



MEMPHIS ANIMAL SERVICES

Cat Foster Handbook

MAS.Rescue@memphistn.gov

901-636-7297

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This foster manual was created thanks to the generosity of Austin Pets Alive! It is based on their original handbook and used with permission.

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE MAS CAT FOSTER PROGRAM

A. What is a Foster Home?

A foster home is a temporary living situation for pets while they are awaiting placement in a permanent home or to move to one of our partnership organizations. Foster families provide shelter, food, care and love. The number of pets we can save depends entirely on the number of people we have to foster them.

B. Why Foster?

First and foremost, fostering saves lives! The more pets that are in foster homes, the less shelters have to euthanize pets because their kennels are full. Also, many kittens are not ready to be adopted yet. Finding a foster home for them may be the only way for them to get from a shelter, where they may be at risk of illness or death, to their forever home. It's incredibly fulfilling to give extra TLC to these four-legged friends that need our help. Thanks to our incredible foster parents, Memphis Animal Services has not had to euthanize a cat or kitten for space in over three years. Additionally, thanks to foster parents, kittens are no longer euthanized due to being underage orphans who need specialized care. Thank you for joining this team and helping make this possible!

C. What Types of Cats Need Foster Care?

Foster homes are most needed for moms with newborns and orphaned kittens less than 8 weeks old. Some pets need a quiet place to recover from injury or illness such as upper respiratory infections, ringworm, wounds, etc. These pets will be sent home with meds as needed. Adult cats who are struggling with kennel stress or who have been at the shelter for an extended period of time without being adopted may also need a foster home.

Basically, foster care is for all cats and kittens who need a little extra TLC! Fosters help us save many more cats than we would be able to with just the space in our shelters.

D. What are the Responsibilities of a Cat Foster Home?

In general, foster homes are responsible for providing foster cats with adequate food and water, shelter from the elements, exercise, and plenty of love. In addition to providing the basics, foster parents may also be asked to administer any necessary medications or other medical care. Foster parents are responsible for picking up their foster cat from Memphis Animal Services and transporting them to and from our Clinic for Clinic appointments (see below for Clinic information), and in most cases, adoption sites and events.

Foster parents are also expected to actively market their foster cat for adoption, be responsive to potential adopters, arrange meet-and-greets with potential adopters, provide meet-and-greet feedback to our Cat Foster Team, and arrange hand-off with their foster cat's adopter.

II. CONTACTS AND LOCATIONS

A. Cat Foster Team

As an MAS Cat Foster Parent, you have an entire team of people to support you. The following is an overview of the individual Cat Foster Teams. Please be aware that most everyone on the cat foster team is a volunteer who does this in addition to their responsibilities with work and family, so if you are not able to reach a particular cat foster team member, please contact the Volunteer and Outreach Specialist. We want you to have a positive experience fostering for MAS, so please do not hesitate to contact us if you are experiencing any difficulty or have any questions or concerns.

Volunteer and Outreach Specialist: Katie Curtis
Katharyn.curtis@memphistn.gov

- Posts the pleas and makes arrangements for you to pick up your foster cat. This is also the team member that will help if you need to move your foster cat or if you need a sitter.
- Will assist you with all activities related to the adoption of your foster cat. This includes information on meet and greets and making arrangements to finalize an adoption.
- Can assist you with most medical questions, but for emergencies, please follow the guideline on page 9.

Cat Foster Onboarding Intern: Kwame Tawiah

Cat Foster Outreach Intern: Genevieve Tuznik

While you are fostering a cat or kitten this is your primary contact for any questions or concerns, or if you are not sure to contact for help. They will assist you with scheduling spay/neuter surgery, vaccinations, and other preventative care or medical treatment for your foster cat. They will also be able to help you with some medical or behavioral questions.

Cat Marketing Intern: Pei Tan

This team will assist you with getting your foster cat out to events. This extra visibility can help get your foster cat adopted more quickly. They will make sure that your foster cat has their "best face forward" on the MAS website, that your foster cat attends adoption sites and adoption events (if appropriate), that if your foster cat cannot attend sites or events, they are getting additional marketing

needed to find an adoptive home. Email mas@memphistn.gov for help getting your foster cats bio, photos, and video on MAS's website.

