

# Caldwell Animal Rescue, Inc. (CAR)

Dedicated to introducing and joining homeless animals with loving homes.

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

## Why Should I Foster?

---

### Thank you for considering Fostering!

#### What does fostering an animal involve?

When you foster, you agree to take a homeless animal into your home and give him or her love, care and attention, either for **a predetermined period of time or until the animal is adopted.**

#### Why do adoption groups need foster homes?

There are many reasons an animal might need foster care. Some of the most common include:

- A rescue group doesn't have a physical shelter and depends on foster homes to care for animals until suitable homes are found.
- A puppy/kitten is too young to be adopted and needs a safe place to stay until he or she is old enough to go to a forever home.
- An animal is recovering from surgery, illness or injury and needs a safe place to recuperate.
- An animal is showing signs of stress such as pacing or hiding in the shelter.
- An animal has not lived in a home before or has not had much contact with people and needs to be socialized.
- The shelter is running out of room for adoptable animals.

#### Why should I foster an animal?

Fostering an animal is one of the most rewarding experiences you can have (other than adopting, of course). By taking an animal in need temporarily into your home you're:

- Freeing up a spot so the shelter or rescue can take in another animal.
- Giving your foster animal the time he needs to be ready for adoption.
- Helping the shelter or rescue learn more about the animal so he can end up in the best home possible.
- socializing the animal to a home environment and possibly getting him used to being around other pets and different types of people

### Eight Reasons You Can Foster a Pet -- Even If You Think You Can't

1. "I DON'T HAVE THE SPACE" -- I used to think this too. Then an animal came along that really, really needed me ... and I made the space! All it takes is a small spare bedroom or office, a bathroom, or even a corner where you can set up a playpen cage, which you can borrow from us! While we may need foster animals to stay separate from your own animals, it doesn't take much space to do that. And remember, whatever space you have at home is probably more than the animal has here at the shelter now! This is also what I tell people who think they can't adopt a big animal because they live in an apartment.

# Caldwell Animal Rescue, Inc. (CAR)

Dedicated to introducing and joining homeless animals with loving homes.

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

2. "I MIGHT GET ATTACHED" -- OK, yes, you might. But no matter how difficult it is to bring your animal back to the shelter, just knowing that you're helping to save a life should ease any short-term pain. When you take in a foster animal, it gives us room to help other animals that might otherwise be brought to shelters that euthanize for time and space. It also lets us learn more about an animal's personality than we ever could in a shelter environment, which, in turn, makes the animal much easier to adopt out. Yes, some animals are harder to bring back than others, but be strong! You can do it! (And yes, I've kept one foster animal, but not the 60 that followed that first one!)
3. "MY OWN ANIMALS WON'T TOLERATE A FOSTER ANIMAL, ESPECIALLY AN ADULT" -- If you have a separate room, this shouldn't be much of a problem. Yes, your animal(s) will know there is another animal in the house, and they may be a little upset about it at first. But chances are they'll get over it pretty quickly, especially if you make sure you wash your hands after visiting with the foster animal and keep the animals from seeing each other if possible. Feliway Comfort Zone diffusers or Rescue Remedy flower essence can also help with cats. Tell your animals they need to help do their part too! Eventually, they will be totally nonchalant about the whole idea of fostering. My animals no longer even bat an eyelash when a foster animal comes into the house.
4. "I CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE ANOTHER ANIMAL" -- This one is easy! You can get all your food and litter from CAR if you like, and CAR covers all medical expenses associated with foster animals! If you buy your own supplies for fosters, save the receipts so you can take a tax deduction!
5. "A SHELTER ANIMAL MIGHT GET MY OWN ANIMALS SICK" – **Your own pets must be up-to-date on ALL their vaccinations** including Rabies and DHCP (or feline equivalent). Your dogs should be vaccinated against heartworm and kennel cough (*Bordetella*). If you follow basic health protocols, such as washing your hands between handling animals and wearing an over-shirt when handling the foster animal, you shouldn't have any problems. A sick animal should be kept in a separate room, and bedding/clothing should be washed with bleach after use. We are also happy to provide you with a bottle of heavy-duty kennel disinfectant for cleaning if you like!
6. "SOMEONE ELSE WILL SAY YES. THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER FOSTER HOMES" – They won't and there aren't. It's that simple. We have lots of folks who will take kittens, but very few who will take adults, and even fewer who will take sick, feral, and/or rabies-quarantine animals. Please help us! Kittens and puppies are easy for us to place. But our poor adults need help too.
7. "I ALREADY HAVE A FOSTER ANIMAL" – All right. Well, this gets you partly off the hook. But wouldn't your foster animal like a friend?
8. "WHAT IF I FIND IT IS NOT WORKING FOR ME" -- As far as it not working out, this is CAR's biggest concern. Once CAR has pulled an animal from Animal Control, there's usually not anywhere else to take it. So you need to be able to persevere and dedicated to finding solutions at least for easy and obvious things. You should also be aware that taking in a foster animal is rarely a cake walk. Some animals have no problems at all, but you shouldn't expect that you are just going to bring one home and set it free in the house while you goes to take a nap!