



**ARIZONA ANIMAL**  
WELFARE LEAGUE  
— EST 1971 —

# Foster Parent Manual

## Cats





## Welcome and thank you on behalf of all the innocent lives impacted by this program every year!

The purpose of our Foster Parent program is for animals to get the extra care they need to become strong, healthy, and confident so they will get adopted into permanent loving homes. Offering your time, hearts, and homes to these animals will allow them every opportunity possible to make this a reality. This manual is designed to answer any questions and concerns you may have about the Foster Care Program. It provides information regarding the care and well-being of foster animals as well as the Arizona Animal Welfare League's policies and procedures.

### **As an AAWL member and foster parent you will enjoy several benefits:**

- Knowing that your efforts are positively affecting the life of a homeless animal
- Invitations to AAWL special events
- Monthly Volunteer Newsletters giving you the latest shelter news
- AAWL Foster Facebook page to connect with other fosters



## Ready to be an AAWL Foster Parent?

### Requirements:

- Must have the support of all the individuals living in your home as their lives will be greatly affected by this decision.
- Personally owned pets must be current on vaccines and be on flea/tick prevention and must be tested and negative for FeLV and FIV.
- A medical release from your veterinarian may be provided to the AAWL medical department for review if your personally owned pets are not vaccinated and/or tested and you would like to apply to foster.
- Personally owned pets must be spayed and neutered
- Agree to refrain from fostering from organizations other than the AAWL simultaneously.
- **Agree to comply with all AAWL policies, procedures, requirements, and recommendations made by AAWL staff members.**

### Steps to become a Foster Parent:

1. Review Foster Manual online.
2. Watch the Foster Orientation Video and Complete the quiz.
3. When you pass the quiz, you will be directed to a link to complete your Foster Application.
4. Done! You're ready to foster! The Foster Department will contact you when we have pets that need a temporary home that are a good fit for you.

### Foster Parent Responsibilities

Foster parents are responsible for providing a nurturing, safe, attentive, and sanitary environment for their foster pets to thrive.

- **Nurturing**
  - Provide adequate food, water, shelter, socialization, exercise, and attention
  - Dispense medication as instructed by AAWL staff
  - Be prepared to foster until the pets are ready to be taken back by AAWL (length of time can vary)
  - Fosters are prohibited from transferring care to a third-party individual

- **Safe**
  - Give your foster pets a safe, calm place to call their own such as a spare bedroom or office
  - Foster kittens may not interact with any other animals in the home to limit the spread of illness. If you choose to allow your pet to interact with your foster and your animal becomes sick, AAWL will not cover any medical costs. If your foster contracts an illness or injury from your personal pet, your ability to foster any future animals may be revoked at the discretion of veterinary staff.
  - Accurately follow any behavioral instructions provided by the shelter staff
  
- **Attentive**
  - Schedule all non-emergency visits to the shelter with the Foster Care Staff
  - Monitor the health, physical appearance, and activity level of the foster animals and contact the Foster Care staff if signs of illness are evident
  - Follow all medical care instructions as provided by AAWL medical department diligently
  - **Never use any over the counter drugs, medications, or herbal remedies to treat your foster animals. Use only what has been prescribed or recommended to you by AAWL staff.**
  
- **Sanitary:**
  - Sanitize properly between every new foster intake
  - Keep the foster pet's living space sanitary at all times

***Note about vacations:*** We understand that emergencies can happen and may result in you needing to suddenly leave town. In the event that an emergency happens please notify the Foster Care staff immediately with the dates you will be gone and your intended return date. The Foster Care program will do their best to find alternative foster home placement, however it is not guaranteed that you will get the animals back upon returning. The AAWL foster animals are not under any circumstances to be placed in boarding facilities, including veterinary clinics or animal hospitals.