III. BECOMING A FOSTER PARENT

A. Responsibilities and Considerations

Fostering is a tremendously rewarding experience, but it takes a lot of time and effort. The basic responsibilities are:

- Provide a safe, clean, and caring environment
- Provide food, water, toys/enrichment, and shelter
- Provide exercise and socialization, as appropriate
- Monitor any medical and/or behavioral problems
- Transport to/from any medical appointments
- Transport to/from adoption sites and events
- Respond to email inquiries regarding your foster cat and communicate with potential adopters within 48 hours
- Arrange a date, time, and place for potential adopters to meet your foster cat and provide meet and greet feedback to our Cat Foster Team
- Take pictures and video of your foster cat, create a bio for your foster cat, and submit them to MAS
- Arrange hand off to your foster cat's adopter

In addition to the basics, please consider the following before deciding if fostering a cat/kitten is right for you:

- Are you permitted to have cats in your residence (e.g., if you rent, does your landlord allow cats)? If there is a required pet deposit, are you willing to pay it prior to taking a foster cat?
- If you do not live alone, is everyone in your residence ok with you fostering a cat? Fostering is a household affair. Even if you do all the work, everyone will be affected by having this addition to your household. This is especially important if you have roommates. Everyone in the household needs to consent to your fostering a cat and understand and follow the Cat Foster Program's protocols for the health and safety of you, the other residents, and your foster cat.
- If you have other pets:
 - How will they react to a new cat in the home?
 - Are they spayed or neutered? Most of our foster cats will not yet have had spay or neuter surgery, so we want to ensure that they don't have contact with any "intact" cats.
 - Do any of them have any health issues that might make them more susceptible to disease or other medical concerns?

- Have they been fully vaccinated for FVRCP and Rabies? Please check your vet records to make sure this specific vaccine has been done in the last year. If your cat(s) are not up to date on vaccines, you should wait a minimum of 2-4 weeks after your cat's vaccinations have been administered before taking in a foster cat. We also recommend that you follow your vet's recommendations regarding the addition of a foster cat to your home.
- Do you have the ability to separate your foster cat from your resident pet(s)? We recommend that you keep them separate for at least the first week. There are two reasons for this. From a medical perspective, we want to protect your resident pet(s) from any undiagnosed medical conditions. And from a behavior perspective, it is usually best to slowly introduce a new cat into the household.
- Do you have the time to devote to caring for a foster cat? Young kittens may need to be fed as often as every few hours. As a foster, you are expected to provide transportation, put forth marketing efforts, and participate in meet-and-greets with potential adopters.

B. Application Process

If you are reading this, you are likely already approved to foster cats. But if not, and you are interested in becoming an MAS Foster Parent, you first will need to submit our cat foster application. We will review your application and contact you if we have any questions.

Once you have been approved to foster cats, you will receive a welcome email and other important documents. Please join our Memphis Animal Services Cat Foster Facebook page. We use this group to alert you to cats that need foster and other Cat Foster Program news or information.

IV. GETTING STARTED

This section describes the steps you need to take before bringing home a foster cat. Your advance preparation will help ensure that your foster experience is a good one for you, your foster cat, and any other pets or people living in your home. These guidelines are designed to answer the most common questions and ease the transition for all concerned. You also have the entire Cat Foster Team for backup if you have a concern that isn't resolved here.

A. Preparing for Your Foster Cat

The following is a checklist of items you will need before bringing home a foster cat:

- Food and water bowls
- Food and treats: We feed the cats at the shelter Hills Science Diet. However, any good quality food is okay. Kittens and nursing or pregnant moms should

get kitten food or gruel (depending on their age). It's a good idea to have both dry and canned food available.

- Toys and other enrichment items, appropriate to the size and age of your foster cat
- Cat bed or blankets to provide your foster cat with a comfortable place to sleep
- If you are fostering kittens; kitten formula and puppy pads, newspaper, or old sheets. *If you are using formula, please thoroughly read instructions for storage and mixing. Many types of formula must be refrigerated once opened. Failing to do so can be harmful to kittens.
- Hand sanitizer
- Bleach

****All supplies for the Cat Foster Program are donated and are available to foster parents as needed and as donated supplies are available.****

Once your home is ready, make sure that you understand all of the information that the Cat Foster Team has provided you and asked questions that you have in advance. Our correspondence contains critical information that you will need to know before beginning, and throughout, your foster experience. **It is very important that you thoroughly read all of the emails we send you, including any attachments, to ensure the safety and well-being of you and your foster cat.**

B. Selecting Your Foster Cat

Everyday MAS is identifying cats and kittens that need a foster home. For all cats needing foster, Our Volunteer and Outreach Specialist posts a "plea" for that cat on the Foster Facebook Group. We rely on you to contact the Cat Foster Team by emailing the Volunteer and Outreach Specialist about a cat you are interested in fostering. You can also let us know if you would like to be on a call list for emergencies.

