



FOSTER CARE REFERENCE MANUAL

Quick Reference Phone Numbers for Foster Animal Emergencies:

Daytime (M-F 9am-6pm, Sat 9am-4pm, Sun 12pm-4pm)

(262)-542-8851, Ext 0

After-hours

(262)-993-9811

Thank you for participating in the Foster Care Program at the Humane Animal Welfare Society. Fostering is a great way to contribute to HAWS. Fostering provides recovering or under age animals with temporary housing and individualized attention. Fostering is rewarding for both you and the animals you care for.

This manual is guide to provide you with information about caring for your fostered animals, and will help to clarify any questions or concerns you may have. If you have additional questions or concerns please use the contact list below.

HUMANE ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY FOSTER CARE CONTACT LIST:

262-542-8851 (dial 0 if you need to speak with a kennel lead)

Sara Stoss (Volunteer Coordinator)

Volunteer@hawspets.org

Ext. 120

Kelly Rohda (Shelter Manager)

Kelly@hawspets.org

Ext.113

Kim Kalczynski (Kennel Lead)

kimk@hawspets.org

Ext.104

Jaime Merkel (Kennel Lead)

Jaime@hawspets.org

Ext. 203

Alysha Hansen (Kennel Lead)

Alysha@hawspets.org

Leann Boucha (Behavior Dept./Trainer)

Leann@hawspets.org

Ext. 204

Any after hours EMERGENCIES please contact the HAWS night time pick up person @ 262-993-9811.

Preparing For Your Foster Animal

Before you bring home your foster animal you want to prepare an area that the animal will be kept in. If you have other animals you need to provide a separate area for the foster animal. This is for the safety of your pet as well as the foster pet. Animals are evaluated by the kennel staff upon arrival to HAWS but they may be harboring an illness that could be contagious to your own animals. You will want to “baby proof” the room by removing any valuable items that may get damaged or broken and by removing anything that may pose a threat to the Foster Animal such as plants and tempting electrical cords.

You will need to be able to provide transportation to and from HAWS. If an emergency were to occur you need to be able to transport the animal to HAWS on short notice.

Foster animals require time. Make sure to have the time to give to the animals needs.

HAWS will provide you with food, litter, crate, bedding, and/or any medication needed. When you pick up your foster animal HAWS staff will provide you with specific instructions for your animal and you may address and questions you may have.

“BOTTLE BABIES”

Bottle Babies require the most time and commitment of all foster animals. Animals under the age 4 weeks old are considered “bottle babies” and are dependant on their caregiver for all their needs.

Bottle Babies should be kept in a small crate away from any drafts. You should always have clean bedding in side for warmth and comfort. This means changing the bedding often, which may leave you with extra laundry. Some people find using a stuffed animal is helpful for little ones to cuddle up to. Babies under the age 3 weeks are unable to regulate their temperature. You will need to provide some sort of warmth for them. A hot water bottle covered with a towel works well, you may also use a heating pad on the lowest setting **UNDERNETH** the carrier and only under half so the babies can remove itself from the heat if needed. You need to be careful with heating pads as it is possible to burn little ones if it gets too hot. Babies should feel warm to the touch not hot.

Bottles babies are fed formula (KMR kitten milk replacer or Esbilac puppy formula). Be sure to follow the mixing and storage instructions in the container carefully. Once a can is opened it should be stored in the refrigerator. Reconstituted formula must be kept refrigerated for up to 24 hours. Depending on age babies could need to be fed every 2-6 hours, HAWS staff will instruct you to the specific need of your foster animal. Formula should be warm or at room temperature when feeding, be sure to test the temperature on your wrist before feeding to a baby. It is recommended that the any reconstituted formula be reheated by placing the bottle on a cup of warm water. Microwave heating causes loss of nutrients in formula and is not recommended. The nipple of the bottle should have a small hole or cross cut with a scissor. The nipple

opening should be only large enough for milk to drip out when held upside down and gently squeezed. Milk should not stream out. This is important so that the baby does not aspirate the formula. Bubbles of milk coming from the nose would indicate that a baby is aspirating and you will need to adjust the nipple size.

Bottle babies also need to be stimulated in order to urinate or defecate. To do this you will need to gently rub the kitten or puppy genital area with damp toilet paper or a soft type paper product. It is not uncommon for a kitten to not defecate immediately, it may take some time.

Kitten's instinctive need to suckle may cause the kitten to suckle its litter mates ears, tail or genitals, causing irritations to develop. If you notice any irritation you may need to separate the kittens, as genital suckling can cause permanent damage to kittens.

