



Inland Valley  
Humane Society  
& S.P.C.A.

*A home away from home.*

500 Humane Way, Pomona, CA 91766  
(909) 623-9777

# KITTEN FOSTER MANUAL



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## **Contact Names and Numbers**

*Questions about fostering and supplies: please contact the foster program coordinator, Robert Avila*

*Scheduling foster vaccine appointments, sick exam appointments, emergencies during regular hours: please contact the Veterinary Services Department*

*Non-emergency medical questions can be emailed to the medical director*

*AFTER-HOURS: For true emergencies only - please call the emergency after hours line (see note at bottom of page)*

### **Foster Program Coordinator: Supplies**

**Robert Avila**

**Shelter: (909) 623-9777 Ext: 608**

**Email: [ravila@ivhsspca.org](mailto:ravila@ivhsspca.org)**

### **Veterinary Services Department: Appointments**

**Shelter: (909) 623-9777 Ext: 664 or 669**

**Email: [vetoffice@ivhsspca.org](mailto:vetoffice@ivhsspca.org)**

### **Medical Director: Medical concerns**

**Karen Lee, DVM**

**Shelter: (909) 623-9777 Ext: 635**

**Email: [klee@ivhsspca.org](mailto:klee@ivhsspca.org)**

**Hours of Operation: 8:00am – 5:00pm**

## **Emergency Protocol and Contact Information**

On occasion, foster animals have emergencies that happen outside of the normal hours of operation. **In case of an after-hours medical emergency, please call the after-hours emergency line at: (909) 594-9858.**

**\*Please note that if you decide to take the foster animal directly to an emergency veterinary facility without prior approval from IVHS, IVHS will not be responsible for any of the costs incurred.\*\***

## **Choosing Foster Candidates**

Not every animal is eligible for the foster program. Our foster program is mainly for kittens or puppies that are too young to go up for adoption and for long term animals that are here at the shelter. Animals available for foster care are those who are expected to be deemed adoptable upon completion of a term of foster care. Animals with severe health or behavior problems that would prevent their being adopted even after specialized care are not placed into the foster program. Reasons animals are placed in foster care include, but are not limited to: age, socialization, wound healing, minor injuries, and other illness/injuries at the Organization's discretion. **The Inland Valley Humane Society & SPCA management retains discretionary authority for selecting animals for foster care.**

### **Animals will not be considered for foster care if any of the following apply:**

- Represent a threat to public health or safety.
- Have medical or behavioral problems in which the condition, prognosis or clinical course is unclear.
- Have conditions (medical or behavioral) requiring an unreasonable investment of time and expense to the Inland Valley Humane Society & SPCA, the foster family or the potential adopter.
- Have a prognosis of poor quality of life or chronic pain and suffering.

### **The following guidelines will also be followed:**

- An animal fostered for socialization will be at the shelter's discretion.
- Any animal that shows signs of illness at the time of surrender is not eligible to be fostered.

## **Suggested Supplies**

The number of foster animals the Inland Valley Humane Society can support is limited by the annual resources available to the program. Foster caregivers are encouraged to donate supplies for their own foster animals if they are able to in order to maximize the number of foster animals fostered by IVHS each year. All items donated are tax deductible. Some supplies are available to give or loan to foster caregivers who require them in order to foster. The following is a list of supplies recommended for the care and maintenance of your foster animals.

## **Suggested Supplies (cont'd)**

- Blankets and towels
- Paper towels and rags
- Newspaper
- Bowls- ceramic or stainless steel are easiest to sanitize
- Crate/Kennel/Playpen
- Grooming supplies- brushes, and combs
- Litter boxes
- Litter- use unscented, non-clumping clay litter for kittens
- Sheets or tarps- to protect floors
- Scratching Post
- Cardboard scratcher
- Stain and odor remover- Nature's Miracle works really well
- Toys that can be cleaned and sanitized (rubber, nylon, etc.)
- Bleach
- Disinfectant

This list is not exhaustive. This is a general list for fostering cats and kittens. The foster caregiver's best judgment should be used when obtaining supplies.

