

# TOLEDO ANIMAL RESCUE

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## FOSTER TEAM GUIDELINES

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Without **YOU**, it wouldn't be **PAW**ssible.

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TOLEDO, OHIO 43609

419.382.1130

[www.toledoanimalrescue.org](http://www.toledoanimalrescue.org)

## Dear Foster Team,

Thank you! By choosing to foster with Toledo Animal Rescue, you are giving new hope to animals that we cannot accommodate at our facility. As you journey on this new adventure with us, please know how important you are to these young, sick, or injured cats and dogs. Thanks to you, they will have a better chance to find a *Furever* home and lasting family.

In this guide, you will find direction and helpful tips to ensure success for the duration of your foster animal's stay.

### **Types of Animals That Need Foster Homes:**

- Puppies and kittens too young to eat on their own
- Abused dogs or cats that need socialization and love
- Injured dogs or cats recovering from surgery
- Sick dogs or cats
- Mothers with litters of kittens or puppies
- Any animal when the shelter becomes overcrowded

If the requirements included in the following section do not work well with your current schedule, please let us know. We can help you find a foster situation that will work best for you! We are excited to work together and thank you for your generosity of time, spirit and love!

Sincerely,

The Toledo Animal Rescue Foster Team

# Are You A Foster Candidate?



## Time

- Are you able to devote the required daily and weekly time to your foster animal (see chart below)? **YES** **NO**
- Are you able to bring foster animals to the shelter for vaccinations and wellness exams every 1-2 weeks? **YES** **NO**
- Are you able to bring your foster to after-hours veterinary care in the event of an emergency? **YES** **NO**

## Space

- Are you able to separate your foster animals from your household pets for at least two weeks to protect them from illnesses and allow for a proper adjustment period? **YES** **NO**
- Are you able to handle cleaning procedures such as washing hands after every encounter and cleaning / disinfecting the foster animal quarters routinely? **YES** **NO**
- Are you able to handle any potential home damage (carpet, clothing, and/or furniture) associated with animals? **YES** **NO**

## Care

- Are you prepared to handle sickness or possible death of your foster animal? **YES** **NO**
- Are you able to emotionally handle letting go of the foster animal? **YES** **NO**
- Are you able to handle the potential of foster animals carrying illness that could affect your household animals / family? **YES** **NO**

## Time Commitments & Responsibilities

Type of Foster	Duration of Foster Care	Daily Commitment
Sick/Injured Cats	1 week-2 months	2-3 hours
Weaned Puppies	1-3 weeks	3-6 hours
Sick/Injured Dogs	1 week- 2 months	2-3 hours
Neonate Puppies	6-8 weeks	8 hours
Mom with Puppies/Kittens	2-8 weeks	3 hours
Weaned Kittens	1-5 weeks	2-3 hours
Neonate Kittens	4-8 weeks	4-6 hours

# Getting Ready!



## Preparing Your Home and Family

Before you bring home your foster(s), make sure that you have a suitable place for them to stay. A bathroom, laundry room, or kitchen often works well. The room should adhere to the following guidelines:

- A space where temperature can be controlled.
- The space has been disinfected by using a mild bleach solution (1 part bleach to 32 parts water).
- Separate from other household pets.
- Can withstand messes: spilt water or food, vomit, urine, feces, etc.
- No breakable items.
- Electrical outlets and wires are blocked.
- No small items or other items that can be readily chewed on or eaten (trash receptacles, shoes, house plants, throw rugs, etc.)
- Secured windows (closed or with a secure screen).
- Secured appliances (toilet lids closed).

### **NOTE: Foster kittens and cats must remain indoors only!**

Do not let your foster felines outdoors under any circumstances. This includes shared hallways. Keep them separated from any resident animals in a confined space; such as a roomy crate, or in a spare room.

