

STATEN ISLAND HOPE ANIMAL RESCUE FOSTER GUIDELINES

Welcome to the Staten Island Hope family. Fostering is a very rewarding experience and we offer our gratitude for your willingness to help give a rescue animal a second chance at life and love. Please read our guidelines carefully. If you have any questions we are always available to offer guidance and assistance.

PAPERWORK:

When a foster pet is transported to you from the shelter make sure they arrive with their papers from NYC Animal Control. This paperwork will have the name, an A#, and medical information. Please keep this paperwork in a safe place, as it will be transferred to the cat's new guardian upon adoption.

We understand you may have a desire to rename your foster cat. While that is fine socially, for purposes of continuity and record keeping, please refer to him/her by the name on paperwork when contacting us about your foster.

ISOLATION:

Upon arrival foster cat(s) will need to be isolated from your other pets for a period of 7-10 days. DO NOT immediately allow your new foster to come in contact with your other animals, keep a closed door between them. As you may or may not be aware, many cats arrive from the shelter with a "shelter cold" or become sick shortly after leaving the facility. This isolation precaution is meant to protect any other pets in the home from catching the cold.

Often, cats will already arrive with medication prescribed via Animal Control. If no medication is received, and you notice your foster is sneezing, has runny eyes, lack of appetite or general malaise please contact us and we can ship you medication directly or schedule an appointment for you at our vet. (Contact info is provided at the end of this document)

Even if you do not currently have pets, we still recommend isolation – confining your foster to a crate (minimum size of 24 inches) or room with a door that can be closed. This way you will be able to properly monitor medical conditions and evaluate the behavior of your new foster.

BEHAVIOR:

We encourage fosters to be patient with their new arrivals. Remember, sometimes it is likely that these animals have already gone through traumatizing experiences of being in the shelter environment. In the beginning, many of these animals will need to decompress mentally. While they may often arrive shy, scared or even a little

defensive, if given proper time and care, they will soon show their true personality and you can gain their trust and love. Some cats do come around quickly while other take longer to trust and find comfort.

If you currently have other pets in the home, we recommend that they slowly be introduced to your new foster after the period of isolation is over. Of course, each dog and cat has their own personality, just like people do. Although it does happen, no one can expect their resident pets and new foster to become best friends instantly so always monitor interactions in the beginning and limit them when necessary.

If there is friction between the foster and the resident pets in the beginning, don't be alarmed. Often, in time, the animals will learn to coexist peacefully, even if they are not best buddies. Food can be a great motivator, as is engaging in group-play.

VETERINARY APPOINTMENTS:

While you are fostering you kitten or cat, it may be necessary to visit a vet whether it be vaccinations, spay/neutering or due to an illness. As stated in the application you filled out when you agreed to foster, you will need to take your foster to our approved veterinarian for any medical treatment. If and when your foster needs to visit the veterinarian, you must contact us via email to schedule an appointment. In case of an urgent matter, we do recommend that you call us directly and as soon as possible. We will work with you to schedule to any appointments appropriately. You will be responsible for transporting your foster to and from any vet appointments.

Please DO NOT under any circumstances take your fosters to your own vet unless otherwise pre-approved by our Director. If you do take your foster to another veterinarian without expressed approval, the cost will not be covered or reimbursed by our rescue.

FOR KITTENS:

At 7-8wks, your kitten will need to be tested for FIV/FeLV. It is at this time they will also likely receive their first FRVCP vaccination.

**** IMPORTANT!!! Please DO NOT allow your kittens near any of your other pets or fosters before they are tested for FIV/FeLV or receive their first vaccinations****

At 5-6 months old, your kittens will need to be spay/neutered. They will also receive their Booster shots and Rabies vaccination.

If you find that your foster kittens are due and we have not contacted you about vaccinations or spay/neutering, please follow up with our foster coordinator as soon as possible.

BASIC CARE:

As a Foster you are expected to provide Basic Care for your animal. This includes daily food and fresh water, litter (and bowls and a litter box, of course). We also recommend having a scratching post of sorts as well as some toys for stimulation.

Unfortunately, being a relatively small rescue on a limited budget, we cannot afford to provide all of our Fosters with these items or reimburse for the costs. As a foster, you are agreeing to accept the monetary responsibility for these basic needs. On occasion, we may receive a large donation of food or other items; if and when we can we will always do our best to prioritize and distribute these donated items based on need and availability.

Just as important is giving your foster cat love and daily attention. Contrary to what some people say, cats are social animals. They often enjoy the company of people (or companionship of other pets). Be sure to spend time petting, play, grooming your new foster on a daily basis. Socialization is very important towards them being adoptable.

COMMITMENT

Fostering is a commitment that should not be taken lightly. You are agreeing to foster this pet until a suitable adopter can be found. Please be aware that we cannot guarantee a quick turn around. Some foster animals are adopted sooner than others, but the ultimate goal is to find your foster a forever home. The more committed you are to working with us, the better chance you will have at finding a new home for your foster cat.

