

## Adult Cat Fostering Information

Thank you for opening your home and your heart to a shelter pet in need! Here are some important ways that you can help your foster cat stay safe while in foster care:

1. Prepare a safe and comforting space for your foster cat. Remove any possible hazards such as cords, plants, open garbage cans, etc. Add plenty of “nap nooks”, toys, soft bedding, and calming elements.
2. Adult cats may take 1 week, at minimum, to adjust to a new environment. Hiding options should be provided. Allow cats to interact on their own terms, when they are ready.
3. Add calming elements to their space. These items include: Feliway, Relax My Cat Music or classical music, comforts of home, decreased noise level, natural sunlight, reading aloud to them at their level.
4. Keep your foster cat separate from your personal animal companions. Quarantine period is 10 days, at minimum.
5. Ensure that your animal companions are up to date on their vaccines and flea prevention. This will protect your pets from any exposure to illness or parasites from your foster pet. Cats who may have been exposed to parasites or illness may not begin to show symptoms until 10-12 days after exposure.
6. Understand that they may not want to socialize right away. Patience will be needed.
7. Foster cats cannot go outdoors.
8. Provide scratching options for your foster cat. HSWM will provide a scratching option when able. All cats need to be able to scratch for comfort, release stress, release frustration, grooming, play, and communication.
9. Do not bathe your foster cat.
10. Provide fresh food daily.
11. Scoop the litter box at least 1 time per day. Ensure easy access to the litter box at all times.
12. Read over your Emergency Protocol and understand steps to take in the event of an emergency or urgent matter.
14. Feed only the “diet appropriate” food, given by HSWM.
15. Commit to assisting in their adoption by providing photos and bio information throughout the foster pet’s time with you.
16. Please read through your Feline Fostering Manual.
17. Please go through our Feline Foster Orientation.
18. Enjoy much laughter and many smiles!

**HSWM Foster Facebook Group:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HSWMFoster/>

**Foster Coordinator:** Lindsey Frontjes - [lfrontjes@hswestmi.org](mailto:lfrontjes@hswestmi.org)

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