### **What You Should Do**

- Remove small, ingestible objects from the environment; this may include small toys or parts of toys, elastic bands, paper clips, string, sewing pins and needles, ornaments, tinsel and more
- Keep toilet bowls closed, especially when small kittens are in the home
- Secure window screens in any open windows no matter how small the opening
- Ensure that side panels on window AC units are securely in place and cannot be moved or opened
- Secure loose electrical wires, cords for window blinds and other potential hazards
- Remove plants and flowers from the vicinity of your foster animal's space; many types of decorative vegetation are highly toxic to animals
- Do not offer any human food to your foster animal
- Keep your home reasonably climate-controlled (if it's too hot for you, it's likely too hot for your foster)
- Ensure visitors do not leave doors or windows open, and are conscientious about safety measures that are in place for your foster
- Discard old or uneaten animal food and keep fresh water available at all times
- Secure/remove household toxins such as cleaning agents, pesticides and solvents

#### **HELPFUL TIPS**

***Use ceramic or metal bowls. Plastic is porous and more difficult to clean***

***Clean linens, toys, and litter boxes daily to ensure proper hygiene and disease control***

***Always supervise playtime, especially when introducing your foster animal to other household pets or children***

## What You Will Need

Much of this will be provided to you, so check with TAR prior to purchasing items.

- Litter box and non-clumping litter
- Large dog crate (if applicable)
- Carrier (with door removed after transport for hiding spot in crate or room)
- Wet and dry life-stage appropriate food
- Formula, syringe and bottle for youngest kittens
- Heating source for youngest kittens (heating pad)
- Scale for youngest kittens
- Scratchpads and other toys (choose easy to disinfect toys or those that can be disposed of after being used by this particular foster cat; carpeted or wooden scratching posts should not be used)
- Bedding (towels, blankets, cat beds) that is washable and kept clean and dry at all time
- Piddle pads
- Bleach for disinfecting soiled areas

**Kittens under five weeks of age may still need an additional heating source, as they cannot regulate their body temperature. If this is the case, you will be provided with a heating source to use in your kitten's crate. It is very important to make sure that the kitten has an area of the crate with no additional heating where they can go if they become too hot.**

A towel or blanket should be placed over the heat source. You may also want to cover the crate with a towel or sheet to keep the home draft-free and cozy. The kitten's home should be in a warm, quiet room and if possible, room temperature should be around 80-85 F.

Other specialized items will be provided as needed on a case by case basis (for example, Miracle Nipples and syringes for unweaned kittens).



## General Information

Foster parenting is a rewarding experience for the entire family. It teaches children to love and care for a pet with the intention of finding a loving home. Many lessons can be learned from that. For foster parents, the satisfaction is in saving an animal from a potentially terrible life, and being the link that brings that pet to a new owner.

Upon approval, foster parents can choose which type of pet(s) they would like to foster. We in turn will try to match the right pet to you.

## Before You Foster

It is extremely important that you make sure that all of your own pets are up to date on their annual shots and have had the appropriate vaccines (e.g., kennel cough). Your pets should all be protected with flea/tick and heartworm prevention. Toledo Animal Rescue cannot be responsible if your pet gets sick due to a foster animal being sick. That is why it is imperative you protect your pets with preventative medicines.

## When Your Foster Pet Arrives

You will be provided information on what medical requirements are needed, feeding instructions, anticipated well visit and vaccination schedule, and any other pertinent information. **PLEASE READ ALL INFORMATION** and ask questions...lots of questions.

- **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS AND YOUR FOSTER ALONE TOGETHER**
  - This is especially important in the introductory stage or if you are fostering a sick or injured animal who needs rest and recuperation time.
- *Introducing a foster dog:* Introductions should be strategically planned out. You know your dog and what is best when your dog meets other dogs. The Toledo Animal Rescue team is trained by the professional behavioral consultants at Ready, Set...Train! We can walk you through the proper introductory steps to ensure a safe and successful 1<sup>st</sup> introduction.
- *Introducing a foster cat/kitten:* Introduce the foster to the other pets in your home **very slowly**. This may take days or even weeks. Keep the foster in a separate room, isolated from other animals, for at least a day. Depending on the foster and whether you have the space, it may be best to keep the foster separated for the entire stay at your home. Cats require time to adjust and acclimate to their new environment. If possible, let them check each other out by smelling each other under the door, or provide another means of limited contact, such as a baby gate or through portable enclosure. If after many attempts the introductions are going well, you may try supervised introductions in the same room. **Don't expect cats to become fast friends.** The best you can and should hope for is cats coexisting with minimal fighting.
- If fostering an injured or sick animal, it is important to keep them as calm and quiet as possible so that they may begin the healing process. Once the animal has recovered or is illness free, you can begin the introductory process as described.

