

Kennebec Valley Humane Society



FOSTER CARE GUIDE



Foster Contacts

Kennebec Valley Humane Society: (207) 626 - 3491

Please call the foster Program coordinator Sunday through Thursday between 8 a.m - 4 p.m. with questions, concerns or to schedule veterinary or other check ups.

Foster program coordinator:

Sabrina Beggs

Desk (207) 626 - 3491

Email: Foster@pethavenlane.org

LIKE our facebook page: KVHS fosters

On days the foster program coordinator is unavailable, call the following staff members at KVHS:

Stevanie Roy (207) 626 - 3491 ext. 111

Robin Coston (207) 626 - 3491

Emergency Protocol and Contact Information:

On occasion, foster animals have medical emergencies that happen outside of the normal hours of operation. In case of an after-hours medical emergency, please contact the foster program coordinator at Foster@pethavenlane.org.

The contact person will direct you to either to meet them at the shelter where they will administer the appropriate care, or they will direct you to a veterinary facility. The emergency clinic can contact the director of operations for approval of emergency care. Please note that if you decide to take the foster animal directly to an emergency veterinary facility without prior approval from KVHS, KVHS will not be responsible for any of the costs incurred.

Lewiston E-Clinic: (207) 777 - 1110

Poison Control Hotline: 1 (800) 222 - 1222

DEAR FOSTER FAMILY,

First and foremost, THANK YOU! You are about to embark on a life - saving adventure that you'll never forget and become a hero to your foster animal(s)! Our foster program exists to give young animals a chance to grow and to give injured, sick or undersocialized animals an opportunity to heal. Since the program's inception, our foster families have saved hundreds, if not thousands, of dogs, cats, and small animals.

In this manual, you will find guidance and helpful tips to ensure success for the duration of your foster animal stay.

Types of Animals That Need Foster Homes:

- Orphaned kittens or puppies too small for adoption
- Puppies or kittens that are under socialized
- Injured animals or animals recovering from surgery
- Sick animals for example URI (kitty cold)
- Mom with a litter of kittens
- Pregnant moms.(Cat or dog)
- Bottle-fed babies
- Animals during overcrowding
- Older cats/dogs with diabetes.
- Cats/Dogs waiting for spay/neuter
- Pocket pet (mice,rats,guinea pig,rabbits)

If the requirements included in the following section do not work well with your current schedule, please let us know. We can help find a foster situation that will work best for you.

Sincerely,
Sabrina Beggs
Foster Coordinator
Kennebec Valley Humane Society

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Emergency Protocol	1
Note to Foster Families	2
Time Commitments and Responsibilities	4-6
Getting Ready for Fosters	7-8
Kitten Development	9-13
Possible Issues	14
Puppy Development	15-21
Run Away Fosters	22
Maintaining Foster Health	23-25
Check-ups	26
Finish Line	27
Foster Contacts	28

TIME:

Are you able to devote the required time daily and weekly to foster an animal? (See chart)

SPACE:

Are you able to handle cleaning procedures such as washing hands after every encounter and cleaning/disinfecting animals quarters regularly?

Are you able to handle any potential house damage (carpet, clothing, and / or furniture) associated with animals?

CARE:

Are you prepared to handle sickness or possible death of your foster animal?

Are you able to emotionally handle letting go of the foster animals after becoming attached once their foster period is over?

Are you able to handle the potential of foster animals carrying illness that could affect your household animals/family?

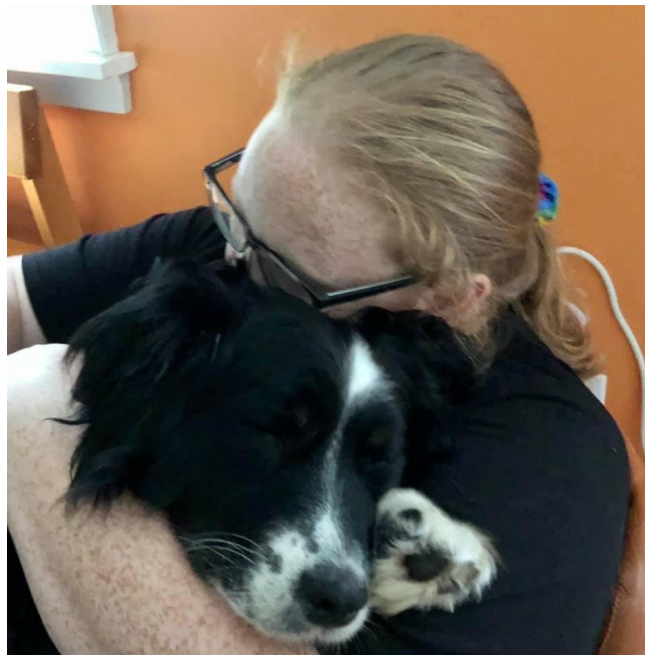
TIME COMMITMENTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

