



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

A home away from home.

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

PUPPY 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

Veterinary Services Department: Appointments

Shelter: (909) 623-9777 Ext: 669

Email: vetoffice@ivhsspca.org

Medical Director: Medical concerns

Karen Lee, DVM

Shelter: (909) 623-9777 Ext: 635

Email: klee@ivhsspca.org

Emergency After Hours: Please utilize the app to reach a veterinarian when you need medical/behavioral advice AFTER HOURS ONLY (after 5 pm on weekdays and on weekends/holidays). You should have received an email with instructions.

****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 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 be it IVHS, 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.

- Blankets and towels
- Paper towels and rags

- Newspaper
- Bowls- ceramic or stainless steel are easiest to sanitize
- Crate
- Grooming supplies- brushes, and combs
- Sheets or tarps- to protect floors
- Stain and odor remover- Nature's Miracle works really well
- Toys that can be cleaned and sanitized (rubber, nylon, etc.)
- Kongs- hard rubber chew toys that can be filled with treats for dogs and puppies
- Bleach
- Disinfectant

This list is not exhaustive. This is a general list for fostering dogs and puppies. 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.

Dog 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 and dogs, 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 closet doors.
- Many house and garden plants are poisonous. Keep household plants out of reach and supervise your animals outside. Sago palms are a common plant in Southern California. **Sago palms are very toxic to small animals.** Do not let your pets or foster animals eat or chew any part of a sago palm and it can lead to death. Please see our webpage at www.ivhsspca.org for a list of common poisonous plants.
- IVHS does not recommend leaving your foster dog unattended in the yard, even if fenced. Some dogs will dig or jump fences.
- Toys must be safe! Avoid any toys that have small parts attached to them (i.e., eyes, ribbons, yarn, feathers, etc.). Also avoid soft rubber toys that can be chewed apart and squeaky toys.
- Protect your home from being damaged by using sheets, tarps, and newspaper to protect carpet and floors. ANY unprotected surface can potentially be damaged.

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.
- Introduce your foster animal to one room of the house first. Try to have homecoming be a quiet experience for the animal.
- Dogs and puppies should have a crate. **See the Crate Training 101 handout for recommendations if you are not familiar with crate training.**
- Allow your new foster quiet time to adjust to the new environment.

Introductions With Your Companion Animals

- **If you are fostering puppies less than 6 weeks of age, we recommended not introducing them to your resident dogs until they have received their first few sets of vaccines.**
- Introductions between a foster dog and the resident dogs should be done in neutral territory if possible.
- If introductions are done at your home, take the foster dog your backyard to sniff and eliminate first. Then put the foster dog inside and let the resident dogs out into the yard to investigate the smells left by the new dog. At that point, introductions can be made preferably outside.
- We recommend you keep your new foster on a leash so you can easily break up any altercations.
- Some growling and/or posturing is completely normal and to be expected. Watch for signs of unusual aggression in your foster animal.
- Taking the foster dog for a walk along with the resident dog, often helps to neutralize tensions while allowing the dogs to become used to each other's presence. If they are very tense, one person should walk each dog for better control. We do not recommend taking puppies <16 weeks out on walks as they are not fully vaccinated.
- If there are multiple dogs in the residence, introductions should be made with the new foster one-on-one.
- Baby gates are recommended, but not required for gradually introducing animals inside.
- Always supervise your foster's interactions with your companion animals.
- If you have a cat and are fostering puppies, the introductions should be done gradually. Observing the 7-10 day waiting period will greatly facilitate this.
- Place the new foster(s) in a crate and allow your resident cat(s) and dog(s) to sniff the new foster through the crate 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.

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:

- Kennel Cough- A common and contagious upper respiratory infection. Dogs cannot give humans Kennel Cough, but they can spread it to other dogs very easily. Dogs generally cannot give Kennel Cough to cats, nor can cats give it to dogs (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). Symptoms include 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. You can try giving the animal plain, canned pumpkin to help with diarrhea. **(Make sure it is not pumpkin pie filling).**
- 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 Dogs-

If the medication can be given with food; the easiest way to give pills is to hide in a piece of food. A small amount of canned food, cream cheese, lunch meat or Pill Pockets are often used. If the dog will not take the pill in food or cannot have food with the medication:

- Have the pill out and in a convenient place.
- Calmly approach the dog using a happy voice.
- Take the dog to a spot where he or she is backed up against something and cannot get away from you. Sometimes putting the dog on a surface off the floor is best, but this requires assistance.
- Squeeze behind the upper canine teeth and tilt the animal's head back so he or she is looking at the ceiling. His or her jaw will automatically drop a bit.
- Place one of the fingers from the hand holding the pill between the lower canine teeth (long front teeth) and push down.
- Quickly place the pill far back as possible inside the dog's mouth being sure to get it over the hump in the tongue. Do not place your hand in the dog's mouth too far because it might gag.
- Close the dog's mouth and hold it closed while you gently blow or rub his or her nose. This can stimulate swallowing.