## Before Bringing Your Foster Home

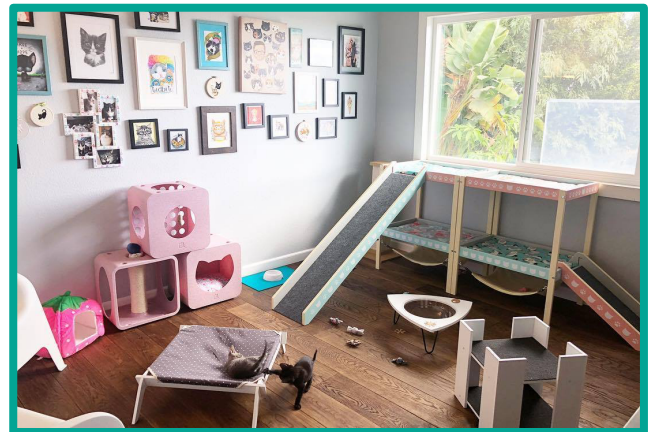
### Foster Prep Checklist

- ❑ First, make an appointment with the Foster Department to pick up your new fosters.
- ❑ Ensure that personally owned pets are up to date on vaccinations and on a flea/tick preventative.
- ❑ If your cats have not been tested for FeLV and FIV, schedule an appointment with your veterinarian to complete the test. We also offer testing at our on site low-cost clinic, MDPetCare.
- ❑ Retrieve necessary supplies from the Foster Care staff. (list included below)
- ❑ Prepare your foster pets' living space:
  - Kitty proof the room - ensure all items such as cords, cables, wires or any items of sentimental value are removed or out of reach. Kittens can fit into the smallest places!
  - Provide plenty of soft spaces for your foster pets to rest, preferably in a variety of places. Sometimes cats enjoy sitting up high on cat trees, but may want a lower, more enclosed area to decompress.
  - For cats and kittens, there should be at least one low rise (approximately 1-2 inches) litter box filled with non-clumping, unscented litter placed as far away from food and water as possible.

### Supplies

The Foster Care Program will provide most of the foster animal's basic needs. This includes but is not limited to the following:

- Pet carriers
- Food and water bowls
- Towels, blankets, and bedding needs
- Litter boxes
- Toys
- Any medical care necessary
- Dry and canned food
- Litter
- X-pen or Crate



## Spay/Neuter and Vaccination Timeline: Cats

- Less than 6 months: tested for Feline Leukemia (FeLV).
- 2 - 4 weeks: deworming treatment administered every two weeks
- 4 weeks+: at least one series of vaccines given every two weeks, deworming and flea/tick treatment
- 2 lbs: spay/neuter surgery
- 6 months+: tested negative for FeLV and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV), up-to-date on vaccines, deworming, ear mite, and flea/tick treatment

## Picking Up and Going Home

Now that you've properly prepped your home for your new foster pets, it is time to go pick them up!

- For Pick Up: Please schedule an appointment with the Foster Family Coordinator when you are picking up foster animals. When you arrive, you will need to fill out the Foster Home Intake Contract. The Foster Care staff will provide you with all of the foster pets' supplies and you'll be ready to go! If you have your own personal pet carriers you'd like to use, you can bring them as well.
- For Drop Off: As with pick up, please schedule an appointment with the Foster Care staff to drop off your foster pets. Be sure to return all items that were given by the Foster department for your foster pets. When you arrive, please fill out the Foster Report Card on each of your foster pets. The more we know about their personality and behaviors, the better equipped we will be to find them new homes.



Foster animals are commonly scared and stressed when relocating to a new foster home. Many are dealing with a change in diet, new surroundings, and new faces. Some have had little exposure to people and day-to-day things like vacuum cleaners and TVs. Therefore, it is not uncommon for them to have reduced appetites and diarrhea the first few days in your care. It may take a few days for them to acclimate to their new surroundings and your caring face. However, if these symptoms continue, please notify the Foster Care staff immediately.

## Foster Pet Care

Being a successful foster really boils down to three main functions:

### 1. Give them time

Your new foster animals will need a few days to adjust to your home. Spend time with them, but give them space if they need it. Some of the animals will be shy and skittish around humans, but with time and gentle handling, they will come around.

### 2. Keep them clean and healthy

We do our best to ensure that all our foster animals' health history is known prior to placing them with a Foster Parent. If a foster animal has a known medical condition, we fully disclose all necessary information including the treatment plan. If you are not comfortable taking on a medical case, please let the Foster Care Staff know. Even if our fosters are healthy when they go home, they may begin showing symptoms later. Please be diligent in looking for signs of illness and report the to the Foster Care Staff immediately if they arise.