Around the age of four weeks is a good time to introduce kittens to the litter box. If the kitten is having overnight bowel movements without stimulation it is a sign that the kitten is ready for the litter box. Four weeks is also a good time to begin the weaning process. This can take some time and work. You will need to experiment a bit with what the kitten likes, all have different tastes. You can start by offering KMR in a dish; you can thicken it with baby rice for more consistency. You may try canned food alone or mixed with KMR, moisten dry food or any other combinations that work. You will also want to provide water (dish shallow enough that they don't take a swim) and dry food. It is unlikely that they will eat the dry food right away but it gets them to experiment with it.

Puppies are a bit easier but the methods are the same. You need to stimulate them to potty, but they will begin on their own quickly. You will also want to get them to potty on paper, potty pads or outside. They need to go often so be prepared!

PREGNANT ANIMALS

Fostering pregnant animals can be a lot of fun, you get all the enjoyment and mom does most of the work. In order to foster a pregnant animal you must have a spare room, as Mothers can be very protective. You want to make sure the space you have for them is quite , comfortable and baby proofed. You will want to provide the mom with a box with towels to give birth. They like to hide and have privacy when giving birth. Most times babies are born in the middle of the night. **IF THE MOTHER SEEMS TO BE HAVING PROBLEMS WITH LABOR CONTACT HAWS.** Once the babies are born contact HAWS to report how many babies and their condition. Use caution when dealing with mothers as their behavior can change quickly. Mother cats and dogs should be fed kitten or puppy food. If the mom doesn't seem to be doing a good job nursing, **CONTACT HAWS.** You may need to supplement with a bottle.

MOMS WITH LITTERS

Bringing home a mom with her litter can be a lot of fun but remember to be patient. Once mom is in your home, let her explore her new surroundings and become comfortable at her own pace. Don't get too involved with her babies until a few days have gone by and she is comfortable with you and trusts you. Sit in the room where she and her babies are and let her come to you, look for signs that she is okay with you going

near or handling her babies. Signs that she is **NOT** comfortable would be things like her hovering over her babies, growling, not leaving them, being very still, staring, etc. Make sure mom has a large enough bed and plenty of food and water at all times. Keep a close eye on the area to make sure the babies are out of harm's way. Even though their eyes may not yet be open, they can be very mobile and get themselves into trouble.

Be sure to keep an eye on mom and her nursing habits. Make sure all babies are being fed and mom is doing her job. If you notice that one is not nursing, place the baby by one of mom's nipples and see what happens. If the baby does not nurse, contact HAWS immediately, mom may need some help and a bottle may be necessary. Mothers will take care of keeping their babies clean so you don't need to worry about "pottying" the babies or giving baths until they are older. If you have a canine mom, watch her carefully when taken outside to potty. Mothers' are most fertile at this time and can get pregnant quick! Make sure to give mom regular breaks from her babies. Let her out to stretch, spend time with her by petting, walking, etc, but be sure to return her quickly so she can provide for her young.

Babies can nurse up to 8 weeks of age which is okay but you want to begin a weaning process between 4 and 5 weeks which is when they will start to play and explore. See the feeding guidelines below. This is when you will probably have the most fun and don't be afraid to engage with the babies. Socializing at this age is extremely important and the more contact the babies have with people the better. They will learn their boundaries through mom and their littermates but they also need you for human contact. Don't be afraid to hold them, play with them, talk to them, cuddle them, etc. Make sure to keep them away from other animals because they have not yet been vaccinated and you don't want to expose them to illness or disease.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Kittens:

- 5-8days – ear canals will open
- 8-14 days – eyes will begin to open
- 16-18 days – ears will start to stand up, milk teeth appear
- 18-20 days – start to waddle/crawl
- 21 days – able to stand, starting to play, teeth start coming in
- 21-28 days – see clearly, start cleaning themselves
- 35-49 days – walking, playing, eating, cleaning on their own

Puppies:

- 7-14 days – eyes begin to open
- 14-21 days – ears begin to open
- 21-28 days – milk teeth appear, able to waddles/walk, able to smell
- 28-35 days – may start barking, wagging tail, growling
- 35-49 days – learn social ranking, play, eat on their own

FEEDING/WEANING GUIDELINES

(without mom present)

Bottle Babies (1-2 weeks old)