<u>Type of Foster</u>	<u>Duration of Foster</u>	<u>Daily Commitment</u>
Orphaned kittens	1 week - 5 weeks	3 - 6 hours
Sick/injured Cats	1 week - 2 months	2 -3 hours
Neonatal	6 - 8 weeks	24 hours
Mom with Litter	2 - 8 weeks	3 - 5 hours
Weaned Puppies	1 - 3 weeks	3 - 6 hours
Sick/Injured Dogs	1 week - 2 months	6 - 8 hours

Things to know before you become a foster:

Fatalities - Whether you are fostering a kitten, puppy, an elderly cat or dog, there are times where your foster pet will fall ill and pass away while in your care. With fostering an elderly pet, fosters should always be aware that it could be the last home that particular animal has. Euthanasia decisions are not made lightly, but we do what's best for the animal. For having younger fosters, there is still a chance that they could fall ill and pass away. The fatality rate in kittens /puppies tends to be higher than most people expect, where 1-5 kittens/ puppies do not make it. This is possibly the hardest thing to deal with while being a foster parent, and if you do not think you can handle the stress, maybe fostering is not your forte. We have plenty of other volunteer opportunities that you may be more interested in! See our front desk for a volunteer application.

Adoption: When your foster pets start to thrive, another challenge is returning your pets for adoption. Fosters can easily become attached to their animals, but it is also important to understand that your animal will find a permanent home. If you are interested in adopting your foster animal (and we certainly do allow it), you will be more valuable to the program if you continue to foster new animals rather than adopting and ceasing to foster. Foster caregivers are special volunteers with advanced training. We never seem to have enough trained foster caregivers. Losing even one reduces the resources available in our care. Learning to bond with foster animals, seeing the animal grow and thrive under your care, and then passing the animal onto an adoptive home is immensely rewarding. It is also sad to see a foster animal leave. Give yourself time to grieve the loss, but also think about the animal's new life ahead.



Sanitizing Your Home Between Foster Animals

In order to prevent disease and parasite infections in your home, thoroughly clean areas where the foster animal has stayed. Wash bedding in hot water, detergent and bleach. Discard non-washable surface toys. Disinfect all washable surfaces with mild bleach and water solution (bleach/water ratio of 1:32 or 4 oz of bleach per gallon of water is recommended). Bleach solution should be prepared as needed, because they lose their strength after 24 hours. Bleach is inactive in the presence of organic matter so clean up dirt, hair, feces, ect. before using bleach to disinfect. Bleach solution must stay in contact with the surface being sanitized for at least 10 minutes to be effective. Vacuum all carpeted areas. Soak toys in bleach water for 20 minutes. Scrub and bleach crates, carriers, litter scoops, food bowls, and litter boxes. Clean any urine or feces soiled areas with an enzyme cleaner immediately to remove any odors. Regularly clean up any waste in the yard to decrease the risk of spreading disease.

Quarantine Periods

Sometimes an animal is sent into a home before evidence of a disease has manifested. Quarantine periods are used to allow infectious disease to die off in the environment. This protects future foster animals from being infected with virus or disease. Specific quarantine periods are as follows:

- Feline Leukemia/FIV: 2 weeks
- FIP or Canine Distemper: 6 months
- Panleukopenia or Parvovirus: 6 months

If a foster animal is infected with one of the illnesses above, the foster parent will not be allowed to bring another foster into the home for the designated quarantine period.

GET READY!



TIPS: Use glass or metal bowls - plastic bowls are porous and not easy to clean!
Clean linens and toys daily!
Supervise play time!

Preparing the Room:

Before you bring home your foster(s), make sure you have a suitable place for them to stay. A bathroom often works well, a spare bedroom, a walk-in closet with a baby gate for the doorway, or even an extra large dog crate in your bedroom. The room you should adhere to the following.

- A temperature controlled space
- The space has been disinfected by using mild bleach solution (1 part bleach to 32 parts water or kennel-sol)
- Separate from other household pets
- Can withstand messes: spilt water, food, vomit, urine, feces, etc.
- No breakable items
- Free of candles or scentsy plug-ins
- Electrical outlets and wires are blocked
- No small items
- Secured windows (closed or with secured screen)
- Secured appliances (Toilet lid is closed)

Everything you will need for your fosters will be provided!

Check below for further tips on how to properly set up for your new foster environment.

Cats

- Indoors only (do not let your foster cat/kitten outdoors.)