Please be sure to clean litter boxes at least twice a day. Leaving excrement of any kind for too long can promote and/or spread disease.

### 3. Have fun!

One of the many reasons fostering is so important is so our animals can comfortably and confidently live in a home environment. Especially for cats/kittens, it is important that we know that they are comfortable with common household sounds and items like door bells, vacuum cleaners, TVs, etc. Spend as much time as you can playing with, talking to, and being around your foster pets. We'd like to associate humans with good things, so the more positive interactions they have, the better!

**Foster kittens and cats are to be kept indoors at all times.**

## Feline Behavior

Behavioral or temperament issues may arise when a foster pet gets acclimated to your home. Common concerns include the following:

- Scratching face and limbs
- Biting any part of the body
- Litter box issues
- Separation anxiety
- General or unprovoked aggression toward people and littermates

Our staff training and behavior specialists are available to offer any assistance with behavioral issues that may arise with your foster animal while they are in your care. Please notify the Foster Care Staff of the problem then call the helpline directly for advice on how to proceed.

**Cat Behavior Help:** 602-273-6852 x145

## Diligence is Key

In order to be a successful Foster Parent, you must be careful and watchful of your foster pets. Here are some things to watch for/be aware of:

### **Children**

Children must be supervised at all times when in the presence of foster animals. Children should be educated on how to properly handle the animals and on hand washing protocol. AAWL Foster Pets may not have been around children before so we do not know how they will react in certain situations. Remind children to go slow and allow the animal to go to them. Some may need more time to acclimate and accept little ones than others.

### **Lost or Stolen Foster Animals**

In the event your foster animal is lost or stolen from your property or care, the Foster Care staff must be notified immediately. You may be required to fill out a police report in the event the animal is stolen.



## Bite Incidents

In the event that you are bitten, severely scratched, or otherwise physically harmed by an AAWL foster animal, contact the Foster Care staff immediately after attending to the wound. Clean and disinfect the wound thoroughly. Seek out the advice of a medical provider or physician as soon as possible. Animal bites and scratches can be serious if you have allergies or if the wound is left unattended. The foster animal should be returned to the shelter immediately for an exam and possible quarantine period. You will be asked to fill out an Incident Report documenting the incident. **The AAWL is not liable or responsible for any injuries or damages to humans, personal pets, or personal belongings inflicted by foster animals.**

## Household Hazards

Hazard proof the area your foster animals will be residing in to ensure there is nothing that could potentially cause them serious harm, such as electrical cords, plants, or flowers. Remember that you may intake a foster animal that does not feel well and is not mobile initially, but may easily fall prey to something harmful when he or she is feeling better. A list of hazardous foods, desert plants, and wildlife can be found later in this manual.

## Emergency Situations

In the event of an emergency, above all, remain calm! Most emergency situations are treatable if tended to immediately. If your foster animal has a medical emergency during regular business hours, please notify the Foster Care staff at ext.114 or call our shelter medical staff at ext.110. Please utilize the following guidelines when calling the clinic for a foster emergency:

1. When calling the AAWL clinic, you will need to leave a voicemail. Please speak clearly, be as detailed as possible. Don't forget to leave your name and full phone number.
2. Please try to call as early in the day as possible and **wait for a call back**.
3. If your emergency occurs after shelter hours, you will need to call the emergency number. Please only use these numbers for emergencies.

**(602) 785-2934 - Neonate animals (480) 694-8619 - Adult animals**

4. If you choose to take an AAWL foster animal to a private veterinarian, animal hospital, clinic, or emergency facility, you will **Not** be reimbursed for the visit or any medical treatments or medications provided by that facility.