## **Picking Up a New Foster Animal**

- The Foster Program Coordinator will contact a list of potential foster parents by email or phone call when an animal is in need of foster care. The first foster caregiver who responds to the request and accepts the foster assignment will receive the animal. You always have the option to decline a foster assignment for any reason.
- If you do not get emails, please see the Foster Coordinator to make other arrangements.
- Once you agree to foster an animal, you are responsible for arranging a pick-up time.
- IVHS will provide you with any supplies you are unable to donate or supply.
- You will get a foster packet which will include the log sheet that will indicate the reason for fostering, any medications the foster animal is taking, and a brief description of the animal. There will also be a table for weights to keep track if the animal is gaining or losing weight.
- You will leave with any necessary medications, dispensers, and instructions.

## Feline Proofing Your Home

***It is important to ensure that your home and foster room are safe; animals can do the most unlikely things.***

- All cleaning supplies should be kept out of reach of jumping and climbing cats, locking cabinets preferred.
- Place all small chewable items out of reach.
- Put all socks, shoes, etc. away - they are tempting to chew.
- Block off all small areas and hiding places.
- Trash cans should be kept covered or out of reach.
- Wires and mini blind cords should be placed out of reach.
- Drapery and shower curtains should be placed out of reach.
- Count your foster animals when opening and closing doors.
- Many house and garden plants are poisonous. Keep household plants out of reach. **A common poisonous plants to cats are lilies** – we recommend that you do not have any lilies in the house if you have cats in your home. Please see our webpage at [www.ivhsspca.org](http://www.ivhsspca.org) for a list of common poisonous plants.
- Toys must be safe! Avoid any toys that have small parts attached to them (i.e., eyes, ribbons, yarn, feathers, etc.).
- Protect your home from being damaged by using sheets, tarps, and newspaper to protect carpet and floors. ANY unprotected surface can potentially be damaged. IVHS & SPCA is not responsible for any damage sustained during your time of Fostering an animal for us.

## Bringing Your New Foster Animal Home

- Ideally, set up the area where your foster animal will be staying before you bring your foster home.
- **New foster animals should be kept separate from your existing companion animals of the same species for a period of 7-10 days.** This quarantine period is to protect your own animals and should be strictly observed.
- Cats and kittens do very well in a kitty condo, crate, bathroom, or spare bedroom.
- Introduce your foster animal to one room of the house first. Try to have homecoming be a quiet experience for the animal.
- Cats and kittens need a cozy, secure place with a bed to snuggle up in. The bed can simply be a low sided box with a blanket in it.
- Show each cat and kitten where the litter box is located.
- Allow your new foster quiet time to adjust to the new environment.

## Introductions With Your Companion Animals

- **If you are fostering kittens less than 6 weeks of age, we recommended not introducing them to your resident cats until they have received their first few sets of vaccines.**
- Use your discretion in deciding whether to introduce your adult cats to your foster cats and kittens. Some resident cats have difficulty adjusting to fosters and may exhibit inappropriate behaviors such as urine marking.
- If you choose to introduce your adult cat to a foster cat or kitten, the introductions should be done gradually. Observing the 7-10 day waiting period will greatly facilitate this.
- Place the new foster in a cat carrier and allow your resident cat(s) and dog(s) to sniff the new foster through the cat carrier for a few moments throughout the day for the first few days.

## Health and Medical Issues

Even if your foster animals appear healthy when you pick them up from the shelter, they may be incubating a disease. This is why it is important to observe the 7-10 day quarantine period when you first bring your foster home. **It is very important that your companion animals of the same species be current on ALL vaccines for their own protection and well-being.** You may wish to discuss the fact that you are fostering with your veterinarian.

