

FOSTER PROGRAM



What kinds of fosters are needed?

All kinds! We have needs for fosters for mice, kittens, cats, puppies, dogs, rabbits, and so much more.

Whether a few days or months of time, all animals need a break from the stress of a shelter environment. Whether you have a busy, city, condo or a quiet, rural home, we will help find a foster animal that will suit your environment and help them de-stress.



HSWM

3077 Wilson Dr. NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49534

hswestmi.org/foster
616.453.8900



HUMANE SOCIETY
OF WEST MICHIGAN

Become a Foster



Marty
Adopted from
HSWM

Why foster?

ADVOCATE

You get to share all about your furry friends!

Talk them up to potential adopters, share those cute pictures you will capture, and at the same time, help us learn about them to find them the perfect permanent home.

LIFE-SAVING

You can help save lives!

Fostering provides special care to pets who need it, and creates space in the shelter for us to take in more animals in need.

Betelgeuse is one example of an animal whose life was changed by fostering. Betelgeuse came to us dying — extremely dehydrated, emaciated, unable to eat, a severe ear infection causing a head tilt and matted fur. After some needed medical attention, he went into foster to continue to monitor his ear infection, his ability to eat, and help him gain weight through extra care we weren't able to provide at the shelter. His foster ended up adopting him once he was medically clear and he's an absolutely gorgeous long-haired and healthy cat now. Without the love and care of his foster, he may have never recovered.

TEMPORARY

Fostering is a temporary commitment that you can start and stop on your time!

Whether you want to adopt but can't right now, or just want an animal companion without the commitment, fostering is a great option.

ALL SUPPLIES PROVIDED

Our favorite word – FREE!

We provide all supplies and medical care needed for your fostering experience. You just need to give them a place to stay, your time, and your love, care, and compassion.



DATA ON FOSTERING NATIONALLY

Fostering is growing! The number of active foster caregivers has increased 108% from 2018 to 2020.

Animals benefit dramatically from foster care. In a nationwide study, dogs in foster care for just one week were more playful, happier, friendlier, and more confident than dogs in the shelter. Shelters use foster care to improve animal welfare because it has a significant impact on behavior and well-being.

“EVERY OUNCE OF WORK YOU PUT INTO THESE GUYS IS REPAID 100-FOLD IN LOVE AND AFFECTION, AND KNOWING THAT WITHOUT A COUPLE OF WEEKS WITH YOU, THESE GUYS MIGHT NOT MAKE IT. A COUPLE OF CRAZY WEEKS MEANS LIFE FOR THESE GUYS. IT MEANS A FUTURE AND A HOME AND A CHANCE TO BE AN AMAZING KITTEN.”

– JJ BaBelle on bottle baby foster kittens

“WHEN YOU FOSTER AN ANIMAL, YOU ARE GIVING THEM THAT AWESOME CHANCE, TO LEARN HOW TO BE A CAT OR DOG OR BUNNY OR GUINEA PIG OR MOUSE, AND THEN WHEN THEY MOVE ON TO THEIR HOME THEY HAVE THAT HEAD START. IF THEY ARE IN FOSTER, IT'S BECAUSE THEY NEED SOMETHING. THEY NEED SOMETHING MORE THAN THEY CAN GET IN A SHELTER. BY BEING IN FOSTER, WE GIVE THEM THAT HEAD START.”

– Kelly Jackson on her 90th foster kitten