## Training and Behavior for Dogs/Puppies

Toledo Animal Rescue works closely with the behavioral professionals at Ready, Set...Train! Please call us with any behavioral problems. We will be more than happy to offer advice. In the event adverse behaviors persist, we may ask you to bring the animal back for a more thorough, hands on behavioral consultation.

- Treat your foster dog as if they are not housebroken. Keep an eye on them at all times in the house. If necessary, keep them leashed in the house or crated. Create a regular potty schedule. Puppies can hold between potty breaks for approximately one hour for each month of their age. So, a four-month-old puppy can hold it for four hours **during the day**. Overnight, they can usually hold it longer. All foster dogs should be crated overnight initially. If you are having a problem with housebreaking, let us know and we will walk you through it.
- The more you understand about training dogs and correcting behavioral problems, the smoother things will go for you and your new foster dog. We use a positive approach for behavior modification. We **NEVER** use hitting a dog or a shock collar as a means of training.
- Many of the dogs we get are under socialized and have certain behavioral problems. It is essential that we socialize dogs as much as possible. Always use extreme caution and go very slowly when introducing your foster dog to new people and situations. **If you are not sure if you should do something, don't do it.**
- **Never** leave your dog tied/tethered outside for any amount of time.
- **Never** leave your dog alone in a fenced yard longer than 15 minutes. Only do this after you are certain they will not jump the fence or dig underneath.
- **Never let your foster dog off leash in an unfenced area!**
- Never leave your foster dog in a car alone.
- Do not use a pinch collar or a choke collar. Leashes and harnesses are available for you to use.

## Feeding Your Foster

- Please feed your foster(s) only food recommended by Toledo Animal Rescue. TAR will provide you detailed feeding instructions and food and other supplies as necessary.
- Kitten feeding frequencies and diets change often. As they grow, their nutrition requirements change.
- Please do not give a foster dog rawhides, greenies, edible nylabones, or squeaky toys. (Little dogs that don't chew a lot can have squeaky toys.)

## Daily Care for Orphaned Kittens

Young kittens are extremely fragile, and some may pass away no matter how well you take care of them (sometimes 1 out of 4 in the first week alone). Remain attentive to your foster kittens and provide them with the best possible care. As difficult as it is to lose a foster pet, you should not blame yourself. In the unfortunate event that your foster kitten passes away, contact the Rescue as soon as possible.

### Daily Care for Newborns Using a Bottle (0-3 weeks old)

Young kittens need to be fed every 2-4 hours throughout the day and night. Sometimes bottle feeding can be challenging. If your kitten will not take the milk replacer from the bottle, you may wait until the next feeding to try again. However; if your kitten has not eaten in two consecutive feedings, please contact us right away. Kitten Milk Replacer (KMR) formula will be provided for all kittens requiring bottle feeding. Please follow the directions provided with the KMR to mix the formula (one part formula to two parts water). For the first couple of feedings, you may increase the amount of water slightly to dilute the formula to help reduce digestive upset.

Mixed formula that has not been warmed can be saved in the refrigerator for up to 24 hours. After being opened, the unmixed powder formula should also be kept in the refrigerator, and be kept for up to 3 months.

Prepare only the amount of formula your litter of kittens will need for each feeding. Kittens will usually need about 4mL per 100g of body weight per feeding, or about 30mL over a 24-hour period. Formula should be warmed by placing the bottle of cold KMR upright in a mug of hot water. Check the temperature of the formula on the inside of your wrist before feeding each kitten. The temperature should be warm to the touch but not hot.

### Safe Feeding

You should also test the nipple on your bottle and make sure the formula drips out slowly. It is very easy for kittens to aspirate (inhale fluids into the lungs). If formula comes out of the kitten's nose, *stop feeding immediately*. Do not feed any more until the kitten has completely cleared the fluid from its lungs, usually by sneezing. If crackling or popping is heard as the kitten breathes, or if you suspect your kitten may have aspirated formula, contact us immediately.