Because we are often dealing with kittens need to leave the shelter ASAP, our foster pleas are very time sensitive, and our ability to save a kitten often relies solely on our ability to find a foster within a very short timeframe. Because of this, if you have an open spot for a foster(s), it is imperative that you frequently check for posted pleas in either of the previously listed locations and notify the Volunteer and Outreach Specialist if you are interested in a particular foster cat. Your quick response to a foster plea can literally mean the difference between life and death for these kittens.

When corresponding with our Cat Foster Team, it is important to let them know about any special considerations you might have:

- Do you have cats that haven't been spayed or neutered?
- Are your cats current on all vaccinations?
- Do you have young children?
- Do you have a high-traffic home?

- Can you keep the foster cat separate from your resident pet(s)?
- Do you have any other fosters already in your home?

Please note that MAS does not allow more than 2 "sets" of fosters at one time. A "set" can be A) one litter of kittens and a mom, B) 2-3 kittens, or C) 1 adult pet.

The Cat Foster Team will work with you to determine if a foster is a good match for you. Upon finding a match, you will be sent an email with information on picking up your foster pet.

C. Picking Up Your Foster Cat

After the Cat Foster Team has confirmed a match for you and you have received a foster pick up email and everything else we have emailed you, you are ready to pick up your foster cat.

We recommend that you bring the following:

- Travel Carrier/Crate (MAS can loan you one, if needed)
- Paper towels/wipes in case car cleanup is necessary

Before taking your foster cat to your car, please make sure they are secured in a travel carrier/crate.

D. At Home with Your Foster Cat

For cats, a bathroom or small bedroom will be best for the first few days. We suggest you place all bedding, food, water, and a litter box in that room, and remember to spread the items out in different spots. You can use the cat carrier with an open door or with the top removed and fill with soft bedding and safe toys. This not only provides a safe spot but also continues to help the cat get used to being in the cat carrier.

If you have other pets, we recommend you keep the foster pet separated from any resident pet(s) for at least the first week. If you want to introduce your foster cat to your resident pet(s) after the first week, we can provide more information on the "best practice" for introducing cats upon request.

Do not let your foster cat go outside!

Please do not feed your foster cat "people food." Nursing kittens or pregnant moms should get kitten food or gruel (depending on their age) for the additional nutrition.

Special precautions need to be taken with kittens. Kittens should be housed in a private, confined area. We recommend a bathroom or any room where they will not have full access to the residence. Very young, small kittens can be confined to a kennel or playpen initially. Confining kittens not only helps protect your

possessions, it also keeps them out of harm's way. Kittens have an uncanny knack for being able to get themselves into precarious situations!

It's very important that they are not exposed to the "germs" out in the world. If kittens need to be taken out in public—for example to the Clinic or an adoption event for which they are approved—they should be transported in a crate and only placed in a pen that has been sanitized. You should always have hand sanitizer handy and ask everyone (friends, family, neighbors, etc.) to use the sanitizer before touching your kittens.

If you need to have your foster cat moved, even temporarily, please contact the Cat Foster Team as soon as possible so they can find another foster home. We ask that you keep your foster cat until a new placement is found, if possible. **Foster cats can never be placed in the care of a neighbor, friend, petsitter, roommate, or even a potential adopter without MAS's express advance permission. Foster cats are NOT allowed to travel outside of the Memphis area.** Because all foster cat medical care is provided by the clinic at MAS, it is important that foster cats stay close enough to receive care in an emergency. If you plan to travel, please contact the Cat Foster Team to make arrangements for the care of your foster while you are gone.

IF YOUR FOSTER CAT GETS LOOSE OR IS LOST, IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY MAS BY EMAILING mas.rescue@memphistn.gov. IT IS CRITICAL THAT WE BE NOTIFIED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! The sooner we can post lost pet ads, give you instructions for searching for a lost cat, and get our team to work, the sooner we can get your foster cat back to safety.

VI. MEDICAL CARE

MAS cannot ensure that the foster pet will be healthy when they are placed in your care. A cat that appears healthy at the time of placement can sometimes show signs of illness several days later. For this reason, it is very important that foster cats are kept separate from your own pet(s), at least for that first seven days, and that you keep your own cats up-to-date on vaccinations.

