



The Cat Protection Society of Victoria

A not for profit animal welfare organisation committed to promoting, protecting & improving the wellbeing and welfare of all cats and kittens

Foster Care - Frequently Asked Questions

What types of cases will I get? Can I pick and choose the cases?

Yes, you can! This will depend on the foster carer's home environment and experience level.

We don't ever want you to feel overwhelmed by taking on a case that you are not prepared for and will always ask you what you are comfortable with before going ahead. Please do not feel any pressure to take on a foster that you don't feel comfortable with. We want this to be an enjoyable experience for you and your family.

We have all types of cases.

The most common cases are:

- 🐾 Kittens too young and/or immature for adoption.
- 🐾 Kittens and young cats requiring socialisation.
- 🐾 Older or senior cats that will be more comfortable in a home environment.
- 🐾 Injured cats and/or those recovering from surgery.
- 🐾 Neglected or abused cats needing some tender loving care.
- 🐾 Cats suffering from "shelter stress" and would benefit from a calming home environment.
- 🐾 Cats with colds or with special medical needs.
- 🐾 Abandoned mothers with litters of kittens.

What supplies are needed to foster? How much will it cost?

All we ask is that our foster families provide space, love & attention and treat the cat/kittens as if it were their own pet.

The Cat Protection Society of Victoria • 200 Elder Street, Greensborough 3088 VIC

Shelter: 03 8457.6500
Vet Clinic: 03 8457 6501

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CPS will provide you with all the other supplies such as food, bowls, bedding, toys, litter & litter trays, veterinary care and any equipment needed throughout your

foster experience. Of course, if you would like to provide any of the above mentioned (other than vet care) this is acceptable too. As long as the food you provide is what we use at the shelter. You can also provide your own litter if you like as long as it is NOT clumping or crystal litter for kittens as they can eat it and become unwell.

How long will I keep the kittens or cat?

Generally foster kittens stay in foster care until they are big enough to be desexed. Kittens are generally ready between 8-10 weeks of age, although it is preferable that kittens weigh at least 1kg for surgery.

Other cats in foster for different reasons are assessed on a case by case basis.

Do I need to have prior medical knowledge or expertise?

No, but you may be asked to medicate your foster cat so you will have to be comfortable following the veterinarian's instructions if fostering a sick or injured cat.

What if my foster cat becomes sick?

Contact one of the Foster Care Coordinators to discuss what is happening with the cat/kitten and they will guide you regarding the next step.

If your foster cat/kitten becomes unwell out of shelter hours, again contact one of the foster care coordinators to discuss what is happening. If needed, you will get approval to go to one of our authorised emergency vet clinics.

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You cannot take the foster cat/kitten to a vet without approval from the Foster Care Coordinators - CPS will not be held responsible for any fees that you may incur if you take the cat/kitten to an unapproved vet clinic without authorisation.

If I have my own animals, can I foster cats?

YES! But keep in mind that it's always a health risk to expose your animal to other animals. The health risks are minimal if your animals are up to date with their vaccinations, parasite control and maintain a healthy diet and lifestyle. Proper hygiene, preventative measures and an understanding of these illnesses can reduce the risk of disease. Also you must provide proof of desexing and a current vaccination certificate of your own pets. CPS will not be held responsible for any illness contracted by a foster family's resident pets.

What if I have children?

Fostering is a wonderful family experience and can build a foundation of compassion in your children. It's important to select a cat that is age appropriate for your children.

You must also be diligent about providing guidance, instructions and rules to your children about caring for foster cat/kitten. Children must always be supervised when with the cat/kitten.

Can my foster cat/kitten go outside?

NO! NO! NO! Foster cats are strictly indoor cats; please guard against escapes! They can and will push out screens, escape from balconies, jump high fences, and take advantage of doors/windows left open by visitors and/or children. It is your job to make sure the cat/kittens is secure.

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Can I adopt my foster cat?

As long as foster families meet the shelter/local council requirements necessary for adoption and the cat/kitten has had all of its vet work completed, of course you can.

Can I return my foster cat to the shelter if I am unable to foster any longer?

We understand that situations change and it may become necessary to discontinue fostering cats/kittens. We request that a foster parent provides as much notice as possible so that we can arrange either an alternative foster home or accommodation back in the shelter. Of course, in an emergency, foster families may always bring their cat/kittens back to the shelter.

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