- KMR for kittens, Esbilac for puppies **READ INSTRUCTIONS ON CAN**
- 1 part formula to 2 parts water (open cans must be refrigerated), must be at least room temperature **NOTE:** heat formula/bottle by placing it in a hot cup or pan of water, do **NOT** microwave bottle-this will cause nutrient loss in the formula and may cause health problems to the kitten/puppy
- If the nipple does not have an opening, make one with a hot needle or scissors. Do not make the opening too big! We don't want the baby to aspirate or breathe in the formula. **HINT:** hold the bottle upside down and gently squeeze, only a few drops should come out-**NOT** a stream!
- If you notice the baby aspirating (bubbles coming out of their nose) add a little more powder to the formula to increase thickness or get a new nipple and the opening smaller
- Position the baby as they would feed on a mom laying on their stomachs
- Help them by gently holding their head and placing the nipple in their mouth (you may need to encourage them by squeezing a little formula into their mouth)
- **DO NOT** hold the baby on their back or upright like humans-this could cause choking and /or aspirating
- If the baby refuses to eat for 2 consecutive feedings or you are having difficulties, call HAWS as soon as you can.

Week 1-(bottle size differs with kittens and puppies every 2-4 hours)

Kittens: ½ to 1 tsp. per feeding (roughly 5mls) or 1/8 of a bottle

Puppies: ½ ounce per feeding (roughly 15mls) or ¼ of the bottle

Remember that newborns eat less more often

Week 2-

Kittens: 1-2 tsp. per feeding (roughly 10mls) or ¼ of the bottle

Puppies: 1 ounce per feeding (roughly 30mls) or ½ of the bottle

Give more or less depending on breed

Bottle Babies (3-4 weeks old)

- Continue with formula
- Start introducing canned wet food by placing a little in the bottle with the formula and also in a dish for them to lap up. You can also put a little mix of formula and wet food on your finger and put it in their mouth (it can take a few days for the baby to take to this new food so do not be alarmed if they don't seem interested right away)

- You may also mix Rice Cereal with a little formula and then try regular canned food
- Once they start taking the wet food/formula mix from a dish, also introduce dry food
- Gradually reduce formula all together
- Make sure to have dry food, water and some wet food available at all times
- REMEMBER: this is very new to their digestive system so go slowly and be prepared for many bowel movements!

Week 3-

Kittens: 2-3 tsp. of formula (15ml or ½ pounce) roughly ¾ of a bottle

Puppies: roughly ¾ to a full bottle

Week 4-

Kittens: Close to a full bottle, with introduction of wet food

Puppies: full bottle, with introduction of wet food

Use canned wet food or dry food moistened with warm water

Kittens/Puppies (4-6 weeks old)

- By the end of 6 weeks, kittens/puppies should be eating solid, dry food but do not panic if they aren't
- Weaning takes time so be patient, the introduction of dry food can take a few days to a few weeks depending on the animal
- Gradually introduce dry food by placing a few pieces of "kibble" in a soft mix of canned kitten/puppy food and/or formula or Rice Cereal
- Make sure to do a lot of "hands on" attention while the kittens/puppies are eating during this time, this will help reduce food aggression in the future (touch their bodies, feet, head, etc and remember to praise them for letting you do so)

Kittens/Puppies (6-8 weeks old; physical handling very important)

- Have fun! A couple more weeks and they will be up for adoption!
- Kittens must weigh at least 1.5lbs and be 8 weeks old eating dry food before they can be available for adoption
- Puppies must be at least 8 weeks old
- Continue and focus on socializing, handling, house training, litter box training, etc.
- Think about a date to bring them back to HAWS for adoption
- Call HAWS to set up a return date, spay/neuter date, etc.
- Kittens: you want to make sure there is an open cage for them when you bring them back especially during the summer months

- Puppies: you want to make sure proper housing at the shelter is available

By the age of 4 weeks kittens and puppies are usually eating on their own and are considered to be “self-sufficient.” The most you need to do is make sure they have food and water available and they are in a safe environment. This is a fun time to explore and get into trouble so remember to get anything harmful out of their reach and mouths!

Kittens should remain inside **ALL** the time and puppies should be taken out in your own yard only. It is not a good idea to take them for walks around the neighborhood for their own safety. Remember, they are not vaccinated yet.

RECOVERING ANIMALS

On occasion HAWS may have an animal recovering from surgery or an injury. These animals will recover quicker in a home environment rather than a shelter environment. If you have a recovering animal at home follow the instructions given by the kennel manager precisely. Medications may be provided if necessary with instructions on dosage. Animals won't get better if they don't get their medicine so it is very important to keep them on an administration schedule.

