

# Prepare your home

It's a good idea to set aside an area where your foster will eat and sleep. This can be a guest room, the kitchen, or even a large bathroom. A secure and secluded location helps the pet to acclimate to their new surroundings a little at a time. Also, if you have pets, make sure to separate them from the fosters, at least to begin with.

Becoming a foster caregiver is an amazing experience where you get to take an active part in saving lives.

If you are a pet lover, looking to make a difference, sign up today at [www.spcaflorida.org/fostering!](http://www.spcaflorida.org/fostering!) You can also e-mail [foster@spcaflorida.org](mailto:foster@spcaflorida.org) or call 863-577-4638.



5850 Brannen Rd S  
Lakeland, FL 33813  
Main phone: 863-646-7722  
Foster department: 863-577-4638  
[www.spcaflorida.org](http://www.spcaflorida.org)

# Can I crash at your place for a while?



**Foster  
Program**

## Are you ready to make a difference?

Every year, SPCA Florida's Foster Caregiver Program provides temporary homes to more than 1300 cats and dogs who:

- Are too young
- Are currently being treated for illness or injury
- Need socialization with other people or pets

## Fostering 101: What is a foster?

A foster is a person who gives a pet a temporary spot in their home where they can feel loved and safe. Foster families provide TLC and one-on-one attention before the cats and dogs are ready to be adopted.

## Why should I foster?

Pets who are ill or injured recuperate better in a calm and nurturing foster home than in a noisy and overburdened shelter environment. There are also many times - especially during Kitten Season - where there are many more homeless pets than spaces in the shelters. Fostering truly saves the lives of homeless animals.

Becoming a foster caregiver for SPCA Florida is rewarding for both the caregiver and the shelter.



## Who can foster?

Anyone over 18 can foster a SPCA Florida animal. As long as you can provide care, shelter, and love, you can be an animal foster parent!

Fostering is ideal for people who love pets but are unable to commit to an animal of their own. Though, foster parents should be aware that it can be emotionally challenging. Once someone has been in your home, it can be difficult to return them to SPCA Florida for adoption. And on rare occasions, pets fall ill, die, or must be humanely euthanized.

## When to foster?

Now! SPCA Florida takes in animals that need fostering almost every day.

If they are too young, too sick, or too scared to be adopted, you will make a difference. Just think, you can change someone's future!



## What is provided to foster caregivers?

SPCA Florida provides all training, supplies, and medical care. You will be given any necessary supplies to care for the animal during their stay in your home. All you need to supply is transportation, love, and care.

You will be given the opportunity to visit with the animals and learn more about their specific needs before bringing them home. If they need medicine, you will be shown how to administer and store it.

## How do I become a foster caregiver?

Make sure your schedule accommodates for fostering. Foster caregivers are asked to complete a minimum of three foster care contracts in one year. Foster pets, especially bottle babies, require a significant time commitment so make sure you consider your professional and personal obligations ahead of time.