Dogs

- Dogs should be kept indoors in a crate when unattended or a separate room/office.
- Dogs should be on a leash at all times when outdoors unless in a private secure fenced area. Recommended fence height is 6-feet.
- Foster dogs/puppies are not permitted to go to dog parks.
 1. Dog parks can be extremely dangerous environments; there are no lifeguards or professionals at the dog park when conflicts arise.
 2. Not every dog is safe
 3. Dogs have a variety of play styles and these play styles can be conflicting and instigate fights.

Puppies and Kittens

- Indoors - spare room. For puppies, a baby gate or crate is provided upon request.
- Puppies / kittens should be around humans for socialization purposes and should not be isolated.

Household poisonous plants include: Lilies, Sago Palms, Corn Plant, Aloe Plant, and Asparagus Fern.

Supervise your foster animals when around children and other animals!

Kitten Development

In the first two weeks of life, kittens are helpless and vulnerable. They are still developing basic reflexes, their hearing and vision is not fully developed, and they are unable to properly control their body temperatures. They should therefore be confined to a nursery area. Kittens should not be allowed to mingle with your own pets.

During the first 1-3 weeks of life, kittens do not urinate or defecate on their own and require stimulation for elimination. Gently rub a warm cloth or cotton pad on the kitten's genital area and anus. This should be done before and after every feeding. If the kittens are with their mother, the mother will stimulate her kittens herself.

Keeping the kittens clean from food and feces is vital for his or her health. If you notice your kitten has food, urine, or feces on him or her, gently wipe the kitten down with a warm damp cloth or baby wipe. Be sure to dry the kitten well afterwards so they do not become chilled.

TIPS AND TAILS

Kittens sleep up to 18 - 20 hours a day

Playtime with your kittens is a must for kitten development.

Do not feed your kitten cows milk.



Kitten Expectations and Care by Age

Weeks	Feeding	Development
0-1	Bottle feed 2 - 6 mls of formula every 2-3 hours. If there is a mom, make sure all kittens are nursing. Kittens can nurse from mom for up to 45 minutes at a time. A lot of activity could indicate a problem with moms milk supply.	At one week of age, the kittens should be handled minimally. Kittens will sleep about 90% of the time and eat the other 10%, and weigh about 57 - 113 grams each. Kittens should be kept in a warm environment as chilling is the number one danger to newborns. They can not regulate temperatures.
1-2	Bottle feed every 2-3 hours until kittens' bellies are full but not bloated. Overnight feeding can be every 3-4 hours. Generally at this age they are eating 6-10mls every feeding.	Kittens will weigh about 140 - 220 grams. They lose their umbilical cord at one week old. Eyes open between 8-14 days. Healthy kittens will be round and warm with pink skin, and will seldom cry. They are still unable to maintain temperature so keep them warm with a heating source.
2-3	Bottle feed formula every 3-4 hours until the kittens are full but not bloated, overnight feeding can be every 4-5 hours. Generally at this age they are eating 10 - 14 mls every feeding.	Kittens will weigh about 255 - 340 grams. Kittens begin to crawl around and should almost be standing. They will begin to play with each other and you should be able to handle them more often. Unable to maintain temperature.
3-4	Bottle feed formula every 4 hours until the kittens are full but not bloated. Kittens may start to lap from a bowl. Generally at this age they are eating 14 - 18 mls every feeding.	Kittens will weigh about 340 - 430 grams. Kittens will begin to see well. They may start cleaning themselves but will need help with serious cleaning. Litter box training may begin at 4 weeks of age. They are still unable to maintain body temperature.
4-5	Bottle feeding every 5-6 hours. Generally eating 18 - 22 mls every feeding. Night feedings may not be a must at this age unless under weight. Weaning of kittens may begin gradually closer to 5 weeks.	Kittens will weigh about 1 - 1.3 pounds. Litter box training may begin at 4 weeks.
5-6	Feed pate wet food or baby food with formula 4 times a day. Introducing dry food and water. Some kittens do not like canned food - try meat flavored humane baby food with water. Be sure the meat flavor does NOT have onion powder as this is hazardous to kittens.	Kittens will weigh about 1.3 - 1.5 pounds. Kittens can start to wander around the room, under supervision. Play with your kittens often!
6-7	Feed canned and dry food at least 3 meals daily. If any kittens are territorial with food, provide a second bowl so that everyone can be fed.	Kittens will weigh about 1.5 - 1.8 pounds. Kittens will start to act like actual cats: playing and washing themselves. Be sure to show them the litter box after meals, play sessions, and naps.
7-8	Each kitten will be eating a little over one can of food per day. Offer wet food 3-4 times daily. Leave a bowl of dry food and water for kittens to use at will.	Kittens will weigh about 1.8 - 2 pounds. Continue playing and socializing with the kittens.
8+	Feed wet food 2 times per day, leave a bowl of dry food and water for kittens to use at will. Do not feed the kittens treats or table scraps.	Kittens should weigh about 2 or more pounds! When they reach this point, they are ready for spay/neuter and adoption!