## Emergency Situations

Call the shelter and bring the animal in **immediately** if any of the following occur:

- Blood from any orifice/opening
- Blood in vomit or vomit that is dark in color
- Blood in the urine, or if the foster animal is unable to urinate at all
- Wounds that are actively bleeding
- Coughing, wheezing, or labored breathing
- Fever over 103° (often accompanied by lethargy)
- If an accident has occurred and the foster animal appears to be injured
- Lameness that appears severe and painful
- Pain - irritability when handled or touched, particularly if it seems out of character for that animal
- Seizures or convulsions
- Trouble eating, mouth pain, or drooling

*\*Note: If any of these occur after shelter hours and you choose to take an AAWL foster animal to a private veterinarian, animal hospital, clinic, or emergency facility, you will Not be reimbursed for the visit or any medical treatments or medications provided by that facility.*

## Non-Emergency Situations

Call the shelter and wait for further instructions if any of the following occur:

- Any change in the appearance of the eye: squinting, winking, tearing, swelling, redness, yellow, green, or crusty discharge or vision loss
- Congestion, especially if the animal is not eating
- Bloody stool
- Diarrhea or diarrhea accompanied by lethargy for more than 24 hours
- Excessive drinking for more than 48 hours
- Increased appetite for more than 1 week, especially when accompanied with weight loss
- Increased scratching at any part of the body including head shaking
- Increased urination or sudden accidents in the house, difficulty urinating, and straining for more than 24 hours
- Lethargy or decline in activity level normal for your foster animal for more than 24 hours
- Nasal discharge - white, yellow, or green
- No apparent weight gain, especially with kittens during a 4-day period
- Poor appetite for more than 48 hours
- Sneezing for more than 24 hours
- Unexplained lameness that does not improve with rest within 24 hours
- Vomiting more than three times, or more than once within 24 hours
- Weight loss is observed over a 48 hour period, especially with kittens or nursing mothers

## Allergic Reactions

Cats can have allergic reactions to medication. Many medications are not given first at the shelter. If a sudden, adverse reaction happens after giving a new medication, such as wheezing or inflamed eyes, **do not** give any more medication and call the Foster Care staff immediately.

## Adverse Vaccine Reactions

Some animals may experience a reaction to their vaccines after administration. Like children, kittens may feel a little tired and cranky for up to 24 hours after vaccination. Soreness at the

injection site is also common. More serious vaccine reactions that require immediate veterinary attention include:

- Vomiting and diarrhea within 2 hours of vaccination
- Lameness or joint swelling within 48-72 hours of vaccination (not always the same leg where the vaccine was given)
- Swelling at the vaccination site that does not resolve within a few days
- Anaphylactic shock (rare) - occurs within 15-30 minutes of vaccination. Symptoms include:
  - Collapse
  - Rapid pulse
  - Difficulty breathing or wheezing
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Swelling
  - Itchy
  - Pale gums

**If you see any of these symptoms after a vaccination visit, call the Foster Care staff and bring the pet to AAWL immediately.**

## Poisoning

Pet poisonings occur in many ways; the most common are the ingestion of medications, foods, plants and toxins, and encounters with poisonous animals. Many pet poisonings can be avoided through some simple precautions. Prior to bringing your foster animal home, be sure to poison-proof their living space and any other space they may be allowed. If you suspect your foster animal has been poisoned, call the shelter immediately or the poison control center for assistance.

## Common Poisonous Household Plants

This is only a small list of poisonous plants that are native to Arizona. The poison control center receives the most calls about the following plants:

- Candelabras Cactus
- Carolina Jessamine
- Castor Bean
- Century Plant (Agave)
- Chinaberry Tree
- Dumbcane
- Foxglove
- Jimson Weed
- Lantana
- Lily\*

- Mexican Bird of Paradise
- Mistletoe
- Oleander
- Philodendron
- Pothos
- Silver Leaf
- Texas Mountain Laurel
- Tree Tobacco
- Virginia Creeper
- Yellow Oleander

If you suspect your foster animal may have ingested one of these plants or another poisonous plant not listed here, call the shelter immediately or the poison control center.

\*Even just licking the pollen from a Lily can cause kidney failure in a cat. Please be aware that any contact with a Lily could be potentially life-threatening.

### **Harmful Arizona Wildlife**

Below are some wildlife animals that can be harmful to domestic animals:

- Sonoran Desert Toad
- Black Widow Spider
- Rattlesnakes
- Pinevine Swallowtail Butterfly
- Hawkmoths
- Desert Millipedes
- Pinacate and Bombardier Beetles
- Giant Mesquite Bugs
- Vinegaroon Scorpions
- Horse-Lubber Grasshopper
- Coyotes
- Bobcats

If you think your foster animal may have ingested or was bitten, attacked, or stung by one of these animals call the shelter immediately or call the poison control center.

