



# Foster Home Volunteer

**Major Objective:** Our foster care program is designed to get the community involved in saving lives by inviting them to provide temporary care for animals in need. Fostering can open up spaces and cages in the shelter allowing us to help more animals. It also provides an option for animals that are in need of medical treatment that would be difficult to provide in the shelter environment. Pets that in foster care truly benefit from some “TLC” and get the added benefit of being “marketed” by their foster family to potential adopters!

## Duties

- Attend to basic creature comforts such as clean water, clean litter, food, and bedding
- Observe the health and behavior of foster animals
- Report any health or behavioral questions
- Take time to socialize the animals
- Positively represent Joplin Humane Society’s beliefs and philosophies

## Training

- Complete a Volunteer Application
- Interview with Volunteer Coordinator
- Interview with Rescue and Foster Coordinator

**Commitment:** This is a full time gig. While the animals are in your care, we expect you to treat them like your own and to dedicate as much time as possible to their care. Average stay in a foster home is 2-3 weeks. Daily time commitment is 2-3 hours, but may vary due to circumstances.

**Volunteer Profile:** Ability to provide a safe and secure environment for the foster animal(s), possess a willingness to nurse illness or injury, ability to transport animals to and from the shelter, experience with cats and/or dogs, and all existing pets in household must be up to date on vaccinations.

## Volunteer Benefits:

- Feel rewarded by caring for pets with medically treatable conditions that would benefit from some TLC in the comfort of a home, or may need some help with socialization or training. The shelter sees many pets that would be highly adoptable, if they could just have a few weeks to recover from common ailments, like kennel cough or puppy mange. Sometimes we have a dog that is recuperating from a surgery, or a litter of kittens who just aren’t quite sure if they can really trust people.
- This program is also designed for pets that are healthy and adoptable, but just get overlooked. These animals could be little black puppies, or the awkward, long legged 9 month old shepherd mix, or maybe the tubby tortoise shell cat that hides in the corner. All of these animals would make



Volunteer Coordinator – James Hafner – 417-499-2679

wonderful, loving pets, but they just don't show well in the shelter next to cute fluffy speckled puppies or fuzzy, playful kittens.

- Occasionally, foster animals are pets that have been “tagged” or chosen by a rescue group. They have a place to go, but are just waiting on their transport. These pets may just need a few days or a week, but by leaving the shelter, they open up their kennel so we can help another animal.
- The real rewarding experience is knowing that you made a real difference in the life of an animal and helped in its adoptability. The network that fostering creates enables the volunteer to save more animals than if they would simply adopt an animal. This is because they only care for a foster animal for a short period of time before releasing that animal to its permanent family.

**Supervision:** Direct supervision by Rescue and Foster Coordinator; Indirect supervision by Volunteer Coordinator