NURSING MOMS: Must have a full bowl of fresh hard food and water at all times!

Type of Food

Never give a neonate kitten anything other than their specified formula.

Kittens who are less than four weeks old are fed KMR (Kitten Milk Replacer). The powder formula must be mixed for feedings. It is important to closely follow mixing directions: One part powder into two parts warm water (as it can cause diarrhea or constipation if not done correctly.) When mixing, do not use a blender. Any reconstituted powder formula can be refrigerated for up to 24 hours. After that point, it must be discarded.

Feeding Etiquette

- Only use clean nipples and bottles.
- Feed kittens one at a time. Place them on a counter with a level head. This simulates how they would nurse from a mom.
- Do not feed kittens while on their back. This can cause formula to go down the wrong way and end up in their lungs.
- Gently place the nipple in the kitten's mouth. In some cases you can place a drop of formula on the tongue for a taste to start suckling.
- Pull lightly on the bottle. This promotes strong sucking.
- Tilt the bottle up slightly. This prevents the kitten from inhaling too much air.
- Do not squeeze the bottle to force the formula into the kitten's mouth. This can cause formula to move into the lungs.
- After feeding, you burp your kitten by gently massaging their back.
- Be sure to stimulate the kitten after and before feeding. Stimulate them with a warm tissue or baby wipe.
- Record feedings
- Always weigh your kittens before and after feeding. They should gain 10 grams a day.
- Please watch The Kitten Lady on youtube for more information on bottle feeding.

TIPS AND TAILS

To warm nursing bottles, fill a coffee mug half way with hot water and place the bottle of formula into the mug. After a minute or two, test the formula by sprinkling a few drops on the back of your hand. Formula should be warm to the touch, not hot.

Weaning

Weaning can occur at 4 weeks and should be conducted gradually. Introduce them to solid food by offering pate canned food, mixed with a small amount of KMR in a shallow dish. Begin by placing a kitten to the side of the plate. He or she should start to eat, but it may take a few times for kittens to understand (it can take up to 3-4 days.) Begin to also offer dry food on a free feeding basis. (They could already have started trying hard food if you have a mom cat as it should have dry food out 27/7.)

Amount of Food

Overfeeding is as dangerous as underfeeding. Feed kittens until they are full but not bloated.

Cleaning Equipment

Keeping the kittens' nursing bottles and supplies clean is vital, as this will prevent diarrhea, vomiting, or infection. Cleaning the bottles and nursing nipples is quite easy. Using hot, soapy water, clean the bottle with a bottlebrush. If you don't have a bottlebrush, you can use a different instrument or a dishwasher. You may place them in the silverware rack or in a dishwasher basket.



In most cases, moms are fostered together with her litter. There are a few things to keep in mind during this foster scenario. Moms require a calm setting that has privacy and minimal activity. Stress can cause moms to stop taking care of their young.

Bringing Mom Home:

You will need a separate space for a mom with her litter. When you first bring them home, leave them alone in their new space. Mom will need some time, up to a few days, to adjust to her new space. Be sure to offer mom fresh food, water, a clean litter box (for cats) and a nesting area. You can use an empty box or large empty litter box.

Socialization

Even adult animals need socialization; however, proceed slowly with any adult animal you don't know. Create situations for socialization but let her come to you. Stop the session if you notice any negative signs, such as swishing tail, ears laid back, head jerk towards you, tensing up, moving away, or growling. It is always best to move slowly and use caution when reaching into the nesting area.

Mom and her Litter

For the first few weeks, mom will do everything necessary to take care of her young. The puppies/kittens start nursing very soon after birth, and mom will start grooming. Access kittens/puppies daily to make sure they are gaining.



Possible Issues with Mom Dog:

Maternal Neglect - In some cases, about 8% of the puppies die from poor maternal care. There are a few causes of this. Some dogs lack maternal instinct and, in other cases, it's nature's way of handling sick or weak puppies. Environmental stress is an important factor, which is why it is important to create a calm environment for mom and the litter. Foster parents should watch for signs of maternal neglect. Call the foster coordinator if you notice the mom avoiding to feed and groom her puppies and ignore their cries.

Maternal Aggression - As mom protects her puppies, it is common for her to be aggressive towards humans or other animals. Do not try to introduce your household pets to your foster mom as this adds too much stress to the environment. If aggression becomes severe, call the Foster Coordinator.



