

Adoption Process, From Foster to Forever Home

If your animal is healthy, behaviorally assessed, and at least 2 months of age, they can become available for adoption even if they are still waiting on a medical procedure. This can happen within a few days of them being in your foster home!

Building an Adoption Profile

The first step to getting your foster adopted is building their adoption profile! To do this you'll need pictures, pictures, and more pictures! Gathering photos and "About Me" information for your foster pets is both fun and extremely important in helping your pet find their loving forever home. The combination of quality photos and creative bios are essential to creating an appealing online profile, which in turn will encourage adopters to apply to adopt your foster pet! Nearly everything you send us will eventually be visible on their profile on our website, so the more you give us to work with, the better! Building a great profile for your foster pet could look like one of the examples at the end of this manual. Plus, it is part of your foster agreement to help build this profile.

<p>Photography Provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Increased Adoptions● Increased Engagement● Increased Awareness	<p>A Good Photo:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Is in focus● Uncomplicated, uncluttered● At the animal's level, ideally with the pet looking straight at you● Well lit● Dark fur? Use light background
---	---

Writing a bio: A good story can be an invaluable tool for emotional connection. Stories can bring aspects of a pet's personality or their history in vivid detail. Qualities that potential adopters might be looking for, such as great social skills with other pets, or having an easygoing or affectionate personality, are often illustrated in any number of small actions that a pet performs every day. Tell us all about what makes your foster pet special and what you love about them! If the content is funny or sweet and relatable--even better! When your foster pet does something positive that affects you emotionally, make a note of it so we can share that with adopters!

Take Multiple Photos: Some fosters tell us, "I am an awful photographer", but no one takes the perfect selfie on the first try! Take lots of rapid-fire photos all at once and odds are you'll snap something you can work with! Whether you're an ace photographer or not, taking multiple photos increases the chances of getting

something really great, and helps show off your adorable foster pet to potential adopters!

Use Photos to Showcase Personality: We want potential adopters to get a feel for our foster pet's personalities, so use photos in a way that does just that! Take photos that capture different aspects of your pet's personality. When viewed together, adopters get a much more accurate picture of who they are, and what makes your foster pet unique and loveable!

The Adoption Process from Home

Once they are cleared to go up for adoption, your foster pet will be made available in our adoption system, which makes them viewable on the HSWM website. **Since adopters can't view your pets by visiting our shelter, it is ESSENTIAL that we make them an appealing online bio, since it is their only way to get to know them!** This is why it is so important to help the Foster Coordinator build their profile with pictures, bios, and descriptions! These details will become visible on the website for interested adopters to see, along with their gender, age, sex. If they are interested in adopting the animal, they can put in an application for them directly from their online profile.

Once an application has been approved, our Adoptions Department will reach out to both you and the potential adopter to coordinate a meeting. Once an agreed date and time is coordinated, the meeting is set with you and the animal(s), the potential adopter, and the Adoptions Department typically via Zoom. Here, the adopter can meet the animal and ask any questions they may have about your foster pet. At this point, as the foster, you will know more about their personality than anyone!

If they decide to go through with the adoption, a transfer of care is then coordinated at the shelter. Transfer of cares can not happen anywhere but the shelter unless otherwise approved by a HSWM staff member. Once that date and time is set, all that's left is to wait for that date to arrive! Once that day comes, you will show up at the designated time and place with your adopted foster pet(s). You can either help facilitate the transfer and meet the adopter with a customer service member, or you can simply drop off the animal to the customer service team, and they can handle the transfer from there. If all your fosters have been adopted, your foster supplies can be brought back to us and be dropped off outside the foster doors at this time as well. Please feel free to send any favorite toys, blankets, or beds home with your animals!

And you are officially done! Congratulations, you have gotten one more animal to their forever home!