**

The kitten is ready for desexing if it is 1kg in weight and not on any medication. At that time, please call the Small Animal Unit Team Leader and make an appointment to desex the kitten. You will then hold on to the kitten until it has recovered from its operation. It depends on the space available at the shelter as to when you will return the kittens.

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## FOSTER APPLICATION : FELINE/SMALL ANIMAL UNIT



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Alternative contact:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Foster Animals:**

Queens with kittens/pregnant cats

Sick cats/kittens

Injured cats/kittens (usually requiring crate rest)

Adult cats

Kittens only. (  Bottle feds    Under 6 weeks old    Is there a maximum number of kittens in a litter you can cope with? \_\_\_\_\_ )

Rabbits/guinea pigs

### **Personal:**

Have you previously fostered for the SPCA? Yes / No   If so, when and where was this? \_\_\_\_\_

What experience do you have in caring for the animals you have expressed an interest in fostering? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you had an animal in your home with a contagious disease (such as ringworm)? Yes / No If yes, what/when was this? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you: rent / own your home / flat   If flatting or renting, are ALL flatmates and landlord in agreeance to you fostering? Yes / No

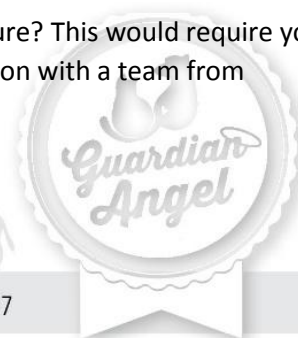
Please describe the area you plan to use for the animals when you are at home, and when you are away from home:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Our foster updates are sent by e-mail. Do you have regular access to e-mails? Yes / No

Are you interested in attending off-site adoption events if they were to be held in the future? This would require you to go along to a venue one weekend day with your foster(s) and promote them for adoption with a team from Waikato SPCA. Yes / No



## Waikato SPCA Foster Parent Agreement



As a foster parent for the Waikato SPCA, I agree to the following:

- To keep my foster cat/kittens current on their vaccinations, fleaing and worming.
- To give my foster cat/kittens only medication prescribed by Waikato SPCA vets.
- To keep my foster cat/kittens separate from any resident pets.
- To keep my foster cats/kittens confined to a kitten-proofed space and indoors at all times.
- To use an approved carrier to transport my foster cat/kittens to and from the Waikato SPCA.
- That I will not give the care of my foster cat/kittens to anyone else at any time without the consent of the Waikato SPCA.
- To notify the Waikato SPCA if my foster cat/kittens are not eating for more than 24 hours.
- To notify the Waikato SPCA if my foster cat/kittens have diarrhoea for more than 24 hours.
- To clean and disinfect all supplies used by my foster cat/kittens before using them with a new group of fosters.
- To clean out and disinfect my designated cat/kitten space before introducing a new group of fosters.

I understand the Waikato SPCA runs a Foster Care Program for any animal(s) that is not adoptable because of age, medical condition or behaviour. I fully understand that this animal(s) is only temporarily in my care and belongs exclusively to the Waikato SPCA. I further understand that the purpose of this foster relationship is solely to provide care for this animal(s). I understand that the Waikato SPCA must approve any resolution and treatment concerning the animal(s).

I understand and agree that I will return the animal(s) on the scheduled date or as requested. I understand that any and all placements will only be made through the Waikato SPCA and are subject to the same guidelines as any other adoption.

I understand that in some cases euthanasia of the foster animal may be required for health reasons.

I hereby acknowledge that I have read, fully understood and agree to all parts of the Waikato SPCA Foster Parent Agreement in addition to the above, and that the Agreement form shall serve as a binding addendum to this Foster Parent agreement.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