## Common Symptoms and Diseases

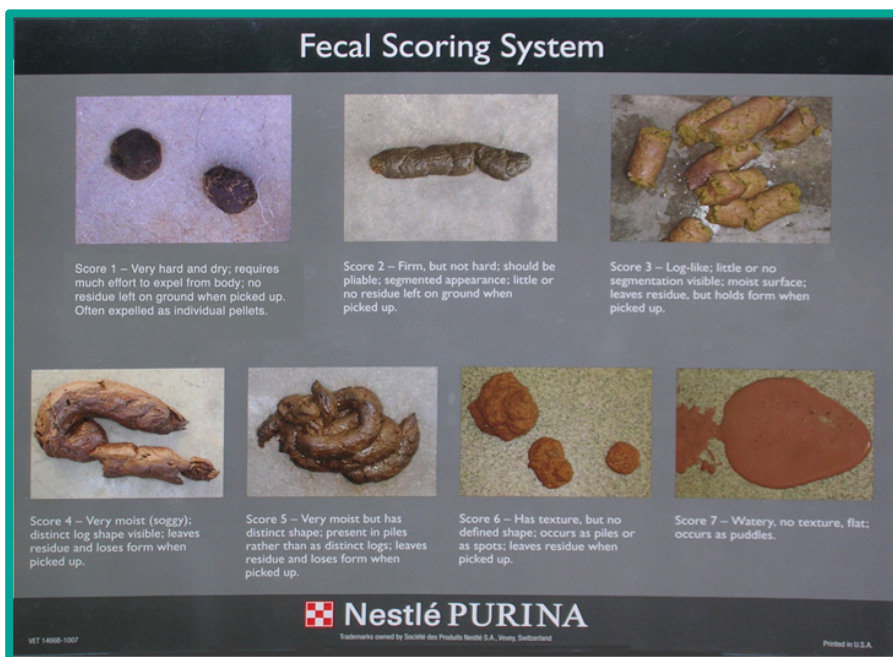
### Vomiting

Pets may vomit for several reasons. They may have consumed their meals too quickly, gagged on a hairball or may be ill. If your foster animal vomits more than three times, or more than once in any 24 hour period, please contact the Foster Care staff. Be prepared to report the frequency, duration, consistency, and color of the vomit to the staff member. Subcutaneous fluids and medications may be prescribed to treat this condition.

### Diarrhea

Pets can have diarrhea due to parasitic infestation, bacterial or viral infections, eating excessively, a change in diet, stressful events, or changes in routine. Your foster may have a bout of diarrhea or loose stool when you first bring him or her to your home. If it lasts more than a few days, smells odd, or has blood, or if a kitten has diarrhea accompanied by weight loss/failure to gain, call the shelter as soon as possible. If your foster animal has diarrhea but you notice

no other changes in behavior, character, activity level, or food consumption, try feeding smaller meals of a bland diet more frequently (this may mean cutting out wet food, if your cat is eating dry). If after a day this change brings no relief, contact the Foster Care staff. Be prepared to describe the consistency and frequency of the stool. The “Purina Poop Scale” is attached to the end of this document and should be used to describe diarrhea.



You may be asked to bring in a fresh stool sample for microscopic examination. Stool should be no more than 6 hours old (can be kept in the fridge for 1 day) and free from litter and foreign materials if possible. Oral anti-diarrhea medication and subcutaneous fluids may be prescribed to treat this condition.

While most cases with these symptoms are mild and easily treatable, they can also be signs of a more serious disease like Panleukopenia and FIP (Feline infectious peritonitis), which can be fatal and difficult to clear from the environment. It is important to monitor these symptoms closely and communicate with the AAWL medical department dilligently.

