



*EDUCATION.
RESCUE.
RESPONSIBILITY.*

Foster Care Guidelines and General Information

e-mail: fostercoordinator@armv.org

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING BECOMING A FOSTER CARE PROVIDER

Providing temporary homes for our homeless cats and kittens is a very important volunteer service to the ARMV. Without foster providers, we could not help cats and kittens find permanent homes.

There are a variety of foster opportunities, including helping:

- kittens grow and get ready for adoption
- sick or injured kitties recuperate
- shy cats acclimate to home life
- special needs kitties
- kittens born to feral moms to learn to trust and enjoy being with people
- rabies quarantine kitties. (Only those who have the rabies pre-exposure vaccine series are eligible to foster rabies quarantine kitties.)

To help us determine what type of fostering is best suited for your home, we ask you to complete a [Volunteer Information Form](#) and an [Adoption Application](#). We also require a signed [Waiver of Liability](#).

ARMV FOSTER GUIDELINES

The following guidelines help the ARMV manage our commitment of resources, including volunteers, veterinary budget and adoption space.

1. No cat/kitten is considered an ARMV foster until it is reported to and approved by the Foster Coordinator or President. Unless approved, the ARMV will not assume financial responsibility for related costs.
2. All cats/kittens in foster care are considered to be in the custody of and the property of the ARMV. They may be seen by one of our participating Veterinarians upon admission into the ARMV system, or as soon as necessary after admission.
3. No more than 20 foster cats or two litters of kittens may be in one foster home at any time.

HOUSING FOSTER KITTIES AND SUPPLY INFORMATION

To prevent inadvertently spreading any disease or parasites, foster kitties must be housed separately from resident pets at all times! If you are fostering multiple litters, they must be housed in separate rooms and should not have any contact with each other.

If casual contact results in an illness being transmitted to resident pets, the ARMV will not assume responsibility for related costs or treatments.

The ARMV provides all basic supplies for our foster homes including food, litter, bedding, crates (when necessary), carriers and toys.

HEALTH RECORDS AND VETERINARIAN VISITS

All Veterinary services provided by participating Veterinarians are paid for by the ARMV. Appointments should be made through the Foster Home Coordinator only. Requests for appointments can be made by phone or e-mail. All efforts are made to make appointments convenient for the foster provider.

At the time of admission or prior to the first Vet visit, each cat/kitten is assigned an ARMV identifying number obtained by contacting adoption center staff and a health record is started. The health record should accompany the kitty to each Vet visit. Please take the greatest care with health records as they contain vital information that cannot be easily duplicated. Foster providers should have a copy of the record and a copy should be filed at the adoption center in the foster providers' file.

Records should be updated after each Vet visit. Updates to records with the foster coordinator can be easily accomplished by email, by leaving the pertinent information on the answering machine or email. Foster providers should keep a detailed general health record indicating all routine health related information such as dates of wormings and type of worming medication given, ear mite treatment, flea treatments and all vet visit information. The general health record would be attached to the kitty's permanent record.

TREATMENT WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE ADOPTION

- 1.) General health check or physical. At this time sex and age of each cat/kitten should be noted, physical deformities or birth defects, and a general check for fleas and/or ear mites. Please note any identifying marks on look-alike kittens!
- 2.) Vaccinations, tests, treatments and spay/neuters are done roughly by the following schedule:
 - a.) upon admission or beginning at approximately 6 weeks: routine worming, general health check. (2 follow-up wormings are done at 10 day intervals.)
 - b.) 9 weeks of age: FeLV/FIV(combo) test, spay/neuter, 1st distemper vaccine.
 - c.) 12 weeks of age (if still in foster care): 2nd distemper (booster) and rabies vaccines.

Worming medication, flea products, some ear mite medications and instructions for use must be obtained from the foster coordinator.

Any medical condition diagnosed during the initial, or any subsequent Vet visit should be treated

according to the Vet's recommendations. Instructions given for medications to be administered, or restrictions recommended by the Vet should be followed implicitly.

All cats/kittens are spayed or neutered and fully vaccinated (age appropriately) prior to adoption. Under no circumstances should a cat/kitten go to its new home until these steps are completed. As the ARMV participates in the early spay/neuter program, the surgery will usually be performed at approximately nine weeks of age or when the kitten weighs 2 lbs. If the kittens were bottle babies, their surgery will take place no sooner than 12 weeks.

GETTING PHOTOS OF YOUR FOSTERS

Pictures of foster kitties help greatly in the adoption process. The pictures are placed on our web-site, Pets 911, and Petfinder.com, along with a brief description of each kitty just prior to the time when the kitty is adoptable.

Along with the photo your description should include the sex, fur length, approximate date kitty will be ready for adoption and information on temperament. Photos cannot be placed on our web-site without complete information. Your initials will be listed as a foster home code on the bottom of the description on the web-site.

The official photographers for the ARMV are Dave and Cathie Williams, who donate their time and expertise to take photos of ARMV kitties. We encourage all foster homes to contact them to set up a time to take photos of their kitties. Dave and Cathie can be reached at 978-475-1395.