Possible Issues with Mom Cats:

Maternal Neglect - In some cases, about 8 % of the kittens die from poor maternal care. There are a few causes of this. Some cats lack maternal instinct and, in other cases, it's nature's way of handling sick or weak kittens. Environmental stress is an important factor, which is why it is important to create a calm environment for mom and the litter. Foster parents should watch for signs of maternal neglect. Call the foster coordinator if you notice the mom avoiding to feed and groom her puppies and ignore their cries.

Maternal Aggression - As mom protects her kittens, it is common for her to be aggressive towards humans or other animals. Do not try to introduce your household pets to your foster mom as this adds too much stress to the environment. If aggression becomes severe, call the Foster Coordinator.

Puppy Development

In the first two weeks of life, puppies are helpless and vulnerable. They are still developing basic reflexes, their hearing and vision is not fully developed, and they are unable to properly control their body temperatures. They should therefore be confined to a nursery area. Puppies should not be allowed to mingle with your own pets.

During the first 1-3 weeks of life, puppies do not urinate or defecate on their own and require stimulation for elimination. Gently rub a warm tissue or baby wipe on the puppies genital area and anus. This should be done before and after every feeding. If the puppies are with their mother, the mother will stimulate her puppies herself.

Keeping the puppies clean from food and feces is vital for his or her health. If you notice your puppy has food, urine, or feces on him or her, gently wipe the puppy down with a warm damp cloth or baby wipe. Be sure to dry the puppy well afterwards so they do not become chilled.

TIPS AND TAILS

Do not feed your puppy cows milk.

Bathe your fosters with Dawn dish Detergent Original Formula. Be sure to dry your puppy after their bath using a towel or blow dryer.

Puppies are chewers! Be sure to remove all electrical cords and small objects!



Puppy Expectations and Care by Age

Weeks	Feeding	Development
0-1	Bottle feed 13 - 30 mls of formula every 2-3 hours. If there is a mom, make sure that all puppies are nursing. Puppies can nurse from mom for up to 45 minutes at a time. A lot of crying or activity could indicate a problem with moms milk supply.	At one week of age, the puppies should be handled minimally. Puppies will sleep about 90% of the time and eat the other 10% Puppies should be kept in a warm environment as chilling is the number one danger to newborn puppies.
1-2	Bottle feed 30 - 45 mls every 2-3 hours until puppies' bellies are full but not bloated.	Healthy puppies should be round and warm. When you pick up a puppy they wiggle energetically and healthy puppies seldom cry. The puppies ear canal should open between 5-8 days, while eyes will open between 8-14 days.
2-3	Bottle feed 45 - 65 mls of formula every 3-4 hours until the puppies are full but not bloated.	Puppies begin to crawl around and should be almost standing. They will begin to play with each other and should begin teething at this period.
3-4	Bottle feed 65 ml - 80 ml formula every 4 hours until the puppies are full but not bloated. Puppies may start to lap from the bowl.	Puppies begin to see well and their eyes begin to look and function like adult dog eyes. Puppies will start cleaning themselves. If they have a mother, she will continue to do most of the serious cleaning.
4-5	Bottle feed 6 hours. Puppies can usually eat from a low sided bowl. Weaning should be done gradually.	Begin housebreaking at 4 weeks of age. This can be done by using training pads, newspaper, or by taking the puppy to a secured outside area. Be patient ! He/She may not remember to do this every time.
5-6	Feed gruel 4 times a day. Thicken the gruel gradually by reducing the amount of water mixed with it. Introducing dry food. If you are fostering a litter with their mother, continue weaning. For reluctant eaters, try mixing puppy formula into gruel.	At about 5 weeks , puppies can start to roam around the room, under supervision. The strongest, most curious puppy will figure out how to get out of the nest and the other will quickly follow. Be sure to allow the puppies to have different types of toys around so they may explore and become familiar with a variety of surfaces and textures.
6-7	By this age, puppies should be eating dry food. Feed the puppies at least three meals a day. Puppies may not eat much at single sittings, they usually like to eat at frequent intervals throughout the day.	By this time, you will have 'mini dogs." They are able to wash themselves and play with each other and you. Some puppies may be food possessive, you may need to use a second dish and leave plenty of food out. Do not use adverse or punishing correcting techniques. Be sure to take the puppies to their pads or outside after feeding during the play session and after naps.
7-8	Offer dry food 3-4 times a day. Leave a bowl of water down for them to drink at will. Do not feed the puppies table scraps.	Continue playing and socializing with the puppies. You can even begin training such as sit, down, roll over, and come when called.
8+	Offer dry food 3 times a day. Leave down a bowl of water for them to drink at will.	By this time, the puppies should be ready for spay and neuter surgery and adoption!