Liquid Medication to Dogs-

- Insert the dropper between the upper and the lower teeth in the back and tilt the chin upward. Slowly administer the medication while being careful not to go faster than the dog can swallow. Always remember to praise the dog and even offer a treat after the medication. This will make administering medication easier in the future.
- 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 dog, you could search for "how to pill dog" in the YouTube search bar. If you are still having trouble after this, please contact our Veterinary Services Department. **

Care of Puppies

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

General Information:

- Puppies are fostered with or without mom. If there is a mom, she will be sent out until the puppies 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 puppy or 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 puppies, 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.
- Puppies fostered for age will have their follow up appointments for vaccines every 3 weeks if no problems have arisen.
- For spay and neuter surgery, puppies 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 puppies and 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 in high demand.

- If the shelter were to experience problems with diseases, such as parvo, 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 puppies. 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.
- Avoid dog parks or places you don't know what animals have been there and their medical history.
- The area where you keep your foster puppies must be clean, dry, warm and free of drafts. Puppies younger than 2-3 weeks cannot maintain their own body temperature and can die if they become chilled.
- Puppies 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 puppy: Rarely, one or more puppies 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. Puppies fade very quickly and often do not recover, even with intensive care. Contact the Veterinary Services Department immediately if you suspect a problem.

Stimulating puppies 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. Stimulate them every few hours. Puppies begin eliminating on their own without stimulation from their mother at about 3 weeks.

Feeding:

Bottle babies-

- With bottle babies, puppies 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 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 puppy.
- See "Puppy Bottle Feeding and Stomach Capacity 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.



Puppy Bottle Feeding and Stomach Capacity Chart

Puppy Weight (lbs, oz)	Amount of Formula per Day (ml)**	Amount per Feeding (ml)*	Approximate Number of Feedings Per Day***
2 oz	13	2	6
4 oz	25	5	6
6 oz	38	7	6
8 oz	50	9	6
10 oz	63	11	6
12 oz	76	14	6
14 oz	88	16	6
16 oz (1 lb)	101	18	6
2 lbs	202	36	6
3 lbs	302	54	6
4 lbs	403	73	6
5 lbs	504	91	6
6 lbs	605	109	6
7 lbs	706	127	6
8 lbs	806	145	6

Table source: www.maddiesfund.org

*The daily caloric requirement was calculated using 20 kcal/100 g body weight and the amount per feeding using 4 ml/100 g body weight. The energy requirement is ~20-26 kcal/100 g body weight daily and the maximum comfortable stomach capacity is ~4 ml/100 g body weight

**Concentration 0.9 kcal/ml. Most commercial puppy milk replacers in the US provide less than 1 kcal/ml, acting to increase the volume of milk required to meet caloric needs. This can be problematic in terms of number and size of feedings given relative to stomach capacity and more likely to result in gastrointestinal disturbances. This may also account for why bottle fed puppies grow slower than puppies that nurse off a mother.

***As the puppy is adjusting well to the milk and feeding volume, you may be able to increase the volume fed to help reduce the number of feedings per day. Be aware that exceeding stomach capacity (amount per feeding) may put the puppy at risk of aspiration, vomiting, diarrhea and gas build up in the stomach and intestines.

- When feeding bottle babies, make sure to hold the bottle at a 45 degree angle to prevent the animal from getting too much air.
- With bottle babies, the best position to feed them is to sit in a chair with the towel folded in your lap. Place the animal face down on your lap. **Without** raising the animal's head, place the nipple in his 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.
- 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 puppy has had a big enough meal, revisit the 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 YouTube for puppies, please search for "bottlefeeding puppies" in the search bar.
- After feedings, always clean the puppy's face by wiping away any formula with a warm, wet cloth or baby wipe. Formula left behind can cause the puppy 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 puppy go to the bathroom before the feeding, some puppies 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!

- Puppies 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 puppies 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 puppy). 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 puppy or kitten food with water and a small amount of canned food.
- Some puppies 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 puppy. Keep your water dish to about 2 inches high.
- It is important to make sure that each puppy is eating. If it appears that one or more puppy 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 puppy's intake.
- **Never feed cow's milk to a puppy.**
- Remove the mother during puppy 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 puppies' appetites.
- Puppies will continue to occasionally nurse during this time.

Housetraining:

- Puppies without a mother will need to be stimulated to go the bathroom. You want to use a motion as if the mother is licking them. Always stimulate them after bottle feeding.
- Puppies will start to eliminate on their own at about 3 weeks of age. Puppies need to eliminate when they first wake up, about 20 minutes after eating and after playing vigorously.

- Once puppies have begun to eliminate on their own, outdoor housetraining should begin. If it is necessary to use an indoor elimination location, it should be as small as possible. Keep it consistently covered with something like newspaper or puppy pads. This will help puppies learn to keep elimination in one area and ease housetraining in the new home.