It is important to observe your foster animal for any signs of illness. Please keep a daily chart of signs of illness for use at re-checks. Warning signs to watch for include:

- Sneezing and or coughing
- Green mucus from the nose or eyes
- Squinting or crusting over of eyes
- Gagging
- Wheezing
- Tiring easily
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Straining to urinate or defecate
- Bleeding from any part of the body
- Twitching abnormally
- Loss or decrease of appetite
- Change in attitude or behavior
- Lethargic or depressed
- Breathing heavily
- Rectal temperature over 102.5 degrees

**If your foster animal develops severe or bloody diarrhea, severe vomiting, or is very lethargic, contact Veterinary Services Department immediately – (909) 623-9777 ext. 669.**

**If you have to bring your foster animals in to be seen by a vet for illness or you are concerned about them, you MUST bring in the WHOLE litter.**

### **Common Illnesses/Medical Conditions Seen in Foster Animals:**

- Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)- URI can infect cats. Cats generally cannot give URI to dogs, nor can dogs give it to cats. There is however, one exception with *Bordetella bronchiseptica* but it is not common for it to spread from dog to cat and is generally more of a dog disease. However, it can be spread within the same species. Symptoms include sneezing, coughing, discharge from the nose or eyes, lethargy, loss of appetite, and elevated temperature.
- Diarrhea- Generally, feces should be brown and formed. Diarrhea can be a symptom of many different illnesses and parasites. Diarrhea can also be caused by overfeeding, especially in puppies. Diarrhea can also be caused by a change in diet. If your foster develops diarrhea, you will need to get in contact with the Veterinary Services Department to discuss what to do.
- Dehydration- Animals with diarrhea can quickly become dehydrated. To check for dehydration, pull up gently on the skin at the scruff of the neck. If it bounces back quickly when you let go, hydration is fine. If it does not go back or goes back slowly, your foster animal is dehydrated.
- Fleas- Fleas can affect dogs and cats all year round in Southern California. A foster animal with fleas will be given a general flea treatment prior to being placed in foster care. **Do not use ANY over the counter flea treatment at all.** If you notice fleas within a week of having the animal in your home, call the Veterinary Services Department.
- Worms- Your foster will be treated for worms before going to foster depending on their age. If you detect worms in your foster's stool, contact the Vet Services Department to make arrangements for treatment. Tapeworms resemble a grain of rice, and roundworms resemble spaghetti.

## **Administering Medications**

### **Administering Pills to Cats-**

You can try hiding it in a small ball of canned food. If your cat will not take the pill in food or cannot have food with the medication:

- Have the pill out and in a convenient place.
- Bring the cat to the place you will give the pill, while talking to him or her in a happy, light voice.
- Ask to be shown how to correctly pill a cat if you are not familiar.

### **Burrito Wrap:**

- Sometimes it is helpful to wrap the cat in a blanket or a large towel so just his or her head is sticking out.
- Place the cat between your knees or at eye level on a table.
- Hold the pill between your thumb and index finger of your dominant hand.
- Using your other hand, gently but firmly grasp the cat's head from above with your thumb on one side and your finger on the other.
- Tilt the cat's head back so he or she is looking at the ceiling. The cat's lower jaw will automatically drop a bit.
- Place one of your free fingers from the hand holding the pill between the lower canine teeth (long front teeth) and push down.
- Quickly place the pill as far back in the cat's mouth as possible, making sure it is over the hump of the tongue.
- Close the cat's mouth. Hold it closed, lower his or head to a normal position and gently rub or blow on the cat's nose to stimulate swallowing.
- Talk softly and stroke the cat or give another type of treat.
- If this does not work, a cat piller can sometimes be helpful in administering tablets to cats. If you are having trouble medicating your cat, please call the Veterinary Services Department to pick up a cat piller.

### **Liquid Medication to Cats-**

- Start with the burrito wrap: wrapping the cat's body and legs tightly in a towel, leaving only its head sticking out. Insert the dropper between the cheek and teeth while tilting the chin upward. Slowly dispense the medication, remembering not to give it faster than the cat can swallow. The quicker you do this, the more cooperative the cat will be.
- Make sure to pay attention to any important stickers placed on the medication, such as "Shake well" and "Keep refrigerated".

### **Applying Eye Drops and Ointments-**

- Before administering eye medication, be sure the eye is clear of discharge. You can use warm water on a cotton ball to gently clean around the eyes. Use your thumb and forefinger to open the eyelid. With your other hand, place 1-2 drops (as directed) or a small amount of ointment on the eye or pink tissue around the eye. The foster animal will blink and the medication will cover the entire eye. When applying medication to the eye, try to avoid the animal's direct line of vision when approaching and **avoid touching the eye with the container of medication.**

\*\* If you are having a difficult time administering medications after reading these instructions, there are many helpful videos on YouTube demonstrating how to

medicate pets. For example, if you wanted to see a video of how to pill a cat, you could search for “how to pill cat” in the YouTube search bar. If you are still having trouble after this, please contact our Veterinary Services Department.