These animals should be kept separate from your pets at homes. If they are recovering from an operation or injury, they need to be kept calm and quiet and you also don't want your pets to contract an illness. Other animals may increase stress levels or encourage play which could be harmful depending on the stage of recovery. If conditions worsen or you have any concerns call HAWS.

BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION/SOCIALIZATION

HAWS takes in over 6,000 animals each year. Many of these animals have behavioral issues to begin and coming into a shelter environment may increase their levels of stress which could actually worsen their behavior. Placing these animals in an experienced foster home will significantly increase their chances of being adopted and finding a forever home. The focus would be to modify unwanted behaviors through extensive socialization and training. These behaviors would include: aggression, nervousness to the point of not eating and hiding, and an overall lack of proper socialization.

Those who take on this responsibility must be extremely dedicated and willing to put in the time and care required. Most often, the animals could be in your care for longer than a month. This kind of foster care is not limited to dogs and puppies but to any animal the shelter staff feels needs extra care. This is an emotional commitment as well as a time commitment. When the animal is ready to go up for adoption, you have to keep in mind how difficult it may be to let them go.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Haws will provide you with all the supplies you will need. When you start to run low, please come in and get some more of what you need. **DO NOT** wait until you are all out! If you are running low on medication, please call and talk with the kennel manager so they know you are coming in for more. Make sure you know how to administer medications before you leave. Some medications are liquid and others are pills. Try to keep your foster animals on the same food/diet. Changing their regular food can lead to constipation and/or diarrhea.

If your foster animal seems to be getting sick, acting other than normal, or was injured call HAWS and speak with the kennel manger as soon as you notice something that may be a concern. It is not uncommon for animals to get an upper respiratory infection shortly after they have been in the shelter especially if they do not have a vaccination history. Things to look for are watery eyes, goopy eyes/nose, sneezing, wheezing, coughing, etc.

During the spring and summer months HAWS is overwhelmed with the intake of motherless litters of kittens which can range from a day old to a couple weeks old. Despite the best care you can give, kittens this young may die due to lack of proper nutrients or illness/birth defects. If this should happen, please bring the deceased to the shelter for proper disposal.

HAWS' has a veterinarian on staff Monday through Friday every week between the hours of 8:00 am and 11:00 am. If you have a medical concern call and let the kennel manager know you will be bringing your foster in for the vet to look at. If you choose to take your foster animal to any vet other than at the shelter, you are responsible for the cost. HAWS will not pay for veterinarian care outside of the building. If you should have an emergency after hours call the on-call staff at 262-993-9811 for advice.

ADOPTION POLICY

Often times foster care givers or friends/family members of the care giver decide they would like to adopt the animal that was in their care. It is policy at HAWS that any person interested in adoption must fill out an adoption application. All requirements must be met; all members in the household must view the animal, a valid driver's license and proof of home ownership or consent from a landlord is necessary. Please let the kennel manager know if you have an interested party for your foster and they will advise you on procedures from there. Almost all animals are spayed or neutered before they are adopted so the SNIP clinic will need notice as well as to set up an appointment for surgery.

DO NOT give away your foster animal to an interested party. This is a serious violation of the foster care program and you will be terminated from any further participation. **DO NOT** arrange adoptions of the animal on your own. This is also a violation of policy. The animal has been in you care however legally, belongs to HAWS and any final decisions regarding an adoption will be determined by staff. If you have any further questions regarding adoption policies and procedures call and speak with an office or kennel manager.

COMMON HEALTH CONDITIONS

It is very important to keep watch of your foster pet each day so you can identify any health risks as soon as possible. The first couple days you have your foster focus on getting to know their behavioral patterns such as eating habits, elimination routines, etc. this way you will notice if something seems out of the ordinary. The following will help you to decipher if a trip to HAWS or a phone call is necessary.

- Change in eating habits (increase or decrease)
- Change in attitude or energy level
- Excessive urination, lack of urination, concentrated urine
- Major changes in stool-bloody or runny
- Nasal/Eye discharge
- Coughing/Sneezing/Wheezing
- Vomiting
- Constant whining/ crying
- Anything out of the ordinary

If you notice any of these in your foster, call the shelter immediately to speak with the kennel manager or veterinarian.

DIARRHEA

Diarrhea is often due to change in food or diet but can also be caused by parasites, bacteria growth, a viral infection or stress. If the animal seems to be alert and playful it is most likely from a change in diet. If the animal is showing signs of discomfort or there is blood in the stool, a fecal needs to be done to determine the problem. Most times a wormer is necessary or even an antibiotic. If this is the case, the kennel manager will give you precise instruction on how to treat the animals' ailment.

