

Puppy Foster

Quick Reference Sheet for Important Procedures

The foster program of the SPCA of Tompkins County has evolved over the years. Even if you are a veteran foster parent with us, please review the notes below regarding current foster program policies. Any exceptions to the policies will be made by shelter staff. If you have any questions, please contact the foster coordinator.

1. If you offer foster services to other shelters, do not allow our puppies to mingle with any other facility's dogs.
2. **All medical care and support must be sought through the shelter.** In the event of an emergency contact the shelter or the foster emergency line to speak with a member of our staff. Dogs should be taken to the Cornell Companion Animal Hospital only with approval from an authorized member of the shelter staff's foster program.
3. **Do not give your foster puppy any medications or supplements unless they are prescribed or approved by a shelter veterinarian or by a shelter LVT.** This includes natural treatments, such as Rescue Remedy.
4. Foster pets may not be moved between foster homes unless coordinated with foster program staff. If you need help, please contact the shelter foster staff for assistance.
5. All foster parents must sign foster contracts for each pet in their care prior to the pet going into the foster home.
6. Foster puppies must be brought back to the shelter for scheduled medical checks, including boosters, deworming and other age appropriate care. Appointments will be made in advance and we will, as staffing time allows, provide appointment reminders. Foster parents who routinely miss appointments will be removed from the foster program.
7. When the shelter requests that your foster pets be returned to the shelter, please do so within 24 hours. If this is not possible, please contact the foster coordinator.
8. When pups have completed foster, shelter staff will determine appropriate housing in the Pet Adoption Center. **Foster parents should not take puppies to the adoption floor without approval or move them between buildings.**
9. Please be on time for spay/neuter surgery. At the height of kitten season medical staff will schedule a large volume of spays/neuters in a single day and **it is imperative that foster parents bring pets in as scheduled.** Depending on the Behavior Team's schedule and when behavior testing can be done, we generally ask foster parents to bring puppies under 4 months in the day before surgery.
10. When returning puppies for appointments, **please check in at the Rescue Desk**, not the Pet Adoption Center, unless directed to do otherwise. Never take pets directly to the surgical suite yourself.