

# Feline Fostering Guide

## A Whiskers-to-Tail Approach to Fostering a Cat

10 Considerations & Bonus Advice from  
Cat Expert Pam Johnson-Bennett



Meet *Airy!*  
Winner of the 2022  
Fabulous Fosters Contest

## Why Cat Fostering Matters

Fostering is essential to cat welfare for shelters with limited space and staff because foster parents can provide individualized feline care in their own homes. ***For many cats, being fostered is the first time they experience love.***

Fostering also benefits the person or family who may want to care for a cat but can't adopt or provide a long-term loving home.

## 10 CONSIDERATIONS Is Fostering right for you?

### 1. Commitment & Preferences

***Are you interested in short-term fostering or do you feel committed to long-term?*** Does kitten care seem ideal or maybe senior feline fostering? Or are you drawn to a cat with special needs?



### 2. Space

Do you have space in your home to dedicate to a foster cat? You don't need a large home to foster, but the cat does need a safe space to recover and adjust. ***Even limited space in a home is more room than what a shelter can provide.***



### 3. Time

***How much time can you dedicate to fostering?*** Depending on your availability, the shelter will make a feline match. Fostering isn't a 24/7 commitment, but it does require some committed time.



### 4. Other Pets at Home

***Your current pets are your first commitment.***

It's important to honestly assess if fostering a cat will add too much stress to your current home life and pet family.



## 5. Family Members

***Are all the family members on board for this journey?*** Making the foster experience a family affair can be enriching for the whole family and teaches young children compassion and animal welfare.

## 6. Finances

***Most shelters cover foster expenses,*** but be sure to ask if the foster parent has any financial obligations.

## 7. Veterinary Visits

***Are you able to transport the foster cat to vet visits for routine appointments?*** If you foster a cat with medical issues, the visits might be more frequent. Are you comfortable giving medication or caring for medical needs?



## 8. Adoption Advocate

***Are you okay with visitors to your home?*** Some shelters ask potential adopters to visit foster homes to meet the cat. As the foster pet parent, you are a valuable resource to help match the cat with a loving home.

## 9. Emotions

***Fostering is rewarding beyond measure.*** But it can also be bittersweet because it's hard to let go of a cat that you've grown to love. Heartbreak is also a reality because despite the best care, not every kitten thrives, and not every cat survives injury or illness. Knowing you gave your foster cat love, care, kindness, and a chance to be in a home, is the heart of fostering. You know your pets and you know what's in their best interests.



## 10. Getting Started

***Starting the foster journey is simple!*** Just make an appointment with the foster coordinator at your local shelter to learn about the fostering process.



# BONUS!

## 2 FAQs for fostering PURRFECTLY IMPURRFECT CATS

### 1. Will a PURRFECTLY IMPURRFECT cat have special needs?

*The most special need a purrfectly impurrfect cat has is to be in a loving home.* For cats with mobility limitations or other physical issues, special needs might include minor environmental adjustments to help create safety and comfort—like adding a ramp to access a window perch.



### 2. What kind of difference can I make fostering a PURRFECTLY IMPURRFECT cat?

*You'll make a tremendous difference in that cat's quality of life and increase the chance for adoption.* Because the purrfectly impurrfect cat feels safe and relaxed in a foster home, the animal's personality can blossom and begin to charm potential adoptive pet parents. For a **cat with misunderstood behavior**, you can customize training so the feline develops trust and finds joy in life again. For a **cat overlooked due to appearance**, you can help potential adopters look beyond the physical to see the personality and love a purrfectly impurrfect cat offers. Fostering an **older cat** in a peaceful home allows the feline to enjoy its senior years while waiting for a new home. Getting a cat out of a cage and into a home can improve odds of adoption. *Fostering purrfectly impurrfect cats allows you to be the purrfect guide to help adopters see the joy and love that awaits them.*