### **Low Appetite and Weight Loss**

It is vital that kittens and cats continue to eat or nurse. Cats can go into liver failure from not eating, which can be fatal. If your foster animal has stopped eating, call the shelter immediately. Kittens who are growing normally will gain a pound per month, or 4 ounces per week, until they are 5-6 months old. Regularly checking your foster kittens' weights is one of the best ways to make sure that they are growing well and healthy. A kitchen scale that measures in ounces is a great tool for kittens - one with a bowl attachment on top will help rowdy kittens stay in place. A limited number of kitchen scales are available from the Foster department and may be sent home with very ill kittens; inexpensive scales are also sold at Target and Walmart, among other stores. We recommend you weigh foster kittens daily to help track their development. Remember to weigh at the same time every day for consistency's sake. If your foster kitten is losing weight for more than two days in a row, or not gaining weight for more than four days in a row, please make an appointment with the Foster department for a vet check.

### **Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)**

*Description:* This common head cold affects many animals kept in a shelter or multiple-cat household. The incubation period for URI is anywhere from 2 days to 2 weeks. So, even if your foster animal appears symptom free when he or she first arrives, illness may still develop.

*Symptoms:*

- Sneezing
- Runny eyes or nose
- Lethargy
- Loss of appetite
- Fever

*What to do:* Call the Foster Department immediately for an appointment. If your foster pet is too congested to smell food, they will not eat. Keeping your foster pet's eyes and nose clean and clear will help relieve some of this congestion. To do this, simply take a wash cloth and run it under warm water. Then, gently clean off the eyes and nose. If it does not clean off easily, squeeze a few drops of warm water to help loosen the discharge. Keeping your foster pet in the bathroom while you take a warm shower will also help loosen nasal discharge. Oral antibiotics, eyedrops, and nebulization may be prescribed to treat this condition.

## **Fleas, Ticks, and Ear Mites**

*Description:* Soft, warm fur provides the perfect environment for fleas and ticks. These insects feed on your foster pet's blood and can cause health problems ranging from allergic reactions to serious tick-borne illnesses. Ear mites are highly contagious and are often passed from pet to pet in casual contact at home or outside. Though they can infect both cats and dogs, ear mites are much more common in cats, and are responsible for more than 50 percent of all feline ear infections.

### *Symptoms:*

- Fleas/Ticks
  - Flea eggs (tiny, white grains)
  - Red, inflamed skin
  - Excessive scratching, licking or biting at skin
  - Hair loss
  - Scabs and hot spots
  - Pale gums
  - Tapeworms
- Ear Mites
  - Excessive scratching and rubbing of ears
  - Head shaking
  - Hair loss behind ears
  - Black or brown waxy secretion
  - Strong odor
  - Inflammation of the ear
  - Obstruction of ear canal with coffee ground-like debris
  - Scratches or scabs near ear

*What to do:* Notify the shelter immediately. A dose of flea and tick preventative may be administered to treat this condition.

## **Ringworm**

*Description:* Ringworm is a fungal infection that affects the hair follicles. Young animals, pets with poor grooming habits, compromised immune systems, and compromised skin issues (trauma, allergies, and matted fur) are predisposed to ringworm; however, it can affect even the healthiest of animals.



*Symptoms:* .

- Hair loss
- Rough, red, or scaly skin

*What to do:* If you suspect your foster animal may have these symptoms, please notify AAWL immediately. The foster animal will need to be returned to the shelter for examination and testing. Kittens and cats with ringworm will be treated with oral medication and lime sulfur dips until their infection has cleared. Infected cats will also require weekly fungal cultures to determine when they are cured (we can show you how to take cultures at home, or you may schedule weekly appointments to have them done at the shelter). **If you have had a foster or any animal that has been infected with ringworm in your home, you will be required to clean with a shelter grade cleaning agent (Accel) prior to allowing any other fosters in your home. Accel will be provided by the shelter with directions for usage.**

## Eye Infections

*Description:* Cats with upper respiratory infections commonly also develop eye infections. However, some cats may also have eye infections without any nasal discharge.



*Symptoms:*

- Eye may develop conjunctivitis, with inflammation, redness, and discharge of the conjunctiva
- Upper and lower eyelids are stuck together due to dried and crusted discharge
- Eyelids are sticking to the front of the eye
- Discharge from the eye that is pus-like, or has mucous (clear fluid) with some pus
- Upper and lower eyelids bulge outward due to swelling and/or fluid build-up
- Ulcerated cornea (sores on the surface of the eye)
- Collapsed eyeball (in extreme cases)

*What to do:* Clean the discharge from the kitten's eyes with a clean cotton ball dampened with warm water. Swipe gently as kitten's eyes are extremely delicate. Never double dip the cotton ball in the warm water, always use a new cotton ball. If eye(s) do not clear up within 24-48 hours, or if there are other signs of upper respiratory infection, please notify the shelter to schedule an appointment.

