



Surface Creek Animal Shelter Foster Policies and Procedures

Foster Policy

The SCAS Foster Program seeks to provide supplemental care to animals with special needs, to increase the rate of animal adoptions, and to expand public relations within the community. The goal of the foster care program is to find a permanent home for the foster animal. Foster care may be provided to animals that:

- Require socialization and/or training
- Have temporary health problems (e.g. malnourished, healing wound, etc.)
- Are too young or ill to be adopted, or are pregnant or nursing
- Have a temporary condition affecting their physical appearance (e.g. an animal that needs to be shaved, has ringworm, mange, etc.)
- Suffer from kennel / cage stress

Foster Requirements

To become an Approved Foster, a volunteer must:

- Submit a SCAS Foster Application
- Submit the SCAS Foster Agreement
- Adhere to all SCAS policies and procedures.
- Adhere to state, county, and local animal control codes and ordinances.
- Be 18 years or older.
- Show proper identification. (If DL is not current, foster must provide a bill /lease with current address).
- Be able to provide a safe, loving and stable environment for the foster animal.
- Be willing to nurse an injury and/or illness — with the understanding that some issues may result in the death of an animal.
- Be able to transport the foster animal to and from SCAS during normal SCAS business hours.
- Complete an interview with the Foster Coordinator.
- Complete home inspection checklist.
- If applicable, provide proof that their landlord allows companion animals.
- Be approved by the Foster Coordinator.

An applicant may be refused Approved Foster status if, among other things, he/she:

- Requests to foster animals not allowed by a landlord.
- Demonstrates or acts in an aggressive or cruel manner towards an animal in the presence of a SCAS employee or volunteer.
- Has turned in an owned animal to a shelter.

- Has a home environment that is not conducive to fostering an animal.
- Refuses to adhere to SCAS policy/procedures.
- Have one or more members of the household who do not want animals.
- Clearly states that he/she or a member of the household is allergic to animals.
- Cannot provide the animal with proper care or cannot keep the animal confined or contained.
- Appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Acts in an abusive or disruptive manner towards a SCAS staff member
- Indicates that a pet recently died of an infectious disease that could risk the health of a foster animal.
- Previously fostered from SCAS and did not honor the Foster Agreement.
- Previously refused to return an animal as requested by SCAS.

When you become an Approved Foster, you agree to abide by the following guidelines:

- Adhere to all SCAS policies and procedures.
- Respond within 24 hours to communications from SCAS staff or potential adopters.
- Immediately report to SCAS staff any aggressive behavior by the foster animal.
- Inform the Foster Coordinator regarding concerns about the foster animal's health or safety.
- Provide changes in your SCAS Foster Application personal information (i.e. name, address, phone, e-mail, household occupancy) to the Foster Coordinator in a timely manner so that all records can be kept up to date.
- Foster animals are to be cared for as if they were your own pet and receive fresh food and water daily.
- Foster animals must be housed in a climate-controlled area that is comfortable and stress-free.
- Foster pets are to be kept in the home of the foster parent on record. Any situation necessitating removal or transfer of the pet must be communicated to SCAS, and express written permission must be provided prior to removal or transfer of the pet.

SCAS retains guardianship and control of all animals in foster care. The shelter staff will make all final decisions regarding their placement, both temporary and permanent. Foster animals are NOT to be given away or kept – any adoption of an animal in foster care MUST go through the SCAS adoption process with all applicable and accompanying SCAS forms and fees.

Foster homes may be limited to the number of pets fostered at any given time and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

A home inspection will be conducted prior to becoming an Approved Foster and home visits may be conducted during fostering.

Foster pets may not be transported outside the SCAS service area without the permission of the Foster Coordinator or Shelter Manager.

SCAS staff will inform the foster family of medical treatment required (including vaccinations), expected length of care required, the care objectives and any other expectations when the foster pet is picked up, and on an on-going basis.

Any problems/questions encountered during the fostering period should be discussed with the Foster Coordinator.

Foster Procedures

Processing of Animals: Potential foster animals are processed according to normal SCAS intake procedures. Each animal will be given vaccines in accordance with intake protocol and animal's age.

Selection of Animals: Foster Coordinator may contact Fosters by phone or email when potential foster animals are identified. All foster animals must be approved by the Foster Coordinator prior to placement in foster care.

Pick Up/Transportation of Foster Animal: The foster parent may pick up the foster animal(s) or the Foster Coordinator will assist the foster with the retrieval, if necessary. Transportation for veterinary visits and/or vaccinations will be arranged by the Foster Coordinator. All animals transported by a vehicle must be secured within the vehicle by seatbelt, harness, or an enclosure that is secured to the vehicle. Unconfined transportation in the open bed of a pick-up truck or other open vehicle is prohibited.

Adoption: The foster may assist in finding potential adopters. However, **all adoptions of animals in foster care MUST go through the SCAS adoption process with all applicable and accompanying SCAS forms and fees.**

Death of a Foster Animal: Foster should notify the Foster Coordinator immediately if an animal dies while in the Foster's care.

Return of Foster Animals: If, for any reason, a foster can no longer provide care for the foster animal, the foster should notify the Foster Coordinator to find a replacement with another foster, rescue group, or adopter.