

FOSTER program

welcome!



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

A home away from home.

FOSTER PROGRAM

Overview

- Temporary/short-term care of IVHS animals
- Juveniles, adults, mothers with litters, medical fosters
- Food, supplies, veterinary care, and foster support/guidance are provided
- Assignments can last a couple of weeks to several months
- Fosters are assigned a return date for spay/neuter surgery, then are made available for adoption.



THINGS TO *consider*

- Your available time and schedule, including any upcoming travel plans
- Your home
- Your own pets
- Other people in the home
- Getting to IVHS / transportation
- Making the commitment for the agreed-upon foster period



YOUR ROLE AS *foster*

- Provide food, shelter, and love
- Ensure foster animals are healthy, monitoring for illness and giving prescribed medications
- Provide a routine, exercise, play, and regular socialization
- Keep them safe and secure
- Help them become as adoptable as possible



HEALTH & SAFETY *precautions*

- Initial quarantine period of 7-10 days for all foster animals
- Preparing your home
- Bottle baby bins, foster rooms
- Dog crates/kennels
- Keep kittens and puppies indoors only
- Take care around dogs, older or larger animals, small children



BOTTLE BABY *care*

- Newborn to weaning age (about 4-5 weeks old)
- Keep babies warm / regulating their body temperature
- Require bottle feeding and stimulation through age of 3-4 weeks old ("Kitten Lady" demonstration videos)
- Most bottle babies are too young for flea treatment, deworming, shots



WEANING/WEANED *kittens*

- Kittens 4-5 weeks and older
- Able to use litterbox
- Eating on their own
- Formula in food until 5 weeks old
- No hand-feeding (spoon-feed ok)
- Active, mobile, playful
- Treated for fleas, dewormed, and given first shots at intake



GENERAL CARE & *socialization*

- Follow feeding guidelines according to weight and age
- Monitor for signs of illness
- Provide playtime and enrichment
- Provide socialization to humans, other pets in the home
- Expose to normal household sights and sounds



MONITORING *weight*

- Weigh ALL kittens every age, daily, at least once a day
- Weight is important indicator of kitten health and development
- Normal weight gain: 10-15 grams/day (50-100 grams/week)
- Typical birth weight 90-110 grams; should be doubled by 2 weeks old
- 1.5 to 2 lbs. minimum for surgery
- Contact Vet Services if not gaining weight



PUPPIES! *Puppies!*

- Puppy-proofing your home
- Feeding & stimulation of bottle babies (same techniques as for baby kittens)
- Potty training (3-4 weeks old)
- Treating fleas, deworming, vaccinations
- No hand-feeding
- Report bite incidents
- Must stay at home (can be outside in playpen supervised)
- No walks, no play dates, no travel



ADULT SHELTER *dogs*

- Provide daily routine, regular exercise
- No dog parks, dog beaches, or other off-leash activities in public spaces
- No boarding/pet hotels or travel
- Not to be left outside unattended
- Baths, professional grooming ok
- Report bite incidents
- Foster photos & observations
- Returning dogs to IVHS

"Winnie"
Adopted Jan. 2023



CONTACTING THE Foster Dept.

- Foster coordinator availability
- Refills of food & supplies
- Non-medical questions and general foster care advice
- Updates on foster animals
- Report foster passings, accidents, lost fosters, bite incidents
- Changing your contact info
- Early returns