In the unfortunate instance that you can no longer keep your foster, you must notify us and allow us up to 30 days to find a new foster home.

PARTICIPATION:

We expect all fosters to be active in helping us find their foster animal adopters.

We post all our foster animals on-line. They appear in multiple social media, such as our website, Facebook page, Twitter feed, Instagram account. We also submit their profiles to multiple outlets including Petfinder, Adopt-A-Pet and other sites. We encourage you to share their information as well.

We require photos and a written biography of your foster to be submitted with the first few weeks after arrival. We recommend that you submit at least three (3) photos of your foster cat. We also strongly encourage you to send new photos every six (6) weeks in order to keep the sites fresh. In some instances, depending on your location, we do have volunteer photographers who are willing to meet to take professional photos of your fosters.

Whenever possible, if emailing photos please rename the file as the name of your foster as opposed to whatever generic filename your camera, phone or device generates. (For example: IMG001.jpg should be renamed MEOWY1.jpg) Also, please try to send hi-res photos with dimensions of at least 1000X1000.

You can also send us short videos of your foster(s) to post, although this is not a requirement, we find it highly beneficial.

For Biographies: Try to write a paragraph about your foster. What is his/her personality? What do they like? What don't they like? Do they have any unique characteristics or quirks? Do they like other pets? Feel free to include some background information, if possible. You can write a biography through the first person perspective, if you'd like. (i.e. "Hi. My name is Mr. Cat and I...") You can be as cutesy as you'd like to be (people like cutesy). Feel free to get creative! And if you need, or you're not certain how to write a Biography just look at some of the current profiles on our website or send an email.

As with the photos, it would be helping if you send us an updated Bio every so often.

ADOPTION EVENTS:

We hold Adoption Events every Saturday at Petco 2795 Richmond Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10314 from 12-4pm.

While we do not expect you to attend the event every weekend we strongly encourage and recommend that you to bring your foster(s) at least once a month, or as often as possible. If a picture is worth a thousand words, meeting an adoptable cat in person is worth a million pictures! These adoption events are great venues to find your foster a forever home. Please email our foster coordinator and/or our volunteer coordinator by no later than Thursday if you intend on bringing your foster(s) to the Saturday Event so we can reserve a space for your foster(s). In the event that you need to cancel, please let us know by Friday so we can fill the empty slot with another adoptable kitty.

If possible, you should stay at the Adoption Event for the duration. Who knows your foster cat better than you? Who better to answer any questions that a perspective adopter may have about them? In the unfortunate instance that you cannot stay at the Event, we do have dedicated volunteers who will be attending. We require you to drop off your foster (in a carrier) at 11:50am and arrive to pick up at 3:55pm. Please provide an index card with your foster's bio on the front and your phone number on the back should in the event that you need to be contacted.

Several times through the year we also participate in large Adoption Events which take place in Brooklyn or Manhattan. Please inquire to be part of these high traffic events as space is usually limited.

OUR ADOPTION PROCESS

When we receive an adoption application for your foster cat, we will first screen their references to ensure that they meet our criteria. After the adopter is pre-approved by our screener we will email you their contact information. We highly recommend that you call and/or email the adopter within 24 hours (calling is always the preferable option). Be sure to be friendly and courteous (remember, you are a representative of our Rescue) and answer any questions they may have to the best of your ability. Schedule a time when the adopter can meet your foster, whether it take place at your home or our Saturday Adoption Event.

If you find an adopter for your foster, please have them fill out an Adoption Form on our website and follow our process.

If the meeting goes well, the next step will be to finalize the Adoption. At this point we conduct a mandatory Home Visit upon transport. Although we do have volunteers that will to do transports and inspections, we always urge you to be involved and perform the Home Visit personally whenever possible. We do have a Check List available with what you should look for during any Home Visit. Just refer to the form—it's that easy!

Adopters will need to pay the Adoption fee prior to or upon transport before they can take custody of the cat. They can pay the fee on-line with Paypal or a credit card. You can also accept cash or a check, in which case you can deliver payment to us or just mail it.

Now that your foster cat has been adopted, we hope you will chose to foster another!

CONTACTS:

Director: Christopher Mancuso
Email: Director_SIHAR@aol.com
PHONE: 1-800-477-9168

Foster Coordinator: Debbie Mann
Email: dmann46@gmail.com
Phone: 845-913-6451

Volunteer Coordinator: Ivette D'Allesandro
Email: prettyivet@gmail.com

Photos and Bios email to:
dmann46@gmail.com

Website:
www.statenislandhoperescue.org

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/STATENISLANDHOPEANIMALRESCUE>

Twitter
<https://mobile.twitter.com/SIHopeMeow>

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