



Foster Program Info

Henrico Humane Society rescues dogs and cats from across Central Virginia and is sometimes able to accept animals that need to be surrendered by their owner. These animals live with a foster until they can be placed in permanent, loving homes. **The more fosters we have, the more lives we can save!**

We're looking for volunteers who are willing to make a commitment of at least 3 months to provide love and care to a dog or cat until we can place them in their forever home. There are also several shorter-term opportunities to help rescue an animal. Henrico Humane Society provides guidance and ongoing support to ensure fosters feel comfortable caring for their dog or cat.

We're currently looking for fosters in all of the following categories:

- **Dogs.** We rescue all shapes and sizes of dogs, some of which will have specific needs like a fenced in yard. It typically takes 1 to 2 months to find the perfect home for an adult dog.
- **Cats.** Other than having the ability to keep a new cat in a separate room when they first arrive, there typically aren't any specific space requirements to foster cats. It usually takes 2 to 3 months to find the perfect home for an adult cat, but it can take up to 6 months.
- **Puppies.** We rescue single puppies from shelters and will try to save an entire litter if we have enough fosters. Sometimes we take in both a mother and her puppies. Puppies aren't available for adoption until they've been spayed/neutered, after which it usually takes 2 to 4 weeks to adopt them.
- **Kittens.** We're looking for volunteers who can foster a single kitten, and at times we need someone who can take a litter of 6 to 7 kittens depending on how young they are. Sometimes we take in both a mother and her babies who will typically need to stay in a separate area (like a guest room) for a while if the kittens are very young. Kittens aren't available for adoption until they're 8 to 10 weeks old, from which point it usually takes 4 to 6 weeks to place them in a permanent home.
- **Special needs.** We need a few fosters who are experienced enough with pets to care for animals with special needs. These dogs or cats are typically recovering from a medical procedure, have some kind of illness that requires frequent treatment, and/or have behavioral issues.
- **Seniors.** Sometimes we get in an older dog or cat which typically match well with volunteers interested in helping animals with a lower activity level. It can take a little more time to find the perfect home for a senior animal, so ideally the foster would be comfortable making a longer-term commitment.

We also have several short-term foster opportunities:

For volunteers who are interested in fostering but are not able to make a longer-term commitment, we almost always have a need for “short-term” fosters for:

- **Kitten season.** Spring and summer are “kitten season” when shelters can get flooded with kittens, so we need more kitten fosters than in the fall and winter.
- **Vacation.** We need volunteers to “babysit” an animal when a foster goes out of town, which can be for a weekend or for a 2-week trip. We have the highest need for these short-term fosters over the summer and during the fall/winter holiday season.
- **When a dog or cat has a treatable medical condition.** These animals typically require special attention for a period of time, after which they can be transferred to another foster, if necessary, until they’re adopted. For example, it takes 2 months to treat a dog with heartworms, during which time their activity level needs to be closely monitored.
- **Emergency situations.** Sometimes we have an animal that needs to be taken in quickly, for example if they are about to be euthanized in a shelter. If we don’t have an open foster home, we need someone willing to provide care for a short period of time until a space opens up.

[Click here](#) to access the foster application. If you’d like more information about fostering before submitting an application, email foster@henricohumane.org.