Both young animals and adults that have diarrhea may become dehydrated. There are a few things you can do to help but make sure to see medical advice first. For kittens; give Pedialite through a syringe or dish if they are old enough to lad it up, thicken the formula by adding a little more powder or bring them into HAWS for staff to administer subcutaneous fluids. For adults: give chicken and rice based dry food or boil chicken and rice, bring the cat into HAWS for subcutaneous fluids, precisely monitor behavior. If diarrhea is still present 24 hours, call HAWS immediately for assistance.

VOMITING

Vomiting is a common health issue in young fosters. Most often it is due to a change in food but can also be caused by parasites or a viral infection. If you notice your foster animal is vomiting, monitor the frequency and content and then call the shelter for advice. Often cats will throw up hairballs and these are really nothing to be too concerned about. If you notice worms or blood in their vomit, bring the animal in as soon as you can along with a fecal sample. Medications may have to be given to eliminate internal parasites.

Vomiting can lead to dehydration quickly. Fluids may need to be given by a HAWS staff member from time to time. While your foster is at your home, make sure they have an adequate supply of water at all times. (If you have a puppy in your care and notice consistent vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, and rapid weight loss, call haws **IMMEDIATELY**. Parvovirus can be fatal and action must be taken quickly.) Canned pumpkin or plain yogurt may be mixed in with their food to help as well.

INTERNAL PARASITES

All animals over the age of 4 weeks are given dewormer when they come into the shelter. Kittens and puppies need to be dewormed multiple times. If you notice that something that resembles rice or spaghetti in their stool or vomit, they probably need another dewormer. Call the shelter and let someone know you will be coming in and bring a stool sample with so staff can identify the parasite.

Coccidia is a common protozoal parasite that cause vomiting, diarrhea and what would appear to be laziness. This is common in both kittens and puppies and can take some time to treat but is not life threatening if quickly treated. Always make sure to wash your hands thoroughly after cleaning the litter box or scooping poop. Coccidia can be transmitted to other animals and even humans so cleanliness is extremely important.

EXTERNAL PARASITES

Common external parasites would include: fleas, ticks, lice, and ear mites all of which are easily treated but if left untreated, they can cause severe medical problems. If you are asked to foster an animal with any of these, you will be told how to properly treat the animal and how to keep yourself and other animals in your house safe.

Fleas and ear mites are seen most often followed by ticks which are typically seasonal during the spring and summer months. Your foster animal will have been given primary treatment for whichever ailment they have. You **MUST** keep your foster animal away from any other pets in your home. An easy way to test or do a "flea check" is to wet a white piece of paper and scratch their fur onto the paper. If you see dark brown spots that are bleeding through the water that is flea dirt or the fleas' fecal matter and the animal needs another flea treatment. You can also spread the fur and look for flea dirt which would look like a dark gritty substance. Make sure to wash their bedding on a regular basis.

Ear mites need multiple applications of medicine before they are gone. If your foster has ear mites, they will have been given an initial treatment but will need more. This is something you can do in your home or bring them in for future treatment. Ear mites are most often seen in cats and kittens. The inside of the ear will appear to be very gritty and dark in color. This would be the fecal matter of the ear mites that burrow into the ear canal. This fecal matter needs to be cleaned out with a cotton ball or very carefully with a q-tip. If this is something you are comfortable doing, a kennel manager will show you how before you take your foster home. Never do anything you are uncomfortable doing.

Ticks can carry disease so it is very important to check your foster on a regular basis especially if your foster is a dog or puppy. Tick season is typically from spring

through late fall or when the ground thaws until the first frost around November. Check the coat of your animal focusing around the head, ears, tails and armpits. If you feel a small bump it may be a tick. Carefully remove the tick by dabbing the area with a cotton ball and rubbing alcohol. This will irritate the tick and you will be able to grab it off. The longer the tick has been feeding on the animal the larger it becomes. Try to remove the entire tick-body and head and flush it down the toilet. If you cannot get or are not sure if you got the head, don't panic. The animal's body will naturally push the head out. You can also use tweezers or anything else to safely remove the tick from the body. You must also call the shelter and bring the animal in so it can receive a treatment for ticks.

Lice aren't as common but are still a concern. Lice looks very similar to dandruff but sticks to the fur, it is very rare that an animal with lice would be placed into foster care until it has been fully treated. If you notice something like this on your foster call the shelter immediately so they can be looked at.