## **Care of Kittens**

**Please contact the Foster Program Coordinator if your foster animal is developing behavior problems.**

### **General Information:**

- Kittens are fostered with or without mom. If there is a mom, she will be sent with the kittens until they are weaned. Most mothers do a very good job of feeding, cleaning and caring for their newborns. However, it is important that you be observant to ensure that no problems arise. A kitten's condition can change very quickly.
- If there is a case with no mom, you will be standing in as mom. You will be doing the tasks; feeding, cleaning, and stimulating them to go the bathroom, that mom would normally do if she was present.
- If you have a litter of kittens, it is important that you are able to identify them. Make a list of their names and any distinguishing markings so you can keep a record of their progress.
- Kittens fostered for age will have their follow up appointments for vaccines every 3 weeks if no problems have arisen.
- For spay and neuter surgery, kittens must be at least 2 lbs. to be sterilized. If they are less than 2 lbs. at the time of their recheck, you may be asked to continue fostering them until they weigh enough for sterilization. Because it is beneficial for kittens to remain with their littermates until they are 8 weeks of age, you may be asked to continue fostering the animals a little bit longer if foster homes are not available.
- If the shelter were to experience problems with diseases, such as panleukopenia, special care will go into handling the return. Fosters may be asked to continue fostering if they are able to do so, until notified that it is okay to return the kittens. This situation will have to be handled once it happens, as there are many factors in determining a plan of action. If this were to occur, we will be in contact and discuss the options of what to do.
- The area where you keep your foster kittens must be clean, dry, warm and free of drafts. Kittens younger than 2-3 weeks cannot maintain their own body temperature and can die if they become chilled.

- Kittens with mothers should be kept separate from other animals in the house. The mother may be protective and can attack other animals or people if she feels threatened.
- Use towels or blankets for bedding. Bedding should be changed daily (or more frequently if necessary). The mother will try to keep the area clean, but that can be a difficult chore, especially with a large litter.
- Fading kitten: Rarely, one or more kittens in a litter will begin to “fade” after a week or two of life. They will stop growing, begin to lose weight, stop nursing and stop crawling. They may cry continuously and lose the ability to stay upright. There is no clear cause for the condition. Kittens fade very quickly and often do not recover, even with intensive care. Contact the Veterinary Services Department immediately if you suspect a problem – (909) 623-9777 ext. 669.

### **Stimulating kittens less than 3 weeks for urination/defecation:**

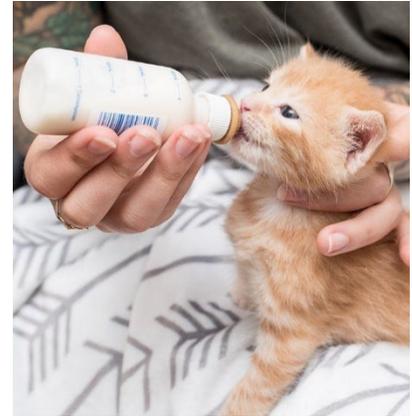
- If mother is there with babies, she will take care of the babies’ elimination needs by frequently cleaning/licking them. If there is no mother, you will need to stimulate the kittens to urinate and defecate. Cotton balls work well for this. Gently rub every few hours to stimulate them to urinate and defecate (see photo). Kittens begin eliminating on their own without stimulation from their mother at about 3 weeks.
- If you have newborn kittens, it is not uncommon for them to defecate every 24-36 hours.