Kittens should be warm before feeding to digest food properly. Prepare kittens for feeding by placing them on their stomachs, or if they are fussy wrap them in a small towel (like taco. . . A purrito if you will). If wrapped in a towel, make sure the kitten can still knead with their forelegs outside of the towel and that



they are not on their back (which can cause aspiration).

When placed on their stomach, make sure they are in an upright position with their head tilted up slightly and neck extended (as if they are nursing from mom). Support the lower body with the palm of your hand and hold their head steady with your thumb and forefinger.

Never force milk down by squeezing the bottle since this can cause aspiration. Bottle feeding takes practice and patience to master. Make sure you do not overfeed the kitten by checking their tummy for fullness while feeding.

After bottle feeding, gently burp the kitten by placing them on their stomach in the palm of one hand, and patting them on the back a few times with the other. This will allow any air ingested to be expelled; however, you won't hear the kitten "burp".

Clean out your bottle with soap and water in-between feedings. After the kitten has finished feeding, you must now stimulate the kitten to urinate and defecate. Kittens should defecate at least once a day and should urinate every time.

## Kitten Growth Milestones

*Courtesy of University of Wisconsin Shelter Medicine Program*

Age	Weight	Milestones
Birth	2-4 ounces (50-100 grams)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eyes and ears are close</li><li>• Sleeps 90% of the time</li><li>• Minimal handling</li></ul>
2-3 days		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Umbilical cord falls off</li></ul>
4 days		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Begins to purr!</li></ul>
10-14 days	8 ounces (225 grams)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eyes and ears open</li><li>• Healthy kittens will be round and warm with pink skin and will rarely cry</li></ul>
2-3 weeks	12 ounces (340 grams)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Baby incisors erupt, can begin to eliminate without help</li><li>• Will start crawling, standing and playing with littermates</li><li>• Begin regular handling</li><li>• Ready for de-wormer</li></ul>
4 weeks	1 pound (450 grams)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Baby canine teeth erupt, beginning to walk but do not have great balance, will begin to groom themselves, able to thermo-regulate</li><li>• Continue daily handling</li><li>• Ready for gruel and may be ready for introduction of dry kitten food</li></ul>
6 weeks	1.5 pounds (680 grams)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Baby premolars erupt</li><li>• Ready For Their First Vaccine!</li><li>• Running, playing, using litter box, grooming themselves</li><li>• Should be eating dry kitten food, supplemented with canned</li></ul>
8 weeks	2 pounds (900 grams)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ready for surgery and adoption!!</li></ul>

## Daily Care for Moms with Kittens

Most mothers, even first-timers, can take care of themselves and their offspring quite well. For the most part, you will leave mom and babies alone while observing for any signs of trouble. Provide a nesting box for nursing mothers. That way babies can't get out, but mom can when she needs some peace and quiet. Only half of the nesting box should have extra warmth added.

### Young Kitten Care

A kitten's survival depends on getting consistent nutrition and warmth. The mother's colostrum, which is the first milk produced, is vitally important to a newborn's cardiovascular system and defense against disease. Colostrum is rich in antibodies to help protect against various infections, but kittens can only absorb these antibodies and benefit from them for a short period after birth.

So-called "Fading Kitten Syndrome," when a newborn fades and dies despite adequate care, is usually due to either a genetic defect or lack of sufficient colostrum. For this reason, it is very important that newborns nurse as soon as much as possible after birth. If they do not find a nipple on their own, put their mouth close to one and hold them until they nurse.

Continued healthy nursing behavior is crucial for kitten survival. In order to tell if the kittens are nursing, put on exam gloves and gently pick up each kitten, and feel for a round belly full of milk. A flat or concave belly indicates that the kitten may not be nursing. You should perform this check once or twice a day, always wearing your exam gloves.

Also, visually confirm that each kitten is actually latching onto mom. A gram scale works great to log each kitten's weight on your health monitoring sheet (provided). Healthy kittens should gain a little weight each day.

