Fostering

Become a Foster Caregiver Today

The AWLA relies on foster caregivers to provide extra care and attention to our animal residents who need it the most. This includes puppies and kittens, adult companion animals who are recovering from surgery or illness and animals who could use a break from the shelter environment. Our foster caregivers amaze us with their dedication to provide their temporary guests with love and support. While fostering can be exhausting and sometimes heartbreaking work, our foster caregivers say that preparing their charges for the next chapter of their lives is the best possible reward.

Read more from one foster caregiver, who shared her stories of fostering for the AWLA on our blog.

Already a foster? Log in to our Foster Portal HERE.

Program Goals

Through our fostering program, the AWLA hopes to

- **Improve the health** of ill or injured companion animals, or those in need of regular medications or health management;
- Ensure that all underage and underdeveloped animals reach the **proper level of maturity** for adoption;
- **Socialize animals** to help them prepare to find their future families;
- Increase the AWLA’s capacity to care for animals in need.
Thinking About Becoming a Foster Caregiver?

Fostering animals requires time, patience and flexibility. Please consider these fostering basics:

- **Foster caregivers receive training** on how to care for their particular foster animals.
- Foster windows can last from one week to two months, depending on the animal’s needs.
- The AWLA provides all the basic supplies and medical care for each foster animal.
- Foster caregivers are asked to provide a clean, quiet environment for their foster animals.
- For health and safety reasons, foster animals should be kept separate from other pets in the home unless discussed with AWLA Foster Staff.

Foster Sleepover Program

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are not sending foster dogs out for short-term foster sleepovers at this time. If a long-term commitment doesn’t work with your schedule, we also offer a Foster Sleepover Program that allows you to foster for an evening or two! We have dogs who could benefit from a break from the shelter or additional socialization and home experience, and a night in a foster home can make a huge difference for them. All we ask for in return is videos, pictures and any other information you can provide for their bios and social media! Read more about one of our foster’s experiences with weekend sleepovers on our blog.
Foster Orientation

Ready to join our team of foster caregivers? Follow the steps below so you can start helping animals in need at the AWLA!

1. Complete our Foster Questionnaire.  
   (Upon completion, you will receive information to access the following steps.)
2. Watch the orientation video and read the handouts.
3. Complete a short quiz to confirm your understanding of the orientation.
4. Our staff will be in touch when we have animals in need of fostering!

Questions? Contact our foster staff at foster@alexandriaanimals.org.

Unable to foster but want to support the program?

You can still help animals in need! Consider donating any of the following items always needed by caregivers and their foster animals.

KRM Milk Replacer for Kittens – Powder or Liquid
Esbilac Milk Replacer for Puppies – Powder or Liquid
Snugglesafe Microwave Heatpad
Electronic Scales
Potty Pads
Fleece Blankets
Digital Thermometers
Food Bowls

We can also always use dry or canned kitten and puppy food, treats for dogs and cats, interactive toys, Martingale collars and more. Check out our Amazon Puppy and Kitten wishlists for more information.
More Questions?

Email foster@alexandriaanimals.org or call 703-746-4774.

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