

BALDWIN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER



FOSTER CARE HANDBOOK

October 2017

BALDWIN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

15050 COUNTY ROAD 49

SUMMERDALE, AL 36580

FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

Purpose

The purpose of the Baldwin County Animal Shelter (BCAS) Foster Care Program is to help vulnerable animals so that they may be adopted. We want every animal brought to us to have a chance for a long and happy life. Because of our limited resources and personnel, we are not able to care for the very young but otherwise adoptable animals as we would like to. The Foster Care Program brings caring individuals and needy animals together, providing special care in a home setting until the animals are ready for placement.

Eligible Animals

Animals eligible for foster care:

- Very young kittens and puppies that are approved by the County Humane Officer and Senior Animal Control Technician or Animal Placement Specialist
- Single raised kittens and puppies, when they can be added to an existing group of siblings with a mother
- Others as approved by the County Humane Officer and/or a contracted veterinarian

Who Can Foster?

Any Baldwin County Resident 18 years of age or older, meeting the criteria outlined below, who has completed the application process and is approved by the BCAS may provide foster care.

How Can I Become A Foster Parent?

If you are 18 years of age or older and a Baldwin County Resident (identification required and residency proof required); you may complete an application requesting to be considered as a Foster Care Provider for animals at the BCAS shelter. You must be amenable to a home inspection which assesses the suitability of your situation and surroundings for the care of the shelter's animals. The final decision is made by the County Humane Officer, Animal Placement Specialist, or their designee. Once approved as a Foster Parent you must attend an orientation before fostering can begin. If possible, the shelter will provide food, litter, litter box, toys, blankets, etc. to foster parent.

Rules That Apply To Approved Foster Parents

1. Foster Parents are required to keep foster dog(s) on a leash or in an enclosed area (within a fence or in a home) at all times.
2. Foster Parents are required to keep foster cats indoors at all times.
3. Foster Parents must attend a foster orientation before having an animal released to their care.
4. Foster Parents are required to make BCAS aware of vacations or other situations when the animal(s) will need to be transferred back to the shelter. This will allow us to find the most suitable temporary accommodations for your foster animal.
5. Foster Parents must abide by the commitments agreed to in the signed Foster Care Agreement.
6. The foster dog or cat in your care is a BCAS shelter animal and the BCAS must be informed if your or your animal's circumstances change.
7. Foster parents do NOT have the authority to initiate the adoption process of your foster animal.

How Long Can I Foster An Animal?

The BCAS Foster Care Program is intended to be a short, transient program for our animals with the intent to help the animals get old enough/healthy so they can be adopted.

What Do I Do About A Sick or Injured Dog/Cat While in My Care?

Immediately report the condition and/or incident to the County Humane Officer, Animal Placement Specialist, or their designee. If needed a BCAS staff person will pick up the foster pet and deliver it to a contracted veterinarian for an examination. All decisions about the treatment and disposition of the fostered animal will be made by the County Humane Officer or their designee. If the incident occurs after hours or on a weekend, call the emergency telephone number provided when you receive your foster dog/cat.

Baldwin County Animal Shelter

Foster Care Application

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

Daytime & Evening Phone Numbers _____

Email address _____ Date of Application _____

I am willing to foster the following (Please circle)

Pregnant Cat/Cat with Kittens

Pregnant Dog/Dog with Puppies

Orphaned Kittens

Orphaned Puppies

Sick Cat/Kitten

Sick Dog/Puppy

Injured Cat/Kitten

Injured Dog/Puppy

Do you or have you ever owned a pet? **Yes** **No**

What type and how many animals do you currently have in your home?

Are animals currently in your home spayed or neutered? **Yes** **No**

Who is your local vet/ local vet phone number? (we will call your vet as a reference)

Do you own or rent your home? **Own** **Rent**

If you rent, who is your landlord?

What is your landlord's phone number?