### Problem Signs

During the first two weeks, kittens should spend approximately 90% of the time eating and sleeping. If kittens are crying during or after eating, they are usually becoming ill or are not getting adequate milk. A newborn kitten is very susceptible to infections and can die within 24 hours. If excessive crying occurs, the mother and entire litter should be examined by a veterinarian, so please call us immediately.

### Supplemental Feeding for Nursing Kittens with Mom

When adequate nursing isn't possible, supplemental feeding one to three times per day may be recommended, especially for any litter with more than five kittens. We will supply you with liquid or powdered Kitten Milk Replacer (KMR) for supplemental feeding. The temperature of the milk replacer can be tested on your forearm and should be about the same as one's skin. The KMR can give directions concerning feeding amounts.

If the kittens are still nursing from their mother, the amounts recommended will be excessive. Generally, one-third to half of the listed amount should be the daily goal. Supplemental feeding may be continued until the kittens are old enough to eat kitten food.

If the mother does not produce milk or her milk becomes infected, the kittens will cry excessively. If this occurs, the entire litter could die within 24 to 48 hours. Total replacement feeding, using the KMR, or adopting the kittens to another nursing mother, is usually necessary.

If replacement feeding is elected, the amounts of milk listed on the KMR container should be fed. Kittens less than two weeks of age should be fed every 3 to 4 hours. Kittens 2 to 4 weeks old do well with feedings every 4 to 6 hours. Don't feel like you have to wake them up to feed—if they're full enough to sleep peacefully, let them rest until they wake up hungry.

## Special Care for Puppies

- Puppies should be housed indoors – a kitchen, bathroom, or a space that is easily cleanable and devoid of chewing hazards is ideal.
- Puppies should be around humans for socialization purposes and should not be isolated.
- Puppies should be kept in a crate or in a contained area at all times when not under supervision. Crates are provided.
- Puppies can be outdoors – only if supervised by an adult. Puppies younger than 5 months should NEVER go to off-leash areas because they are not fully vaccinated.
- Puppies should not be exposed to other dogs outside of the home or places frequented by other dogs due to the risk of diseases such as parvovirus.
- Do not offer your puppy treats. Only feed them food provided by Toledo Animal Rescue.
- Keeping the puppies clean from food and feces is vital for his or her health. If you notice your puppy has food, urine, or feces on him or her gently wipe the puppy down with a warm damp cloth or baby wipe. Be sure to dry the puppy well afterwards so they do not become chilled.

## Mouthing

- Puppies are born with instincts to bite. One of the most important things they learn, as a puppy, is how to control the strength of their bite.
- Puppies naturally train each other how to bite. When one puppy bites another too hard, the other puppy yelps loudly and stops playing.
- As a foster parent, you can play this role. Any time a puppy mouths with too much force, yelp loudly. If the puppy stops biting, then praise him/her lavishly. If the puppy continues biting, turn your back on the puppy and walk away. After ten seconds or so, resume play happily.
- Remember: Mouthing is important! A puppy who is never allowed to mouth will grow up to have a hard bite.
- Never scold, tap on the nose, or yell no at a puppy that is biting. Bite inhibition is a crucial development for puppies. A puppy that is punished for biting can turn into an adult with unsafe jaws (because they do not know their jaw strength). Simply yell “ouch” when a puppy bites too hard.

## House Training

We always want to set our puppies up for success and doing so in the house training process is essential! Puppies should have frequent breaks and be taken outside to the same spot to relieve themselves every 30 – 60 minutes when active (when waking up from a nap, after drinking or eating, and after a play session). A puppy can hold his/her bladder one hour for each month of age (i.e.: 2 months = 2 hours, 3 months = 3 hours). A good rule of thumb: *IF YOU WAKE HIM, YOU TAKE HIM!!*

## **Remember these five steps to successful house training:**

1. Prevent accidents
2. Reward going to the bathroom
3. Anticipate bathroom needs
4. Interrupt accidents and avoid punishing
5. Clean up accidents with enzyme cleaner

For Puppies Five Weeks and under: place puppies on pee pads immediately after waking up, after eating, and about once an hour. Praise the puppy enthusiastically every time he/she urinates or defecates on the pad. Change the pads frequently, as puppies tend to chew on pee pads.

