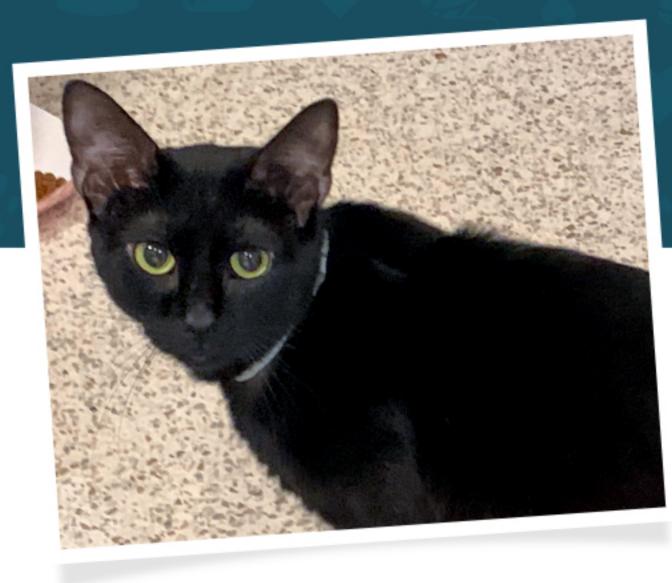


## Feline Fostering Guide

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

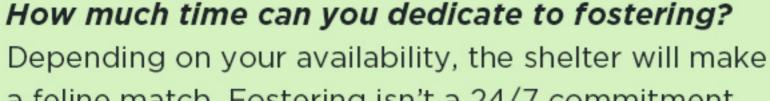
Are you interested in short-term fostering or do you feel committed to long-term? Does kitten care seem ideal or maybe senior feline fostering? Or are you drawn to a cat with special needs?



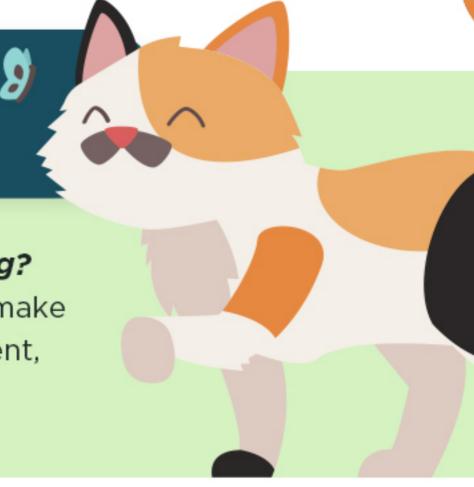
## 2. Space

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



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.

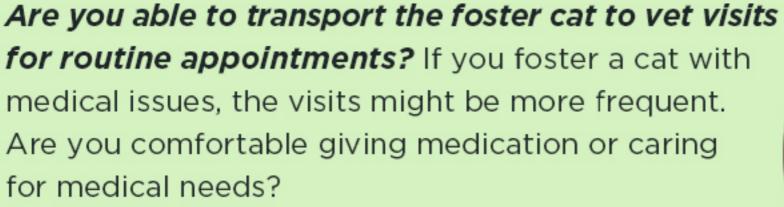
#### 6. Finances

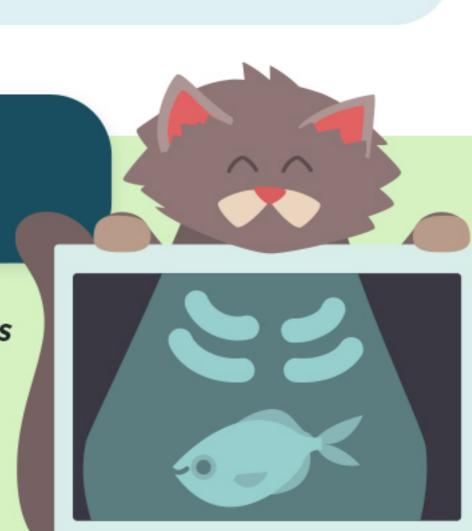


Most shelters cover foster expenses,

but be sure to ask if the foster parent has any financial obligations.

#### 7. Veterinary Visits





#### 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.