Please describe the general area where the animal(s) you are fostering will be kept:

Do you have children and if so, what are their ages? _____

Have you ever fostered animals before? (this applies to any organization) **Yes** **No**

If Yes, what types of animals have you fostered and what organization was it with? _____

Would you be willing to foster exotic animals? **Yes** **No**

If yes, what type of exotic animals do you have experience with? _____

Are you willing to allow the BCAS to visit the animal(s) at your home? **Yes** **No**

Are you willing to abide by all animal control laws with regard to your foster animals? **Yes** **No**

References:

1. Name/Phone Number: _____

2. Name/Phone Number: _____

3. Name/Phone Number: _____

As a foster parent you will be required to keep your foster dog(s) on a leash or enclosed (within a fence adequate for the animal or in a home) at all times. Foster cats must be kept indoors at all times. By initialing below, you acknowledge that you will abide by these provisions.

Initial: _____

As a foster parent, you may have an animal in your care for a short period of time or an extended period of time. This will frequently be determined when you receive an animal to be fostered. However, this amount of time is subject to change depending on circumstances at the shelter. If you know that you will be on vacation during the period of time you are scheduled to foster, you are obliged to inform the BCAS as such. This will allow us to find the most suitable temporary accommodations for your foster animal.

All new foster parents must attend a foster orientation. You will be contacted regarding the date, time, and location of this orientation. Additionally, while you are caring for foster animals, we may call you from time to time to check on the animal's progress and address any concerns you may have. As a foster parent, we want you to know that it is occasionally necessary to euthanize animals that have been in foster care. Although this is an option of last resort, it can occur, and we want all of our foster parents to be aware of that fact.

By signing this form, you agree to the above statements and certify that the answers given above are true:

Signature _____ Date _____

BALDWIN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Foster Care Agreement

I, _____, the person agreeing to foster the following animal, _____, declare that I am aware that:

(please initial after each section)

1. I am willing to allow inspection of the animal care area at my place of residence prior to and during the fostering of the above named animal(s). This inspection will be conducted by, and at the discretion of, either the County Humane Officer, Animal Placement Specialist, or their designee.
2. I accept temporary possession of the above named animal(s) to be harbored at my own expense and risk.
3. I understand that these animals shall be fostered temporarily at my place of residence, and I will return these animals to the BCAS at their request, but in no case later than _____.
4. I also understand that the rights to these animals, and their final disposition remains with the BCAS. The BCAS cannot guarantee placement of all foster animals.
5. I will NOT initiate adoption proceedings for these animals, and I will refer all interested parties to the BCAS for adoption information.
6. I will be responsible for providing the following care for the above named animal(s):
 - A. Proper food and water.
 - B. Daily exercise.
 - C. Adequate shelter.
 - D. Prescribed medicine and/or home medical care.
 - E. Other: _____
7. If at any time during the foster care of this animal(s), I feel that veterinary care, not already specified, is required, I will contact the BCAS so that arrangements may be made with the vet of their choice. In case of emergency during non-business hours I may call _____ at phone number _____.

8. If at any time I encounter problems, I will contact the BCAS immediately.

Name (printed) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

BCAS Employees Only Section			
	Date Completed	Employee Signature	Comments
Application Reviewed			
Home Visit			
Hold Harmless Form			
Animal taken to foster home			

FOSTER'S HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

Foster's Name: _____

Animal(s) being fostered: _____

Assigned by: _____ **Date:** _____

I, on behalf of myself and my heirs, and to the fullest extent allowed by law, hereby release, and agree to indemnify and hold harmless Baldwin County, the Baldwin County Commission, their officers, agents, officials, representatives, volunteers and employees, the promoters, owners, operators, and the lessees of the premises, of and from liability, loss, claim and demands that may occur from loss, damage or injury (including death) to my person or property, in any way resulting from, or arising in connection with my volunteer service with the Baldwin County Animal Shelter, whether arising while engaged in caring for animals or preparation therefore, or while upon entering or departing from said premises or while performing any duties related to my foster service in any location. This agreement indemnifies and holds harmless those parties described above from any cause whatsoever, including, but not limited to, liability loss, claim and demands that occur as a direct result of the negligent acts of Baldwin County, its officers, officials, employees, volunteers, fosters and/or agents. I know the risk and danger to my person and my property while I am upon said premises or performing my foster service at any location, so voluntarily and in reliance upon my own judgment and ability, I thereby assume all risk of loss, damage, or injury (including death) to myself and my property from any cause whatsoever.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____ **Age:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Phone:** _____

I have read the volunteer's hold harmless agreement and policy guideline instructions given to me by a Baldwin County Animal Shelter employee and agree to follow them.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____