## **Crate Training**

House training and crate training go hand in hand. A crate can be a great tool to use for your puppy, but it can also be misused. The crate should be big enough for your puppy to stand up, turn around, and stretch out; we will make sure you go home with the correct size, but your puppy may grow. Please let us know if you need a larger crate.

Your foster puppy/dog should have a short term confinement area, such as the crate, and a long term confinement area, such as an x-pen or baby gated section of the house or room.

If you are beginning to crate train, feed your puppy in the crate, provide stuffed chew toys only in the crate, and/or play crate games to build a positive association with the crate. Keep sessions short and fun, and have your puppy in the crate for short periods of time when you are home.

Never use a crate as a form of punishment for your foster puppy or dog. After your dog eliminates plan an extra few minutes to play with your puppy. Dogs quickly learn to hold their bladder if they immediately go inside after they relieve themselves.

## **Toys**

Having toys available for your puppy is vital for their mental health and development. A selection of toys is best such as plush squeak toys, rope toys, stuffed Kongs, and teething toys.

## **Socialization**

From 3 weeks to 3 months, puppies are biologically primed to learn that new sights, sounds, smells, objects, environments, and people are fun and safe. This is the most crucial and sensitive period in a puppy's life.

Socialization is not simply exposing a puppy to a variety of people, places, and things, but using positive proactive socialization training. Each new person the puppy meets should be a wonderful experience with treats and toys. Take things slow if your puppy seems fearful of the new person, place, or thing.

## Training: Positive Reinforcement

As a foster parent, there will be many situations for you to train your animal. Toledo Animal Rescue only promotes training using positive reinforcement as taught by our training partners at *Ready, Set...Train*. Decades of research and scientific study concludes that Positive Reinforcement training is the most humane and effective method of training.

### Do not scold or punish bad behavior.

- When an unwanted behavior is offered/ performed re-direct the puppy with a affirming noises, petting or toy. Praise and reward the puppy for stopping the undesired behavior and giving you attention.
- Punishment can instill fear, which can lead to aggressive behavior.
- Praise and reward good behavior.
- When a behavior is immediately followed by a positive outcome, that behavior is strengthened.

## Maintaining Foster Health

### Diarrhea

There are three types of stool: normal, soft and diarrhea. Normal stool is firm and has a definite shape. Soft stool is not firm but still has some shape. Diarrhea is liquid, with or without color to it. Diarrhea is common and can be caused by parasites, viruses, bacteria, food changes, stress, overfeeding and other issues.

Diarrhea must be monitored as it can lead to dehydration. If the foster is active, mild diarrhea that occurs for 24 hours is not a concern. Feed the foster less at a time but more often. If the diarrhea is severe, lasts more than 3-4 feedings or contains blood/ parasites, call the Rescue to schedule a recheck.

### Parasites

Fosters are de-wormed upon intake and at rechecks as necessary. Parasites are commonly found in the stool of puppies and kittens. Tapeworms may look like grains of rice. Roundworms look like spaghetti and can be seen in the litter box or in vomit. If you notice worms, call the Rescue to schedule a recheck.

### Vomiting

Vomiting is not serious unless it happens continuously or accompanied with diarrhea. It can lead to dehydration. If vomiting occurs 2-3 times in a row, call the Rescue or Emergency Contact right away.

### Eye Discharge

It is normal for animals to have little pieces of crust in their eyes after waking up. If you see continuous yellow or green discharge, swollen or closed eyes call the Rescue to schedule a recheck. You can use a warm, damp towel to wipe the affected eye(s).

## Ear Mites

Ear mites are parasites that live in the ear canal. You may notice a bald spot behind their ears due to continuous scratching. They may also violently shake their head. The ears may smell bad and you may see brown discharge that resembles coffee grounds. Ear mites are contagious to other animals and need to be treated. Call the Rescue if you notice any these symptoms.

## Fleas

Animals that have fleas will scratch themselves often. Topical and oral flea prevention are given to fosters over 6 weeks of age. Flea prevention for puppies/kittens less than 6 weeks includes daily brushings with the flea comb and daily bedding changes. If you still notice signs of fleas, you can wash the puppy/ kitten in a small amount of Dawn® dish soap followed by using a flea comb to remove any remaining fleas. Be sure to thoroughly dry him/her following a bath. Baths should not be given more than once every 1-2 weeks. If you still notice signs of fleas, call Rescue to schedule a recheck.