## Fading Kitten Syndrome

*Description:* It is not known for sure why some kittens thrive while others do not. Sudden death, also known as Fading Kitten Syndrome, generally occurs in kittens under 6 weeks of age. While it is not known for certain, it is suspected that some pets are internally under-developed, making it impossible for them to sustain themselves.

### *Symptoms:*

- Agonal breathing (gaspings, open-mouth breathing)
- Pale gums
- Extreme lethargy
- Odd vocalizations (cries of pain)
- Muscle wasting (loss of muscle tone in the face and body, causing the kitten to look gaunt or frail)
- Decreased interest in food
- Weight loss
- Dehydration
- Hypothermia



*What to do:* Typically when a kitten is fading, two things are happening: hypothermia (too cold) and/or hypoglycemia (low blood sugar). Take immediate action by warming the kitten. To do this take the kitten in a towel (like a burrito), leaving the face exposed. Next wrap a heating pad set on low around the towel (to avoid burns). A kitten cannot warm itself so you have to apply this extra heat. As soon as the kitten is warmed (rectal temperature of 99-102 degrees), you need to work on raising

its blood sugar. Put some sugar or Karo syrup in warm water at a ratio of 1:1. Put some of this solution in a syringe and give the kitten three drops every three minutes. If the kitten is not swallowing try rubbing the Karo/Sugar Water on its gums and tongue. This may not seem like you are doing enough to help the kitten, but this is the best treatment for a fading kitten, and is the same as what the medical staff at the shelter would do. Please keep in mind that sometimes it can take hours for a fading kitten to recover; if you have a fading kitten who recovers at home, you should make an immediate appointment with the Foster department for a veterinary evaluation. Please know that even with love, attention and the perfect treatment some fading kittens will not make it. This is not your fault, and does not mean that you have done anything wrong.

## Fatality

In the unfortunate event that an AAWL foster animal passes away while in your care, you must notify the Foster Care staff immediately. Deceased foster animals must be returned to the shelter as soon as possible. If you are unable to bring the deceased foster animal to the shelter immediately, we recommend you wrap the animal in a towel or cloth and place in a plastic bag, then store in a cold location such as a refrigerator or cooler with ice until you are able to bring the remains to the shelter (must be within 48 hours). Please refrigerate, do not freeze. The veterinary staff may inspect the body (perform a necropsy) to determine the cause of death. Unfortunately, we are not able to return remains of foster animals to you.

## Bottle Babies

AAWL rarely takes in Bottle Baby kittens due to the intense care requirements and the minimal number of fosters willing to care for a bottle baby. If you are interested in caring for Bottle Baby kittens please understand the following:

- Kittens under 4 weeks old typically need to be bottle fed.
- Bottle feeding is required every 2-3 hours until the kitten is old enough to start on gruel at 4-5 weeks, then supplemental feedings still happen every 4-5 hours.
- Bottle baby kittens cannot urinate or defecate on their own and must be stimulated after each feeding
- Bottle babies cannot produce their own heat and need to have a constant source of heat (heating pad)
- Bottle babies need to be monitored constantly so you should check with your work (if you work) that it is OK to have them in the office with you for several weeks.
- Bottle babies are EXTREMELY fragile and do not always survive despite our best efforts.



If you are considering becoming a bottle baby foster parent please do your research beforehand to ensure you are prepared for the task. It is very rewarding but also extremely difficult.

## Adopting Your Foster

It's very common for foster parents to fall in love and want to adopt their foster and become "Foster Failures". Please note the following criteria when wanting to adopt:

- Foster parents, volunteers and staff are entitled to a 50% discount on the adoption **ONLY** if the animal has been available for adoption to the public for 72 hours. If you want to ensure you are able to adopt your foster animal you must pay the full price adoption fee.
- The foster animal is legally AAWL's while in foster care and the transfer of ownership can only occur after the animal has been altered, cleared by medical and PUFA'd (put up for adoption).