If you notice that your foster pet has mild, cold-like symptoms, diarrhea or has vomited, please notify the foster coordinator at MAS.rescue@memphistn.gov so that we can determine how best to proceed.

It is important that you thoroughly clean all items and areas that have been in contact with a sick foster cat. Please check any cleaning products you use to see if they are safe for pets. Bleach solutions can be useful in reliably killing viruses and bacteria. Please strictly follow safety instructions when using cleaning chemicals.

The MAS Medical Team provides most medical care for our foster cats. MAS will not reimburse foster parents for the cost of ANY medical care outside of previously approved treatments at Memphis Animal Services vet clinic, AEC, or Spay Memphis.

A. Routine Medical Care (Wellness)

The Cat Foster Care Team schedules all routine and preventive medical care. However, if you have not been contacted by the team and you know that a vaccine or monthly preventative is due or other medical care is needed, please contact them.

Our Clinic is located in the same building as the shelter. Please do not come to the shelter clinic for routine wellness (shots, deworm, etc.) without a previously scheduled appointment. It is the second door on the right once you enter the front gate. Vet appointments are done "curbside." Please pull up, call the posted phone number on the clinic door, and a member of our team will assist you. Please refer to the section immediately below for emergency medical care.

MAS vaccinates all cats of age for FVRCP (Feline viral rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, and panleukopenia). In addition, all cats of age receive flea/tick prevention and dewormer. Kittens that weigh less than 1.5 lbs are too small to receive topical flea/tick prevention and will likely need baths. More instructions will be provided at pickup if this is the case. In most cases for foster cats, the FeLV test and microchip are done at the time of their spay/neuter surgery.

We do not routinely test for non-serious illnesses and conditions, such as intestinal parasites and skin parasites. Instead, we treat such illness and conditions symptomatically.

Please also note that the vast majority of our pets have unknown medical histories, and it's very common for them to have worms, parasites, fleas, and/or upper respiratory infections (URIs). In general, our system of care recognizes that foster parents are in the best position to identify non-serious illnesses and conditions, report them, and quickly receive treatment to address them. This system means that each foster cat is receiving appropriate treatment/care in a home environment.

In terms of ongoing care, we aim to provide the same level of care as an animal lover of average means could reasonably provide. This means that if your foster cat falls ill, suffers an injury, or is in discomfort, they can be seen by a pet nurse or veterinarian at our discretion, within a timeframe commensurate with the issue. Your foster pet may receive medications and diagnostics (such as x-rays) at the discretion of our clinic team. However, we are limited on resources and sometimes are unable to go above and beyond and provide extraordinary medical care. This means we cannot provide expensive diagnostics, like MRIs (which cost thousands of dollars), or a guarantee of expensive prescription medications or foods, although we will always provide these supplies if we have donated stock available.

B. Spay/Neuter Surgery

Kittens are spayed or neutered at 3 months of age unless they are underweight (less than 2 pounds), malnourished, ill, or are generally just not healthy enough for surgery. Nursing moms can be spayed after their kittens have been weaned and the mom's milk has dried up. If the kittens are weaned by 8 weeks of age, the moms can often be spayed when their kittens have surgery at 3 months of age. Instructions for scheduling your foster cat's surgery will be provided when you pick up your foster pet(s) from the shelter.

Because of the limited number of surgery slots, it is vital that you keep your scheduled appointment.

Your foster cat needs to be healthy for at least seven days before surgery. Please notify us if prior to his/her surgery date he/she is exhibiting any upper respiratory symptoms such as a runny nose, sneezing, coughing, and/or congestion or any other signs of illness; if so, his/her surgery will need to be delayed.

C. Medical Concerns

The Cat Foster Care Team can assist you with most medical questions; however, if you have an emergency, please email mas.rescue@mempistn.gov (during Shelter Clinic Hours) or call Animal Emergency Center at (901) 323-4563 (6pm-8am).

Please give as much detail as possible. Be sure to include:

- * Your foster cat's name and ID Number
- * Your name and phone number
- * A detailed description of your concerns
- * Is your foster eating and/or drinking? If not, how long has it been without food and/or water?
- * Any vomiting, diarrhea, coughing, or sneezing? If so, how long has this been going on?
- * Does he/she seem lethargic?
- * Any eye or nose discharge? If so, what color is it?

