

## **Volunteer Job Description: Foster Caregiver**

### **Position Title:**

Foster Caregiver (Cats/Dogs)

### **Location:**

Home-Based (in coordination with the ASTRO Foundation Adoption Center)

### **Reports to:**

Administrative Coordinator

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### **Position Summary:**

Foster Caregivers provide temporary, loving homes for cats and/or dogs until they are ready for adoption. By fostering, volunteers help save lives by freeing up space at the ASTRO Foundation and giving animals the chance to thrive in a home environment. This role involves providing daily care, socialization, and monitoring the health of the foster animals. The length of foster care varies depending on the animal's needs.

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### **Key Responsibilities:**

- **Daily Care:**
  - Provide food, water, and a clean-living environment for foster animals.
  - Walk dogs regularly and provide opportunities for exercise and play.
  - Clean litter boxes for cats and ensure they have safe and comfortable spaces to rest.
- **Socialization and Enrichment:**
  - Help foster animals develop positive behaviors and become more adoptable by providing socialization, playtime, and basic training (especially for dogs).
  - Encourage positive interactions with humans and other pets (if appropriate).
- **Monitor Health and Behavior:**
  - Observe foster animals for any signs of illness, injury, or behavioral changes.
  - Administer any prescribed medications or treatments as directed by the ASTRO Foundation's staff.
  - Report any health concerns to the Administrative Coordinator immediately.
- **Transportation:**
  - Transport animals to and from veterinary appointments, spay/neuter surgeries, and adoption events, as needed.
- **Adoption Preparation:**
  - Provide information about the foster animal's personality, preferences, and any special needs to help match them with potential adopters. High quality photos and video always help!

- Participate in adoption events when possible, helping introduce your foster animal to prospective adopters.
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## **Qualifications:**

- **Compassion for Animals:**
    - A strong commitment to providing a loving, temporary home for animals in need.
  - **Time and Space:**
    - Ability to dedicate time to care for the animal's physical and emotional needs, including feeding, exercising, and socializing them daily.
    - Have a safe, secure space in your home for fostering, especially for animals needing isolation or special care.
  - **Reliable Transportation:**
    - Ability to transport animals to the ASTRO Foundation, veterinary clinics, and adoption events as needed.
  - **Communication Skills:**
    - Must be comfortable communicating with the Administrative Coordinator and providing regular updates on the animal's health, behavior, and progress.
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## **Training and Support:**

- **Foster Training:**
    - Foster caregivers will receive training on how to care for and monitor the health and behavior of foster animals, as well as guidelines on introducing animals to a home environment.
  - **Ongoing Support:**
    - The ASTRO Foundation staff will provide guidance on any specific needs of your foster animals and be available to answer questions or address concerns.
  - **Medical Care:**
    - All medical care for foster animals, including medications, will be provided or coordinated by the ASTRO Foundation.
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## **Time Commitment:**

- Foster care commitments vary depending on the animal. Some animals may only need a few weeks of foster care, while others may need a few months.
  - Foster caregivers are expected to provide daily care and be available to transport animals when needed.
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## **Benefits:**

- Directly save lives by giving homeless animals the care and attention they need to thrive and find their forever homes.
  - Experience the joy of helping animals recover from injury, illness, or neglect in a safe and nurturing environment.
  - Develop skills in animal care, behavior, and training.
  - Be part of a dedicated and supportive community of animal lovers.
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## **How to Apply:**

To become a Foster Caregiver, visit [www.astrofoundation.org/volunteer](http://www.astrofoundation.org/volunteer) to complete the foster application, or contact us at [info@astrofoundation.org](mailto:info@astrofoundation.org) or (209) 604-2649 for more information.

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**The ASTRO Foundation is committed to providing foster caregivers with the support and resources needed to provide excellent care for their foster animals.**