### Promoting Your Fosters on Social Media

You are allowed to promote your fosters on your own social media pages providing you understand the following:

- Explain that the animal is currently in foster care and NOT available for adoption
- Understand that if you have friends that want to adopt your foster animals they cannot be put "on hold" for them. We will put their information in the file as a PA (potential adopter) and they will be notified when the animal is available for adoption but no holds or special treatment can be given to your friends and family.
- Please use the hashtag #AAWLFoster when promoting your animals on social media to help spread the message of the importance of fostering.

Please understand that not all animals in foster care survive due to the fragile nature of the babies we are trying to save. If you have posted about your foster online and they pass on, you have opened yourself up to some heartbreaking conversations with your followers. This is the sad side of fostering.



## *Thank you!*

All of us at the Arizona Animal Welfare League thank you for your desire to foster and willingness to help pets in need. We are able to find forever homes for 4,000+ pets each year through our foster program and we could not do it without wonderful people like you!

### Helpful Resources

- Kitten Lady provides incredible resources on all things kitten from bottle baby to weaned to behavior and everything in between. [www.kittenlady.org](http://www.kittenlady.org) and her videos are at YouTube at [www.youtube.com/kittenlady](http://www.youtube.com/kittenlady)
- Resource on infection control in the home: [ASPCApro.org/infection-control-foster-homes](http://ASPCApro.org/infection-control-foster-homes)
- These tips can help keep your home free of infection [www.aspcapro.org/infection-control-foster-homes](http://www.aspcapro.org/infection-control-foster-homes)

## Contact List

### Foster Care Program Staff

Foster Family Coordinator:  
602-273-6852 ext. 102

### Foster Care Manager:

602-273-6852 ext. 113

### Foster Medical Staff:

Medical Assistance  
602-273-6852 ext. 114

### Shelter Veterinary Assistance:

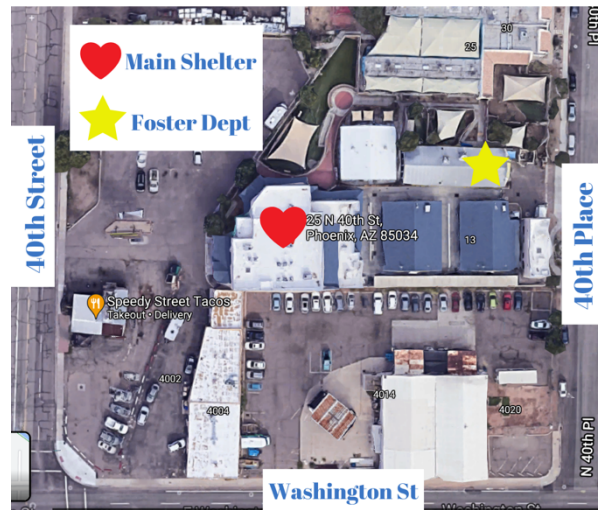
602-273-6852 ext. 110

### Behavior Assistance

Training and Behavior Helpline:  
602-273-6852 ext. 124

### Adoption Assistance

Adoptions Manager:  
602-273-6852 ext. 108



### Emergency Contact

**Please only use this number in case of emergency, s  
for list of emergency circumstances.**

**(602) 785-2934 - Neonate animals**

**(480) 694-8619 - Adult animals**

## AAWL Information

### Location:

25 North 40th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85034.

The shelter is just North of Washington St. off of 40th Street.

The foster department is located at Washington off of 40<sup>th</sup> PLACE

### Shelter Hours:

Tuesday-Friday: 11:30 am-6 pm

Saturday 10:30 am-6 pm

Sunday 11:30am-6pm

Main line: 602-273-6852

## The AAWL Foster Parent Program Acknowledgement

I am acknowledging that I have carefully read and agree to comply with the guidelines and requirements covered in this manual. I further acknowledge that failing to comply with these guidelines and requirements may be cause for dismissal as a foster parent and the AAWL volunteer.

I also promise to update the shelter with any changes in contact information be it name, phone number, email or home address.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_