## Feeding:

### Bottle babies-

- With bottle babies, kittens need to be warmed up to digest their food. If you are in doubt you can check their paw pads and ears as they should feel warm to the touch. If a kitten or puppy is cool to the touch it needs warmth immediately. If warming is necessary, it should occur over a 1-2 hour period.
- Formula should be a comfortable temperature. Fresh formula can be made with warm water; refrigerated leftovers can be microwaved for 8-15 seconds (microwaves vary; so be cautious!) or placed in a mug of hot water for 30 seconds to gently warm. Always shake the bottle thoroughly before feeding and test the temperature on your wrist. If it is too hot or too cold for you, it is not the right temperature for the kitten.
- See "kitten weight and feeding chart" below for amounts to feed bottle babies. For bottle babies in their first week of age, you will feed every 2 hours. The second week you can go every 3 hours. The third week and until they are weaned, they can go every 4 hours. **Never go more than 4 hours without feeding a bottle baby.**



### kitten weight and feeding chart

AGE	WEIGHT	AMOUNT PER FEEDING	SCHEDULE
0-1 week	50-150 grams	2-6 ml	Every 2 hours
1-2 weeks	150-250 grams	6-10 ml	Every 2-3 hours
2-3 weeks	250-350 grams	10-14 ml	Every 3-4 hours
3-4 weeks	350-450 grams	14-18 ml	Every 4-5 hours
4-5 weeks	450-550 grams	18-22 ml	Every 5-6 hours
5-8 weeks	550-850 grams	(weaning; offer ample wet food)	Every 6 hours

Table source: [www.kittenlady.org](http://www.kittenlady.org)

In general, kittens will tell you when they are done eating by unlatching and turning their head away from the bottle once they're full. This chart is a guideline, not a rule book! Some kittens prefer to eat smaller meals more frequently, or may eat a large amount at one feeding and less at the next.

**Breeder's Edge Kitten Milk Replacer : Mix at a rate of 1 Tbsp powder to 2 Tbsp water.**

- With bottle babies, the best position to feed them is to sit in a chair with the towel folded in your lap. Place the kitten in a natural, belly-down position on your lap. Hold the kitten's head stable with your non-dominant hand. The index finger and thumb can be used to gently keep the head in place, while the middle finger can lie lightly across the throat to feel if the kitten is swallowing. **Without** raising the animal's head, place the nipple in their mouth. They should start nursing right away. **Never feed a bottle baby on its back**, like a baby, as the liquid will get into their lungs and cause pneumonia or drowning.
- When feeding bottle babies, make sure to hold the bottle at a 45 degree angle to prevent the animal from getting too much air. Be careful not to squeeze formula into the kitten's mouth, as this can cause aspiration. If you are feeding a very young kitten and having a difficult time controlling the flow, consider syringe-feeding.
- If the animal does not start nursing right away, or if they seem to have trouble getting the milk, check the nipple. It should not drip milk when held upside down, but should drip given a small amount of pressure. It may also be helpful to stroke their head or gently pet their back to start the nursing reflexes, but once they get the idea, they will nurse readily.
- Just like human babies, bottle babies need to be burped too. Encourage and stimulate burping by holding the animal with their back resting against your body and gently rubbing their stomach. In the mother and baby relationship, the mother will groom the animal to help them pass wind and stools. Don't be surprised by either result – it's a good sign!
- If you are not sure a kitten has had a big enough meal, revisit them after you've finished feeding everyone in the litter and offer them another try.
- Keep in mind, bottle-feeding is something that improves with time, so be patient and don't give up. It is very normal for them to take some time to figure things out.
- If you need help with the bottle feeding process, there are some great videos for kittens on [www.kittenlady.org/bottlefeeding](http://www.kittenlady.org/bottlefeeding).
- After feedings, always clean the kitten's face by wiping away any formula with a warm, wet cloth or unscented baby wipe. Formula left behind can cause the kitten to get a crusty face or moist dermatitis that causes the fur to fall out, so keep them nice and clean.
- Even if you've helped the kitten go to the bathroom before the feeding, some kittens may have to go again after the feeding. Stimulate them one last time after they eat so that they can be comfortable during their next nap. Don't forget to clean them up after!
- Kittens that are between 3½ -5 weeks of age are usually eating some solid food, decreasing the amount of milk replacer required to meet daily caloric requirements. This may result in less frequent milk feedings.

### **Nursing mothers-**

- Nursing mothers should be fed dry food mixed with some wet food. They need to be fed more often and in larger quantities than usual.