Type of Food

Never give a neonate puppy anything other than their specified formula

Puppies who are less than three weeks old are fed puppy milk replacer or goats milk. The powder formula must be mixed for feedings. It is important to closely follow mixing directions:

One part powder into two parts warm water (as it can cause diarrhea or constipation if not done correctly). Any reconstituted powder formula can be refrigerated for up to 24 hours. After that point, it must be discarded.

Feeding Etiquette

- Only use clean nipples and bottles.
- Feed puppies one at a time. Place them on a counter with a level head. This simulates how they would nurse from a mom.
- Do not feed a puppy while on their back. This can cause formula to go down the wrong way and end up in their lungs.
- Gently place the nipple in the puppy's mouth. In some cases you can place a drop of formula on the tongue for a taste to start suckling.
- Pull lightly on the bottle. This promotes strong sucking.
- Tilt the bottle up slightly. This prevents the puppy from inhaling too much air.
- Do not squeeze the bottle to force the formula into the puppy's mouth. This can cause formula to move into the lungs.
- After feeding, burp your puppy by gently massaging their back.
- Be sure to stimulate the puppy after and before feeding. Stimulate them with a warm cloth if necessary.
- Fill out the daily weight and feeding record.

TIPS & TAILS

To warm nursing bottles, fill a coffee mug half way with hot water and place the bottle of formula into the mug. After a minute or two, test the formula by sprinkling a few drops on the back of your hand. Formula should be warm to the touch, but not hot.

Weaning

Weaning can occur at 4-5 weeks and should be conducted gradually. Create gruel by mixing moistened dry food with water or canned food. Introduce them to solid food by offering warmed can food, mixed with a small amount of water into gruel, in a shallow dish. Begin by placing a puppy to the side of the plate. He or she should start to eat, but it may take a few tries for puppies to understand. If they are not interested, wait a few hours and then try again. After they have accepted the gruel, gradually thicken it by adding less water. Begin to also offer dry food on a free-feeding basis.

Amount of Food

Overfeeding is as dangerous as underfeeding. Feed puppies until they are full but not bloated.

Cleaning Equipment

Keeping the puppies' nursing bottles and supplies clean is vital, as this will prevent diarrhea, vomiting, or infection. Cleaning the bottles and nursing nipples is quite easy. Using hot, soapy water, clean the bottle with a bottlebrush. You can use a different instrument or dishwasher. You may place them in a silverware rack or in a dishwasher basket.

Additional Feeding Considerations

If puppies are fighting over food, start to feed them separately. Contact the foster coordinator for support.

Never take food away from a puppy that is growling. Simply remove the other puppies and wait for the food bowl to be unattended.



Taking a Temperature

If you think your kitten or puppy is sick, the first step is to take their temperature. Normal temperature should be between 100-102.5 degrees fahrenheit. Use a regular human thermometer with vaseline. Wipe vaseline on the thermometer and insert just the tip into the anus. After holding it for at least a minute, remove and read the temperature. If the temperature is over 103 or under 99, call the Foster Coordinator.

Basic Training Tips for Puppies:

- Puppies are born with instincts to bite. One of the most important things they learn, as a puppy, is how to control the strength of their bite.
- Puppies naturally train each other how to bite. When one puppy bites another too hard, the other puppy yelps loudly and stops playing.
- As a foster parent, you can play this role. Any time a puppy mouths too much, yelp loudly. If the puppy continues biting, turn your back on the puppy and walk away. After ten seconds or so, resume playing happily.
- Remember: Mouthing is important! A puppy that is never allowed to mouth will grow up to have a hard bite.
- Never scold, tap on the nose, or yell no at the puppy who is biting. Bite inhibition is a crucial development for puppies. A puppy that is punished for biting can turn into an adult with unsafe jaws (because they do not know their own strength). Simply yell ouch when a puppy bites too hard.



Housetraining

We always want to set our puppies up for success, and doing so in the house training process is essential. Puppies should have frequent breaks and be taken outside to the same spot to relieve themselves every 30-60 minutes when active (when waking up from a nap, after drinking, or eating, and after play session.) A puppy can hold his/her bladder one hour for each month of age.

Remember these five steps to successful house training:

1. Prevent accidents
2. Reward going to the bathroom
3. Anticipate bathroom needs
4. Interrupt accidents and avoid punishing
5. Clean up accidents with enzyme cleaner

Pee Pads: For puppies five weeks and under, place puppies on pee pads immediately after waking up, after eating, and about once an hour. Praise the puppy enthusiastically every time he /she urinates or defecates on pad. Change the pads frequently, as the puppies tend to chew on the pee pads.