Puppy Behavior:

- Nipping is a common behavior in puppies. A loud shriek will usually get their attention so you can give them a proper toy to chew. Being consistent and giving them a toy to chew on rather than your fingers is important to teach puppies that nipping and chewing on their toys is more acceptable than chewing on your fingers and hands.
- Try to start your foster puppies off on the right foot by keeping them off of the furniture, not letting them jump, etc. This will make their transition to a new home easier.
- Puppies should never be left unsupervised outside of their crate.
- A single puppy will cry a lot the first couple of nights. Make the crate as comfortable as possible by providing a blanket and stuffed animal.

Socialization of Puppies:

- Beginning at 3 weeks of age, it is important to begin handling puppies frequently. Make sure each puppy 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.
- Puppies learn to play by wrestling with their littermates.
- If introducing puppies 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 DOGS

Feeding Dogs:

- Dogs should be fed twice daily at the same time every day.
- The amount of food depends on the dog's age and weight. As a general rule, adult dogs get 1 cup per 20 lbs., and puppies get 3 cups daily (divided throughout the day).
- Give the dog 15-20 minutes to eat the food and then remove it.
- If your foster dog is unwilling to eat plain, dry food, you can mix in some warm water or a SMALL amount of canned food.
- Fresh water should always be available.

Dog Behavior:

- Remember; never force your dog to face his fears.
- Dog should be crated when you are unable to supervise them (**see handout on Crate Training 101**).
- Provide chew toys to relieve boredom and alleviate stress.
- Teaching your foster dog basic manners will help your dog become more adoptable.
- Dogs should not be left outside for long periods of time.
- Even if a dog is housetrained, an accident upon arriving at your home is not uncommon.
- Contact the Foster Coordinator for suggestions and advice on specific behavior issues.

When to Call for Behavioral Help

- Growling or snarling
- Snapping or biting
- Fearful/hiding that does not improve
- Rough play; such as ripping clothing
- Panic (non-stop barking, drooling, biting crate bars, constant licking/chewing self, excessive potty accidents) and destructiveness when left alone
- Jumping up while showing aggression
- House training concerns
- Crate training concerns

Call Foster Coordinator for Guidance. *Foster behavior issues need to be referred to the Foster Program Coordinator.*

Follow Up and Exams

- Puppies will have their follow up visit requirements on your Foster Log Sheet – please follow it.

- Puppies must be at least 2 lbs. to be sterilized. If your foster weighs less than 2 lbs. at the time of their exam, you will 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.**
- Some exams may need to be scheduled with the clinic staff. **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 and there are certain days of the week where there is no vet on staff.
- 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 has the symptoms been going for?
 - 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 will take in 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 or 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 or Parvovirus | 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.

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. Technological concerns for Southern California residents include hazardous material spills, fires, explosions and terrorist attacks. 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 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 20):

- 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. Provide them with a house key, instructions, and emergency contact numbers to reach you and Inland Valley Humane Society.
- 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: _____

Inland Valley Humane Society Foster Agreement

Thank you for participating in the Inland Valley Humane Society foster program. Once you have read the foster manual, please read and sign below. This is to ensure that you know what is expected of you as a foster caregiver and what you can expect from the Inland Valley Humane Society foster program. Please return this signed form to the Foster Program Coordinator at:

Inland Valley Humane Society & S.P.C.A.
500 Humane Way
Pomona, CA 91766
Fax: 909-623-0432

Initial Below:

- ___ 1. I agree to abide by all IVHS policies and procedures, including the procedures outlined in this manual.
- ___ 2. Since my companion animals are susceptible to any illnesses brought into my home by foster animals, my own animals are current on their vaccinations, including Bordetella (for dogs), which is not a routine vaccination.
- ___ 3. I understand that any treatment needed for my own companion animals is my responsibility, and I will not be reimbursed.
- ___ 4. A crate, food, litter and necessary medications will be provided to me at no charge by Inland Valley Humane Society as long as they are available.
- ___ 5. If my foster animal is injured or becomes ill at night or on the weekend when the shelter is not open, I understand that I need to call the After Hours line immediately. If I take my foster animal to any other veterinary hospital or clinic without prior authorization, IVHS will not be responsible for the costs incurred.
- ___ 6. If I can no longer keep the foster animal, I must contact the Foster Program Coordinator to make arrangements to return the animal.
- ___ 7. If I want to adopt the foster animal, I must notify the Foster Program Coordinator and follow all necessary steps in order to adopt.
- ___ 8. All decisions made by the IVHS management are final.
- ___ 9. I understand that at any time, Inland Valley Humane Society reserves the right to terminate a volunteer, with or without notice for poor performance, misconduct, excessive tardiness, harassment or other company violations.

Sign and print name

Date

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