Symptoms of an Emergency:

- * Not moving or unable to stand up
- * Bleeding
- * Not eating for more than two feedings if an unweaned kitten
- * Not eating for more than 24 hours if an adult
- * Not breathing or open mouth breathing
- * Drooling profusely
- * Tremors or convulsions
- * Appears drunk or unstable when walking or loses balance when walking
- * Constant vomiting or diarrhea

C-1. Medical Concerns During the Day

If your foster pet has symptoms, such as frequent vomiting, lethargy, yellow/green ocular or nasal discharge, straining to urinate or defecate, loss of appetite, or other concerns, please notify the foster coordinator at MAS.rescue@memphistn.gov with as much of the accompanying information above as possible. You will be given instructions on how to proceed. If an appointment is necessary, you will bring the pet to the shelter to be dropped off and seen by a veterinarian during our clinic appointment hours 12:00 PM – 3:30 PM Tuesday – Saturday unless otherwise instructed. If you are fostering a litter of kittens or puppies, even if only one foster pet is showing symptoms, the entire litter should be brought in to be examined. You will be notified when pets are ready for pickup. Please be aware that our veterinary staff must prioritize urgent/emergency situations, so wait times will vary.

If you have a true emergency during shelter hours (8am – 4pm), please email foster coordinator at MAS.rescue@memphistn.gov. Signs of a true emergency include but are not limited to: lethargy, persistent vomiting, poor or non-responsive, seizures, pain, severe bloody diarrhea, persistent vocalizing accompanying afore mentioned conditions, difficulty breathing, and difficulty urinating. If you do not receive an immediate response via email, you can take your foster pet to Memphis Animal Services, Memphis, TN 38133 to be seen by our vet clinic.

C-2. After Hours Overnight Emergency

If you have a true emergency outside of shelter hours (6pm – 8am), please email foster coordinator at MAS.rescue@memphistn.gov. Signs of a true emergency include but are not limited to: lethargy, persistent vomiting, poor or non-responsive, seizures, pain, severe bloody diarrhea, persistent vocalizing accompanying afore mentioned conditions, difficulty breathing, and difficulty urinating.

If you do not receive an immediate response via email, you can take your foster pet(s) to Animal Emergency Center - 3767 Summer Ave, Memphis, TN 38122. When you present your foster pet(s) to the emergency clinic, you must inform the staff there that it is Memphis Animal Services foster pet and you must provide them with the pets MAS ID#. The emergency clinic staff will then contact designated MAS staff to verify that treatment can be provided. If the foster parent is unable to provide emergency clinic staff with the pets MAS ID#, the pet may still be treated, but at the foster parent's expense. Pets taken to the emergency vet clinic for treatment will be kept overnight at the clinic and an animal services officer will be contacted in the morning to transfer the pet back to the shelter for further treatment/care.

VII. GETTING MY FOSTER CAT ADOPTED

MAS takes full responsibility for finding permanent adoptive homes for our foster cats; however, it is a collaborative process with the foster parent. Foster parents are encouraged to let others know that their foster cat is available for adoption, but any person interested in adopting a foster cat will still need to follow the Cat Foster Program's adoption procedures.

As soon as you take your foster cat home, we want to begin the process of getting him or her to their forever home. But if you have foster kittens that are newborns or under 2 months of age, your focus should be on getting, and keeping, them healthy and happy. Before 2 months of age, kittens are not yet available for adoption. Of course, it never hurts to start getting the word out to family, friends, and neighbors, about the fabulous kittens you are raising! At 2 months of age, the adoption process can begin, but please note that all required vetting must be completed before an adoption can be finalized.

A. Marketing

Upon becoming a foster, you become the primary advocate for your foster cat. You're not only their care-provider, but you also become a photographer, videographer, biographer, adoption counselor, and so much more.

We ask that you write a short biography for your foster pet. Include likes/dislikes, personality quirks, and all the things you love about them! Be as descriptive as possible and provide any information you think would help get them adopted. Please email it to mas@memphistn.gov to be added to the shelter's website and/or social media accounts. We also encourage you to post it on your own social media, as well. When doing so, include details on how to adopt. Be sure to use a hashtag with their MAS ID number (#A123456) to link all of their posts together.

Please also send photos of your foster cat to mas@memphistn.gov. Please send the best pictures you can get of your foster cat. Ideally, we prefer to have at least one good picture of his/her face (looking right into the camera with eye contact makes a huge difference), a full picture of your foster cat to give people an idea of overall size, and a picture that shows personality. Cats with videos get more adoption inquiries because people love to see the cat in action. Making a video is especially helpful for an adult cat as it does a better job of conveying personality. If you have a video you'd like to send us, please email mas@memphistn.gov so we can send you a link to upload (file size for most videos is too large for email).