### **Weaning to canned/dry food-**

- Starting at about 3-4 weeks of age, most kittens will begin trying to eat on their own from their mother's dish. At this time, make sure the dish is large enough for the litter to gather around or use multiple dishes.
- To start weaning you can start with a slurry. Slurry is a mix of formula and wet food (make sure it is specified for kittens). As they become more comfortable eating this, you'll begin increasing the ratio so that there is more wet food present at each feeding. Then you will eventually start to gradually mix ground dry kitten food with water and a small amount of canned food.
- Some kittens may need to be introduced to the food. Place a small amount on their lips. Slightly warming the food makes it more palatable.
- Leave only enough food that the animals can consume in a 12 hour period. It will be easier to wean if you provide food that is fresh, as it is more appealing.
- Start to introduce water when you begin the weaning process in a shallow water dish. Never provide a large dish that can cause a safety hazard to a tiny kitten. Keep your water dish to about 2 inches high.
- It is important to make sure that each kitten is eating. If it appears that one or more kitten is not making its way to the dish or is getting squeezed out, set up another dish away from the first and closely monitor that kitten's intake.
- **Never feed cow's milk to a kitten.**
- Remove the mother during kitten feeding times so she will not eat their food. It is also helpful to remove the mother 1-2 hours prior to feeding time to stimulate the kittens' appetites.
- Kittens will continue to occasionally nurse during this time.

### **Litter Box Training:**

- Kittens without a mother will need to be stimulated to go to the bathroom. You want to use a motion as if the mother is licking them. Always stimulate them after bottle feeding.
- By about 4 weeks of age, kittens are ready to begin using the litter box on their own.
- Make sure you have a low sided litter box for the kittens to get in and out of easily.
- Start them off by putting them in the litter box and scratching the litter with their paw. The kittens will pick this up very quickly. While they are learning

to use the litter box, put them in it several times a day for a couple days if necessary.

- Kittens who are unfamiliar with the litter box may taste the litter. Use unscented, non-clumping clay litter for young kittens. Ingested clumping litter will cause illness.
- Several litter boxes may be necessary depending on the size of the litter of kittens.
- Litter boxes must be kept clean.
- Make sure the kittens can easily locate their litter box by keeping them in a small room or bathroom.
- Kittens are very messy when first learning to use a litter box. They will step in their excrement and track through the room. At this time, it is especially important to keep all surfaces clean and covered.

### **Kitten Behavior:**

- Kittens are very curious and like to run, jump and climb. Remove all breakable and dangerous items from their reach.
- Kittens love to play with toys of any kind. Even a crumpled piece of paper can provide amusement.
- A single kitten will likely cry a lot the first couple of nights. Make the kitten's area as cozy as possible by providing a blanket and a stuffed animal.
- **Kittens should never be allowed outside.**

### **Socialization of Kittens:**

- Beginning at 3 weeks of age, it is important to begin handling puppies and kittens frequently. Make sure each kitten is handled and played with regularly.
- Gradual exposure to new and different things and people; sights and normal household sounds is important to ensure that your foster animal is well adjusted.
- Kittens learn to play by wrestling with their littermates.
- If introducing kittens to dogs or other cats in the house, it is useful to put them in a crate in a common area so they can observe each other prior to interacting.

## CARE OF CATS

### **Feeding Cats:**

- Dry food in the appropriate amount should be available at all times.
- A serving of canned food can be given once or twice a day.
- Milk should **NEVER** be given to cats.
- Fresh water should always be available.
- Cats should be fed away from their litter box.

### **Cat Behavior:**

- Cats should be provided with a cardboard scratcher, a scratching post, or other suitable surface to scratch. Make sure that it is a surface that can be easily disinfected or changed for the next guest or guests.
- Give your foster a variety of toys to play with. Rotate them periodically so they do not lose their novelty. You can try hiding your cat's favorite toys before leaving in the morning and create a sort of "treasure hunt" for him or her (make sure he or she sees you hiding at least a few of the toys).
- Cats should **never** be allowed outside.
- Contact the Foster Program Coordinator for suggestions and advice about specific behavior issues.