If the foster care provider lives outside of the Williams' coverage area, pictures for the web-site can be provided by e-mailing digital pictures with a three-line bio, to the adoption coordinator.

ADOPTION INFORMATION

All adoptions are processed through the ARMV with no exceptions. Potential adopters will complete an adoption application before scheduling a visit to a foster provider. Please contact us with any questions regarding potential adoptive families or adoption policies.

An adoption counselor will refer potential applicants to you directly unless you inform us otherwise. If you do not wish potential adopters to be referred to you directly other arrangements will be made.

A \$25.00 deposit is required to place a "hold" on a kitty. A "hold" constitutes a commitment to adopt and is not refundable (unless the adopter is declined by an adoption counselor at the adoption center) or transferable. It is best if the finances are done with the adoption coordinator (over the phone or internet with a credit card); however the foster provider may accept a deposit if willing. The adoption coordinator must be notified immediately if a cat/kitten is placed on hold through a foster provider. Call if you have any questions.

If you and your family are contemplating making a foster kitty a permanent member of your home, you must notify us immediately to avoid disappointment for potential adopters, or yourselves. Once a potential adopter has selected an appropriate kitty, or a "Hold" has been placed on a kitty, we will not ask them to give up their choice because the foster family has become too attached. We will gladly, on advance request, give any foster provider a little extra decision making time before sending potential adopters to see the kitty.

Current adoption fees are as follows and apply to all adopters including foster care providers:

- Kittens under 5 months (19 weeks or less): \$175.00
- Over 5 months and up thru adults: \$100.00
- Special needs: \$50.00

VET CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any concerns with your foster kitties please call the emergency number provided to you.

In the event of an emergency and we cannot be reached, please seek Vet care immediately. (Those with * in the list below have emergency 24 hour care.)

We rely on our foster providers' best judgment as to what constitutes an emergency. 24 hour emergency hospitals have large surcharges so if you notice that the kitty is not feeling well please take action immediately, before the vets offices are closed!

Extreme prolonged diarrhea, lethargy or noticeable elevation in temperature are examples and can kill a kitten in a day or two.

Please seek emergency care if you feel your foster kitty is in grave danger or distress!

PARTICIPATING VETERINARIANS

*AMESBURY ANIMAL HOSPITAL	230 MAIN ST., AMESBURY	978-388-3636
ANIMAL HEALTH CENTER	85 LAFAYETTE RD., SALISBURY	978-462-7953
HAVE-A-HEART VETERINARY HOSPITAL	394 E.BROADWAY, HAVERHILL	978-373-4422
*IPSWICH ANIMAL HOSPITAL	108 NEWBURYPORT TRNPK., ROWLEY	978-948-8189
MAIN ST. ANIMAL HOSPITAL	839 SOUTH MAIN ST., BRADFORD	978-373-6460
MERRIMAC VALLEY ANIMAL HOSPITAL	26 HAVERHILL RD.(RTE.110) AMESBURY	978-388-3074
*NEWBURY ANIMAL HOSPITAL	96 HANOVER ST., NEWBURY	978-465-2777
RIVERSIDE VETERINARY CLINIC	764 RIVERSIDE DR., HAVERHILL	978-373-6456

Those with a * have 24-hour emergency care.

Foster Coordinator: fostercoordinator@armv.org

Adoption Coordinator: adoptioncoordinator@armv.org

EMERGENCY PHONE #

Checklist for Foster Homes

Your Duties	ARMV Duties
1. Initial paperwork—complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer Information Form • Adoption Application • Waiver of Liability 	1. Approve all cats/kittens that become ARMV fosters.
2. Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House foster kitties separately from resident pets. • House separate litters in separate rooms. 	2. Maintain custody of all cats/kittens in foster care.
3. Supplies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain supplies from Foster Home Coordinator. 	3. Supplies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide basic supplies (food, litter, bedding carriers, toys, etc.)
4. Veterinary and Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make appointments for veterinary services through the Foster Home Coordinator. • Keep a detailed health record. • Update kitty's health record after each vet visit. Update our Adoption record by leaving info on answering machine or by email or by speaking with Adoption Coordinator. • Call as soon as you notice with health concerns. Do not wait. • Seek emergency care if kitty is in grave danger or distress. 	4. Veterinary and Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay for all veterinarian services (spay/neuter, shots, etc.) • Start health record. • Update adoption center health record with information from foster home.
5. Treatment schedule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately: general health check or physical. • Approximately 6 weeks: routine worming (2 follow-up wormings done at 10 day intervals). • 9 weeks: FeLV/FIV (combo) test, spay/neuter, first distemper vaccine. • 12 weeks: second distemper (booster) and rabies vaccine. 	5. Treatment Schedule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule all Vet visits.
6. Photos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact ARMV volunteer photographer to take photos of foster kitties or photograph yourself. • Provide description of kitty (sex, fur length, temperament, etc.) 	6. Photos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide volunteer photographers. • Post photos on ARMV Web site, Pets 911 and Petfinder.com.
7. Adoptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact adoption center with questions about potential adopters. • Notify adoption center if you place a kitty on hold. 	7. Adoptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process all adoptions. • Refer potential applications to foster home directly, unless other arrangements are made.