The sooner we can get your foster cat's cute photo/bio posted, the sooner they have a chance of getting into a forever home!

B. When Can My Foster Cat Be Adopted?

Unless a specific medical or behavioral condition affects their availability, kittens are available for adoption once spay/neuter is complete, usually around 3 months of

age. Adoptions can't be finalized until your foster cat has been spayed or neutered, so for cats that have not yet been spayed or neutered (this is only in the case of kittens being adopted between 2 and 3 months of age), we have a fully-refundable non-sterile release fee of \$25. An appointment will be made at the time of adoption for the adopter to bring the kitten back for their surgery. At the time of the surgery, the fee will be refunded. Adult cats are also available for adoption once spay/neuter is complete, unless there are underlying conditions that have been addressed. All foster cats must be vaccinated, microchipped, and spayed/neutered before adoptions can be finalized.

C. What Are My Responsibilities in the Adoption Process?

Phone and Email Inquiries

Most of the inquiries about your foster cat will come through the Cat Foster Team. After marketing efforts are made, there is often an influx of interest in the foster cat. We will direct all inquiries your way.

We ask foster parents to respond to each potential adopter as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours after the inquiry, so it's very important that you frequently monitor your emails. Since you know your foster cat best, it's important that each potential adopter hears directly from you. Before scheduling a meet and greet (M&G), please start a dialog with the potential adopter; ask for the characteristics that they are looking for in a cat and share with them some of your cat's unique traits. This is also a good time to let any potential adopters know about any major medical and/or behavioral issues and/or any of your cat's special needs, if applicable.

If it seems like a good match, please arrange a M&G as soon as possible (no later than 5 days after the inquiry). You should schedule the first inquirer that seems like a good match as the first M&G. As the foster parent, you may speak with and/or meet with different potential adopters before deciding which would be the best fit for the pet(s) in your care. Please DO NOT tell any potential adopters that they are the first / second / third ones to meet your foster cat, make any other representation as to their priority / order, or make any guarantee that they will be able to adopt your foster cat. This can lead to confusion and cause hurt feelings, which we want to avoid at all times. Please DO, however, let potential adopters know that there are or may be other potential adopters. If you do not feel an adopter is a good fit for your foster pet, please respectfully direct them to Memphis Animal Services to see shelter pets available. If you have any reason to question the safety of a pet adopted to a potential adopter, please contact the foster coordinator at Katharyn.Curtis@memphistn.gov.

Meet and Greets

If a potential adopter wants to meet your foster cat, the first step is to arrange a M&G. If you are comfortable and it is someone you know, it is fine to do a meet-n-greet at your home. If you are not comfortable doing it at your home we encourage

you to do a Facetime or video chat M&G. They may also be done at the shelter by appointment only.

During the M&G, continue the dialog with the potential adopter and ask questions that you believe will help you determine if they are a good match for your foster cat. Please pay close attention to the interaction between the potential adopter and your foster cat and make sure that you share with the potential adopter any behavior and/or medical issues. Please use safe hygiene practices at the M&G, especially for kittens. Kittens that have not been fully vaccinated are very susceptible to contagious diseases that can be present in public areas. Make sure that everyone uses hand sanitizer before handling your kitten and consider having potential adopters drape a towel over their clothing, as some diseases can be carried on clothing.

D. The Adoption

After the M&G, please email the Volunteer and Outreach Specialist your thoughts on the M&G and why you believe the potential adopter is (or is not) a good fit for your foster cat. Please let us know immediately if you have any concerns that you would like us to address. If after the M&G the potential adopter wants to pursue the adoption, please contact us right away to let us know. We will set up a time/date for you and the adopter to come in and finalize the adoption.

After the adopter completes the adoption paperwork and pays all of the necessary fees, the cat is ready to go to his/her forever home immediately following the completion of all necessary vetting.

If your foster kitten has not been neutered or spayed, then your foster kitten's adoption will require an additional \$25 non-sterile release fee. This will be refunded upon the completion of the surgery at the MAS clinic. An appointment will be set up during the adoption process.

Because you'll know in advance when your foster cat is going to his/her forever home, you'll have plenty of time to say "good bye" - not without a tear - but with no regrets because you know there is another rescue cat needing your help. Saying goodbye will likely be difficult, but we hope you also feel tremendous joy in the role that you have played in getting your foster cat to his/her new forever home!

Thank you for reading this Handbook and for helping us save another life!