## When to Call for Behavioral Help

- **Growling/biting/hissing that does not improve**
- **Fearful/hiding/running away that does not improve**

**Call Foster Coordinator for Guidance.** *Foster behavior issues need to be referred to the Foster Program Coordinator- (909) 623-9777 ext. 608.*

## Follow Up and Exams

- Kittens will have their follow up visit requirements on your Foster Log Sheet – please follow it.
- Kittens must be at least 2 lbs. to be sterilized. If your foster weighs less than 2 lbs. at the time of their exam, you may be asked to keep them until they weigh enough for sterilization.
- **If you have to bring your foster animals in to be seen by a vet for illness or you are concerned about them, you MUST bring in the WHOLE litter.**
- **Schedule rechecks with the Veterinary Services Department – (909) 623-9777 ext. 669**

- **You must call the Veterinary Services Department during the weekdays to schedule vet exams at IVHS.** The clinic staff does not work on the weekends.
- For all appointments including surgery that require the animal to be seen by the vet, if you are more than 15 minutes late, your animal may or may not be seen that day.
- Please be prepared with the following information when you bring in your foster animal to the Vet:
  - What symptoms is the animal having?
  - Is the animal eating regularly?
  - Is the animal drinking regularly?
  - Any diarrhea? Vomiting?
  - Activity level?
  - How long have you noticed the symptoms?
  - Date of last medications given?
  - When were the last signs of illness observed?

## **Animals Up for Adoption**

Animals that are in foster will be up for adoption on our website as well as other various adoption sites. The Inland Valley Humane Society & SPCA will accept applications for people interested in adopting these animals. When there is an approved application and an interested family, an IVHS staff member or the Foster Coordinator will call to set up an appointment for the family to meet the dog or cat here at the shelter. We will not setup to have anyone meet the animal at your home. If you have someone that is interested in adopting the animal, they need to contact IVHS to get approved for adoption.

## **Sanitizing Your Home Between Foster Animals**

**In order to prevent disease and parasite infestations in your home, thoroughly clean areas where the foster animal has stayed.**

- Wash bedding in hot water, detergent and bleach.
- Discard non-washable surface toys.
- Disinfect all washable surfaces with a mild bleach and water solution (bleach/water ratio of 1:32 or 4oz of bleach per gallon of water is recommended). Bleach solutions should be prepared as needed, because they lose their strength after 24 hours. Bleach is inactive in the presence of organic matter so clean up dirt, hair, feces, etc. **before** using

bleach to disinfect. **Bleach solution must stay in contact with the surface being sanitized for at least 10 minutes to be effective.**

- Vacuum all carpeted areas.
- Soak toys in bleach water for 20 minutes and scrub and bleach crates, carriers, scoops, food bowls, and litter boxes.
- Clean any urine or feces soiled areas with an enzyme cleaner immediately to avoid residual odor (Nature's Miracle Stain and Odor Remover works well).
- Regularly clean up all waste in the yard to decrease the risk of spreading disease.

### **Quarantine Periods:**

Sometimes an animal is sent into a foster home before evidence of a serious disease has manifested. Quarantine periods are used to allow infectious disease to die off in the environment. This protects future foster animals from being infected with the virus or disease. Specific quarantine periods are as follows:

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| • Feline Leukemia (FIV), FIP, or Canine Distemper | 3 days   |
| • Sarcoptic Mange                                 | 2 weeks  |
| • Ringworm  | 6 months |
| • Panleukopenia                                   | 1 year   |

If a foster animal is infected with one of the above illnesses, the foster parent will not be allowed to bring another foster case into the home for the designated quarantine period.

## **Foster Volunteer Time Recording**

Foster hours are calculated each month. If you are recording volunteer hours for school or another organization, contact the Foster Program Coordinator for those hours. If you need hours signed off or need to know how many hours you have completed, contact the Foster Coordinator.

## **Adopting a Foster Animal**

If you are interested in adopting your foster animal, please contact the Foster Program Coordinator – (909) 623-9777 ext. 608.

## **Emergency/Disaster Preparedness**

**An important part of providing foster care is ensuring that foster animals are safe in times of an emergency or disaster.** Fires and occasionally flooding can be concerns in Southern California. Other concerns for Southern California residents include hazardous material spills, fires, and explosions. Emergencies become disasters when they overwhelm local resources and require outside assistance. Emergencies may require anything from sheltering in place (your home), to a brief evacuation from your home, to a permanent evacuation. You may even be away from home when an emergency situation happens and be unable to return to retrieve your animals. Simple advance preparations can make the difference in whether your animals survive a crisis. Inland Valley Humane Society & SPCA recommends that each foster caregiver follow the steps below in order to ensure the safety of foster animals.