Crate Training

Housetraining and crate training go hand in hand. A crate can be a great tool to use for your puppy, but it can also be misused. The crate should be big enough for your puppy to stand up, turn around, and stretch out. The KVHS will make sure you go home with the correct size, but your puppy may grow and you may need to exchange the crate. Your foster puppy/dog should have a short-term confinement area, such as the crate, and a long-term confinement area, such as a x-pen or a baby gated section of the house or room.

If you are beginning to crate train, feed your puppy in the crate, provide stuffed chew toys only in the crate, and/or play crate games to build positive associations with the crate. Keep sessions short and fun, and have your puppy in the crate for short periods of time while you are home.

Never use a crate as a form of punishment for your foster puppy or dog.

Toys

Having toys available for your puppy is vital for their mental health and development. A selection of toys is best such as plush squeak toys, rope toys, stuffed kongs, and teething toys.

Socialization

From 3 weeks to 3 months, puppies are biologically primed to learn that new sights, sounds, smells, objects, environments, and people are fun and safe. This is the most crucial and sensitive period in a puppy's life.

Socialization is not simply exposing a puppy to a variety of people, places, and things, but using positive proactive socialization training. Each new person the puppy meets should be a wonderful experience with treats and toys. Take things slow if your puppy seems fearful of the new person, place, or thing.

Training: Positive Reinforcement

As a foster parent, there will be many situations for you to train your animal. Kennebec Valley Humane Society only promotes training using positive reinforcement. Decades of research and scientific studies concludes that positive reinforcement training is the most humane and effective method of training.

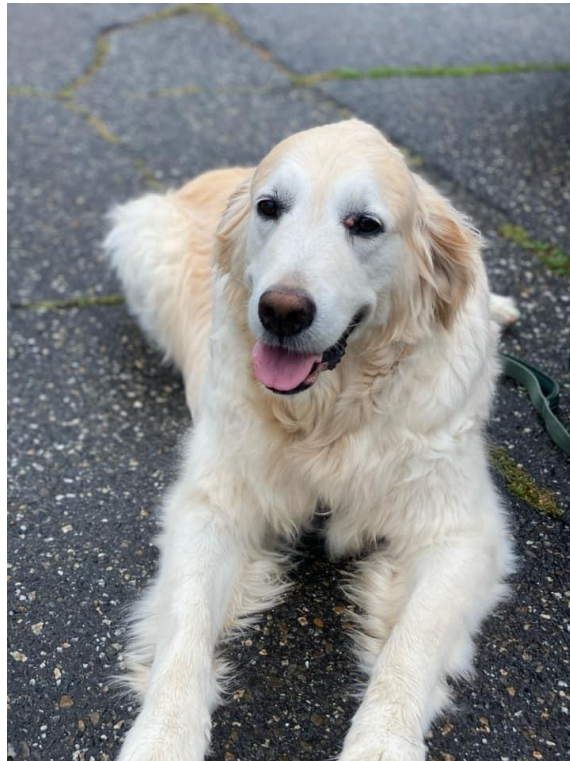
Do not scold or push bad behavior:

- When an unwanted behavior is offered/performed redirect the puppy with a kissy noise or toy. Praise and reward the puppy from stopping the unwanted behavior and giving you attention.
- Punishment can still instill fear, which can lead to aggressive behavior.
- Praise and reward good behavior
- When a behavior is immediately followed by a positive outcome, that behavior is strengthened.

TIPS AND TAILS

Runaway Foster

- If your foster escapes or runs away, contact the Foster Coordinator immediately. You may also contact your animal control officer in your area.
- If your foster dog gets loose while on a walk, don't chase. Simply lay on the ground and calmly call their name.
- If your foster cat escapes the home, place a blanket that smells like the cat/home and litter box outside of the home.
- Be sure to have your foster collar and tags on at all times. If you did not receive your foster's tags at pick up, call the foster coordinator.



Maintaining Foster Health

Bowel Movements

There are three types of stool: normal, soft, and diarrhea. Normal stool is firm and has a definite shape. Soft stool is not firm, but still has some shape. Diarrhea is liquid, with or without color to it. Diarrhea is common and can be caused by parasites, viruses, bacteria, food changes, stress and overfeeding.

Diarrhea must be monitored as it can lead to dehydration. If the foster is active, mild diarrhea that occurs for 24 hours is not concern. Feed the foster less at a time but more often. If the diarrhea is served, lasts more than 3-4 feeding or contains blood/parasites, call the foster coordinator to schedule a re-check.

Parasites

Foster's are dewormed upon intake (if old enough) and at the two rechecks. Parasites are commonly found in the stools of puppies and kittens. Tapeworms may look like grains of rice and roundworms look like spaghetti and can be seen in the stool, litter box, or in vomit. If you notice the worms, contact your Foster Coordinator.