## Ringworm

Ringworm is a contagious fungus that that can spread to other animals and humans. A sign of ringworm is thinning hair or patches of hair loss. Ringworm is difficult to remove from your house. To help with prevention and spreading maintain cleaning protocols and a good hand washing routine. Call the Rescue if you notice any hair loss.

## Mange

Mange is caused by parasites that infect the skin of animals. Some forms of mange are contagious to other animals and humans. The symptoms include itching, hair loss and sores. If you notice these symptoms, call the Rescue for and recheck and treatment.

## Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)

URIs are common and are caused by contagious viruses and bacteria.

Signs to look for:

- Sneezing and discharge from eyes/nose
- Congested breathing
- Loss of appetite
- Lethargy (lack of energy)
- Dehydration

If you notice any of these signs, please contact the Rescue to schedule a recheck.

## Parvovirus

Parvovirus is a deadly and contagious virus that attacks a dog's gastrointestinal tract. Once parvovirus is present in an environment it is difficult to remove. It is transmitted through direct contact with contaminated feces.

Signs to look for:

- Lethargy
- Dehydration
- Loss of appetite
- Abdominal pain and bloating
- Fever
- Low body temperature
- Vomiting
- Severe diarrhea with or without blood

**If you notice any of these signs, immediately contact the Rescue or Emergency Contact Number to schedule a recheck.**

## Distemper

Distemper is a highly contagious and fatal disease that attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal and nervous systems. It is transmitted through direct contact with contaminated saliva, blood, or urine.

Signs to look for:

- Severe Upper Respiratory Infection or Pneumonia
- Lethargy
- Neurological signs such as seizure activity, convulsions, and partial or complete paralysis.

**If you notice any of these signs, immediately contact the Rescue or Emergency Contact Number to schedule a recheck.**

## Fading Puppy/Kittens

Occasionally, a puppy or kitten that appeared healthy will suddenly stop thriving. They will stop growing, socializing and crawling. They will begin to lose weight and may cry continuously. When this happens, they fade quickly and, even with medical intervention, may not survive 48 hours. There is not understood cause for this condition. Occasionally, puppies/kittens die in foster care. If this should occur contact the Rescue or Emergency Contact for further instruction.

## Veterinary Care

All veterinary care will be coordinated through Toledo Animal Rescue. Routine rechecks will be scheduled as needed and occur generally every 1- 2 weeks.

In the event your foster requires emergency vet care, contact the Rescue or the Emergency Contact immediately for further instructions on where to seek emergency care.

## Spay/Neuter procedure

Toledo Animal Rescue utilizes Humane Ohio for all of our spay/neuter surgeries. All foster animals will have surgeries scheduled by Rescue personnel. As a foster, it is your responsibility to deliver your foster animal to the Rescue by 5PM the day before the scheduled date. Rescue personnel use the following guidelines to determine when the foster animal is ready to be returned for surgery:

- Are the puppies/kittens old enough or did they gain enough weight for surgery?
- Are they successfully weaned from their mother?
- Have they been successfully socialized?
- Is your foster healthy and recovered fully from the illness or injury?
- Is there an adoption pending or is there room at the Rescue?

## How do pets in foster care get adopted?

All foster parents are encouraged to promote the adoption of their foster pet to friends, family, and other potential adopters. All adopters are required to submit an adoption application, and will be vetted by staff members. We will train you on the adoption process, advertise your foster on our Facebook and website, and encourage you to take your foster around the community to try to find someone to adopt them. We will even invite you out to our offsite adoption events. If you find someone to adopt the animal you are fostering you will perform the adoption process. This program allows us to have more space available for new animals entering the Rescue. Animals adopted out of foster homes are less likely to be returned, and the animal is able to live in a home environment and never has to come back to the Rescue!



**THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO  
FOSTER WITH  
TOLEDO ANIMAL RESCUE!!**



**Without YOU, it wouldn't be PAWssible.**

CONTACT INFORMATION

419.382.1130

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