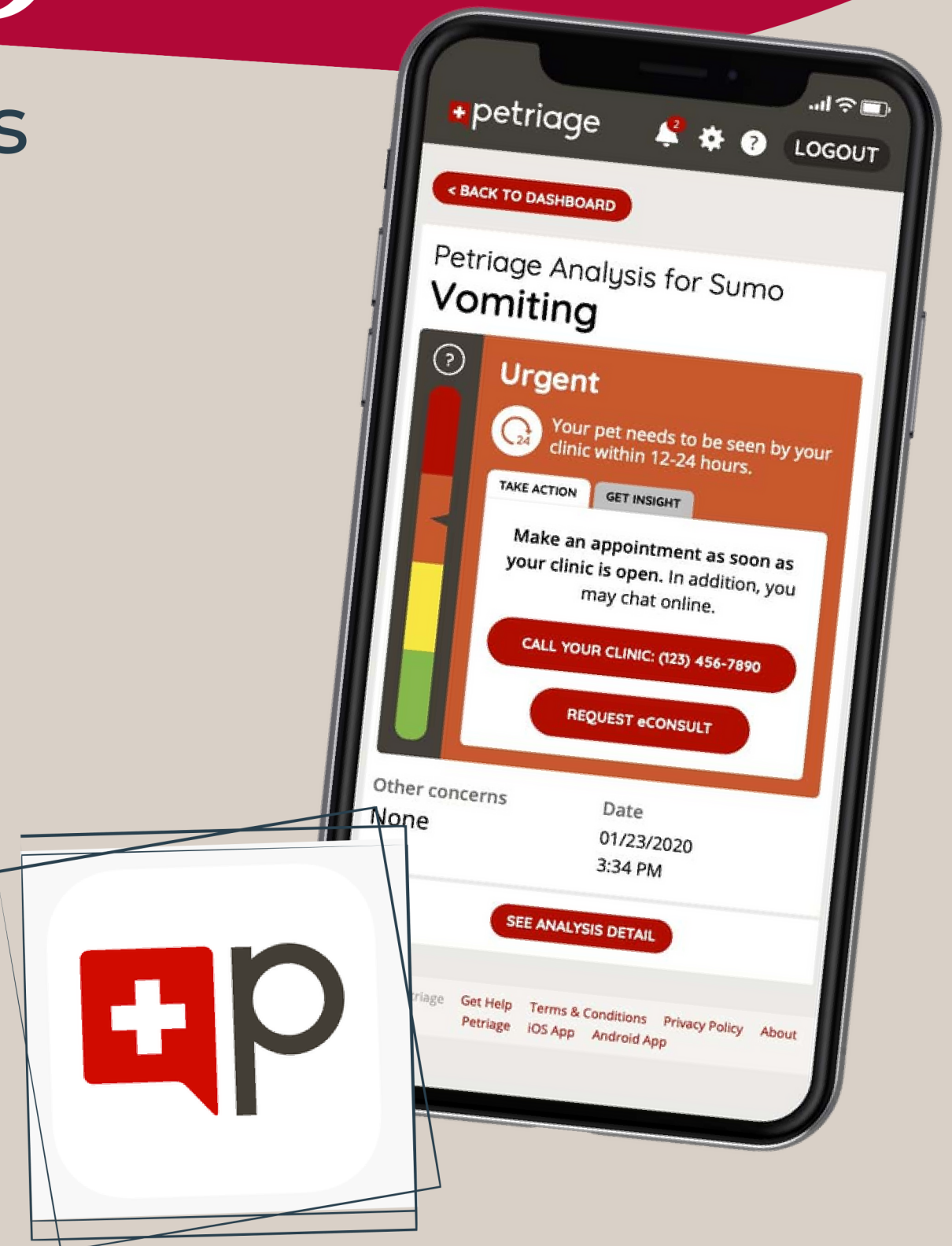
VETERINARY appointments

- Vet clinic days and hours
- Vet clinic visits by appointment
- If emergency (animal is lateral), call ahead to notify & just come down
- Foster appointments sent by email
- Be on time for all appointments
- Contact vet clinic for rescheduling
- Picking up medication/refills



MEDICAL CONCERNS & emergencies

- Medical concerns or related questions
- Must call or email Vet Services first
- During shelter hours M-F
(call Ext. 669, or email if no answer)
- During shelter hours Saturdays
(call Ext. 665; no emails)
- After hours or on Sundays or holidays
- "Petriage" emergency protocol
- IVHS may contact you for addt'l info



MEDICAL CARE *notes*

- Use IVHS vet clinic only (no outside vet clinics or hospitals unless directed by IVHS staff)
- Administering meds and following medical care instructions
- No home remedies, subQ fluids, other meds or treatments not prescribed for the animal or authorized by IVHS vet staff
- Respond to IVHS messages promptly and stay in contact if condition serious



FOSTER ILLNESS & *passings*

- Upper respiratory infection most common among kittens
- FPV/panleukopenia (cats)
- Parvo, distemper (dogs)
- Kennel cough (dogs)
- Ringworm, scabies (all species)
- Common signs of illness
- "Fading" kittens or puppies
- Deceased fosters protocol



SANITIZING & OTHER POST-ASSIGNMENT

info

- Use "Rescue" disinfectant or diluted bleach solution
- Return all foster supplies
- Required post-foster quarantine for certain hardy viruses and diseases
- You can send foster photos & bios to foster coordinator
- We cannot provide foster animal updates



FOSTER *adoption*

- Fosters have priority to apply to adopt
- Notify foster coordinator as soon as possible
- Submit foster adoption form (online link will be provided to you)
- For kittens/puppies, adopter must come to IVHS the afternoon of surgery
- We cannot hold any animals
- For adult dogs/cats, wait to be contacted
- Adoptions are not guaranteed (can be declined)



THE "Kitten Lady"

FOSTER PROGRAM

Tiny But Mighty: Kitten Lady's Guide To Saving The Most Vulnerable Felines – Order Now!

KITTEN LADY ABOUT KITTEN CARE BOOKS WEBINAR EVENTS SHOP SEARCH Q

Free Kitten Care Webinar Series

Determining Age

Kitten Supplies

How to Care for a Mama Cat and Kittens

The Tiniest Felines Need A Hero

LEARN ABOUT KITTEN CARE



THANK *you!*



Thank you for volunteering
your time and energy and for
opening your home to give our
animals a temporary home
while they await adoption.
We could not do all that we do
without your support!