Vomiting

Vomiting is not serious unless it happens continuously or accompanied with diarrhea. It can lead to dehydration. If vomiting occurs 2-3 times in a row, call the Foster Coordinator.

Eye Discharge

It is normal to have little pieces of crust in their eyes after waking up. If you see continuous yellow or green discharge or swollen/closed eyes, contact your foster coordinator. You can use a damp, warm towel to wipe the affected eye(s).



Ear Mites

Ear mites are parasites that live in the ear canal. You may notice a bald spot and or scabs behind the ears due to continuous scratching. They may also violently shake their heads. The ears may smell bad and you may see brown discharge that resembles coffee grounds. Ear mites are contagious to other animals and need to be treated. Call the Foster Coordinator if you notice any of these symptoms.

Fleas

Animals that have fleas will scratch themselves often. Topical flea treatment will be given to foster animal by the foster coordinator around 4 weeks of age. Flea prevention for puppies under four weeks includes daily brushings with the flea comb and daily bedding changes. If you still notice signs of fleas, you can wash the kitten or puppy in a small amount of Dawn dish soap followed by a flea comb to remove any remaining fleas. Baths should not be given more than once every 1-2 weeks. Most likely the foster coordinator has taken care of the fleas before they go into your house. If you still notice signs of fleas, call the foster coordinator.

Ringworm

Ringworm is a contagious fungus that can spread to other animals and humans. A sign of ringworm is thinning hair or patches of hair loss. Ringworm is difficult to remove from your house. To help with prevention and spreading, maintain cleaning protocols and a good hand washing routine. Call the Foster Coordinator if you notice any hair loss.

Mange

Mange is caused by parasites that affects the skin of animals. One form of mange is contagious to other animals and humans. The symptoms include itching, hair loss, and sores. If you notice any of these symptoms, contact the foster coordinator.

Parvovirus (Puppies)

Parvovirus is a deadly and contagious virus that attacks a dog's gastrointestinal tract. Once parvovirus is present in an environment, it is difficult to remove. It is transmitted through direct contact with contaminated feces.

Signs to look for:

- Lethargy
- Dehydration
- Loss of appetite
- Abdominal pain and bloating
- Fever
- Low body temperature
- Vomiting
- Severe diarrhea (with or without blood)

If you notice any of these signs, contact your Foster Coordinator immediately.

Upper Respiratory Tract Infection (URI)

URI's are common and are caused by contagious viruses and bacteria.

Signs to look for:

- Sneezing and discharge from eyes and nose
- Congested breathing
- Loss of appetite
- Lethargy (Lack of energy)
- Dehydration

If you notice any of these signs, please contact the Foster Coordinator.



Scheduling Rechecks and vaccine Appointments

Foster animal(s) are required to return to the shelter every two weeks for vaccinations, deworming and general exams. All your check-up dates will be decided at the end of each check up. Some recovering from injuries will have to return for repeat x-rays, staple removal or cast change.

Vaccines

Kittens and puppies receive vaccines every 3 weeks from the time they are 4 weeks of age until they are 16 weeks of age. Animals over 3 months of age also require a rabies vaccination.

Cats and kittens receive FVRCP Vaccine (Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, and Panleukopenia)

Dogs and puppies receive the DHLPP vaccine (Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, and Parainfluenza)



THE FINISH LINE

Spay/Neuter Surgery

During a scheduled visit, the Foster Coordinator or recheck staff may decide the pet is ready for surgery and adoption. If this is the case, a surgery date will be scheduled for you to leave your fosters. We use the following guidelines to determine if an animal is ready to return for surgery:

- The puppies/kittens are at least 8 weeks or older.
- The puppies/kittens are successfully weaned from their mother.
- They have been successfully socialized.
- Kittens are at least 2 or more pounds.
- Room on the adoption floor.

Day of Surgery

- Adult dogs and cats cannot have breakfast after midnight, but can have access to water.
- Kittens/puppies cannot have breakfast after midnight, but can have access to water.
- Small animals must always have access to food.
- Drop-off time for surgery is 8:00am - 8:30am through our front door, or the night before if arrangements have been made with the Foster Coordinator.

Foster Parents have the first choice to adopt their foster pet!

Fosters get one free adoption a year



Foster Contacts

Kennebec Valley Humane Society: (207) 626-3491

Email: Foster@pethavenlane.org

LIKE our facebook page: KVHS fosters

Emergencies after hours

Email: Foster@pethavenlane.org

Lewiston E-Clinic: (207) 777-1110

Poison Control Hotline: 1 (800) 222-1222

Kennebec Valley Humane Society Staff Hours

Monday - Sunday open for Fosters 8:00AM - 4:30PM