### **Create a Written Personal Disaster Plan (see blank form on page 22):**

- Schedule a household meeting to discuss escape routes, location of evacuation, supplies and who will be in charge of each animal in an evacuation situation.
- Determine which rooms in your home offer safe havens. They should be away from windows, be easy-to-clean, and have access to fresh water. In flooding emergencies, go to the highest location in your house.
- Arrange with a trusted neighbor to temporarily care for or even evacuate your animals in your absence. You may consider providing them with a house key, instructions, and emergency contact numbers to reach you and Inland Valley Humane Society & SPCA.
- Since disaster shelters generally do not admit animals, prearrange evacuation destinations for your animals outside of your immediate area such as family and friends' homes and pet-friendly hotels.

### **Ready Animals and Evacuation Supplies:**

- Have a carrier for each foster animal and label them in advance with your name, address and emergency contact numbers. Carriers should be large enough for animals to stand up, lie down and turn around comfortably.
- Prepare an animal evacuation kit that includes 1-2 week supply of food and water, medications, light-weight bowls, clean-up supplies, a leash and an animal first aid kit. Include an extra copy of foster records in a re-sealable plastic bag along with clear, recent photos of each animal alone with you. Store the kit in the carrier.
- Make sure that each animal is wearing current, visible identification (collar and ID tag) at all times.
- Familiarize foster animals with going in and out of carriers.

### **When Disaster Strikes:**

- Put your personal disaster plan into action.
- Bring companion animals inside at the first sign of possible danger.
- Make sure all animals are wearing visible identification.
- Place animals in individual carriers and ready evacuation supplies.
- Listen to local weather and/or news updates for instructions as to whether to shelter in place or evacuate.

### **Sheltering in Place:**

- Close and lock doors and windows.
- Seal gaps under doorways and windows with wet towels and duct tape if told to do so.
- Turn off ventilation systems, water and gas.
- Remain clam. Stay with your foster animals to provide comfort and reassurance.

### **Evacuating:**

- If you evacuate, **take your foster animals with you!** Leave early, if possible.
- Load animal carriers in your vehicle and take along your evacuation kit.
- Lock your home.
- Post a note telling others when you left and where you are going.
- Travel on routes specified by local authorities.
- Keep dogs securely leashed when out of carriers.
- Inform Inland Valley Humane Society of your location and contact information.

### **After the Disaster:**

- Let Inland Valley Humane Society know you have returned home.
- Inspect your home and yard for dangers before allowing your family or animals in.
- Walk dogs on leash and let cats re-orient room by room in your home.
- Animal behavior may change-confusion and abnormal behaviors are common.
- Review, practice and update your plan regularly with your family.

**The next page can help you plan out and be prepared in the event of a disaster.**

**Personal Disaster Plan**

**Family Emergency Contact Information:**

**POLICE**                    **DIAL 911 or** \_\_\_\_\_  
**FIRE**                        **DIAL 911 or** \_\_\_\_\_  
**AMBULANCE**            **DIAL 911 or** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nearby Alternative Animal Care Provider:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address, City \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone #:            Day: \_\_\_\_\_  
                                 Evening: \_\_\_\_\_  
                                 Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

**Out of Area Contact:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address, City \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone #:            Day: \_\_\_\_\_  
                                 Evening: \_\_\_\_\_  
                                 Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nearest Relative:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address, City \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone #:            Day: \_\_\_\_\_  
                                 Evening: \_\_\_\_\_  
                                 Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Work Numbers:**

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

**Inland Valley Humane Society Contact Numbers:**

Emergency Contact #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Inland Valley Humane Society: \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Meeting Places:**

Right outside your home: \_\_\_\_\_  
Away from your neighborhood: \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Information:**

Location of evacuation supplies: \_\_\_\_\_  
Person in charge of animal evacuation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Safe rooms for sheltering at home: \_\_\_\_\_  
Veterinarian name, phone number: \_\_\_\_\_