

Foster Care Policies



The following policies are listed below as reference for Foster Caregivers, as they are the most commonly asked questions and concerns. Being such a reference, this list is not intended to be all-inclusive. A failure to adhere to these policies may result in forfeiture of fostering privileges with Animal Humane New Mexico. If you have any questions regarding these policies, or any that are not mentioned here, please contact us.

- Our mission is to provide proper nutrition, comfort, care, socialization and medical assistance to all Foster Care pets, that they might grow into adoptable, healthy, well-adjusted animals.
- Our goal is to provide all Foster Care pets with the Five Freedoms:
 1. Freedom from hunger and thirst.
 2. Freedom from discomfort.
 3. Freedom from pain, injury or disease.
 4. Freedom to express normal behavior.
 5. Freedom from fear and distress.
- Any medical concerns – diarrhea, vomiting, lethargy, skin lesions, ocular/nasal discharge, etc. – must be reported to our Foster Care staff immediately. You will be given further instructions based on the type of concern and the availability of our medical staff. Never take a Foster Care pet(s) to an outside veterinary clinic without prior permission. The only time that you may take a Foster Care pet to the VCA Specialty/Emergency facility without prior authorization is for a life-ending emergency.
- Do not administer any medicines, supplements, or over-the-counter treatments to a Foster Care pet(s) that were NOT prescribed by our AHNM veterinarian. Please keep a record of treatments given as directed (one can be provided by our Foster Care staff).
- AHNM is not responsible for damage to personal property or medical and veterinary bills as a result of housing and caring for a Foster Care pet(s). Please keep your Foster Care pet(s) separate from resident animals.
- Foster Care pets need to remain on the same diet (amount of and type of food) while in Foster Care that they were on during their stay at AHNM, unless otherwise instructed or allowed by our Foster Care staff or our AHNM veterinarian. Foster Caregivers are welcome to purchase this food on their own, but AHNM will always provide these resources for your Foster Care pet(s).
- Medications and medical treatments must be administered as directed by our AHNM veterinarian and our Foster Care staff. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding medications, treatments, or instructions for administration or care.

-- Smoking is not allowed, anywhere your Foster Care pet(s) are housed. Many illnesses are exacerbated by smoke.

-- Foster Care pets are on a strict vaccination schedule. Please be mindful of the vaccination and examination schedule set up between yourself and our Foster Care staff. Missed appointments may result in vaccination delays and an inability for a Foster Care pet (s) to visit our AHNM veterinarian. Please let us know with as much notice as possible if you need to reschedule or adjust these appointments.

-- Foster Caregivers, as well as families of Foster Caregivers, who are interested in adopting a Foster Care pet may have an "interested party" note added to the pet's profile. These "interested party" notes do NOT imply ownership or a guarantee of Adoption. Anyone wishing to Adopt must comply with the entire Adoption screening process, fill out an application, and pay the appropriate fees, as designated by our Adoption staff.

Contact the Foster Care Department: FosterCare@AnimalHumaneNM.org or call 505.938.7897. The office is open daily, 8 am to 12 pm & 1 pm to 6 pm, excluding holidays. On-call hours are 6 pm to 10 pm every day of the year.