UPPER RESPIRATORY INFECTION

Most cats and kittens need to be fostered because they have URI or an Upper Respiratory Infection. This can be detected by nasal and eye discharge, sneezing, coughing, open mouth breathing, etc. URI is like a common cold or flu to humans. Medication and instructions will be given to you when you pick up your foster. Fluids are often necessary in which you will need to bring your foster into HAWS or administer them yourself at home. Medication may be a pill or liquid which the kennel manager will show you how to administer. Using heating pads often helps especially with young kittens who may be alone.

Usually medication is administered for 10 days but a lot of times it takes longer. If you start to run low on medication and notice that your foster is not 100%, call the shelter immediately and come get some more. If your foster does not seem to be responding to the medication, a switch in antibiotics needs to be made. Animals CANNOT be placed up for adoption with any signs of illness what so ever. When you bring them back, a kennel manager will determine if they are well enough. If not, you will be asked to take them home for another round of medication. On occasion by no fault of anyone, foster animals may die due to their illness. This is typically seen in kittens that range from newborns to 4 weeks. If this should happen, please call a shelter manager and bring the body in. Young kittens who are away from their mother do not receive the nutrient and antibodies they would normally get. The best we can offer these ones are substitutions and dedicated foster homes.

CANINE COUGH

Canine cough is an upper respiratory infection in dogs. It closely resembles the common cold in humans. Almost all dogs that contact the canine cough are treated at the shelter. Only under an extreme circumstance will a dog be placed in foster care for treatment of canine cough.

Canine cough is rarely fatal but recovery and length of treatment is less if caught early. If you do have a foster dog or puppy at home, signs of canine cough include the following: greenish discharge from the nose, coughing/hacking, sneezing, lethargy, decrease in appetite, etc. Contact the shelter immediately so the dog/puppy can be looked

at and proper medication can be given. You will receive instruction on how to properly administer the medication.

ANIMAL TO ANIMAL DISEASE TRANSMISSION

The following diseases are easily transmitted from animal to animal. To prevent transmission, keep your pets separate from your foster and if you have more than one foster keep them separate as well.

Feline Leukemia: Highly contagious and can be spread through saliva, nasal secretion, feces, urine and milk. Cats that test positive will not be placed into foster care. (Cats to Cats)

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV): Can be transmitted through bite wounds and occasionally through an infected mother's milk. Cats that test positive will not be placed in foster care. (Cats to Cats)

Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)-Cats: Highly contagious. Keep all cats away from foster cat/kitten that has URI. (Cats to Cats)

Canine Cough: Highly contagious. Vaccinations will help protect against canine cough. Keep all other dogs/puppies away from foster dog that has canine cough. (Dogs to Dogs)

Rabies: Can be fatal, vaccinations are required and help protect against the virus. Rabies is transmitted through bite wounds. On the rare occasion an animal should have the rabies virus, they will be euthanized. (Any Animal)

Internal/External Parasites: Highly contagious but easily treated. Animals placed in foster care with parasites will have treatments sent with them. Keep all other animals separate from the foster. (Fleas, Ear Mites, Lice, Worms, Coccidia, Etc. (Any Animal)

Ringworm: Highly contagious fungal infection. Animals with ring worm would normally not be placed into foster care unless there is an extreme situation. (Any Animal)

Saroptic Mange: Contagious. Animals with any form of mange would typically not be placed in foster care unless there is an extreme situation. (Any Animal)

Demodectic Mange (Demodex): Not contagious. Some animals may have a reaction to Demodex which may require treatment. Most often the animal will be treated at the shelter unless there is an extreme circumstance where foster care is necessary.

ZOONOTIC DISEASES

Zoonotic diseases are diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans. It is not likely that animals with some of the following would be placed into foster care. As foster care givers you need to be aware of the following and make sure you are handling your foster care animal properly for your safety and for theirs

Internal Parasites: Almost all internal parasites are passed through fecal matter. After handling fecal matter of a foster that has or had internal parasites (scooping litter boxes, cleaning up after dogs, getting a sample for a fecal test, etc.) make sure to wash your hands thoroughly. **KEEP SMALL CHILDREN AWAY FROM LITTER BOX AND FECAL MATTER OUTSIDE.** Animals with internal parasites will have been given an initial treatment before going into a foster home but may require more.

Toxoplasmosis: Transmitted through handling of feline fecal matter. Anywhere cats may have been, make sure to wash thoroughly immediately after (litter boxes, gardens, sandboxes, etc.) HAWS does not test for this disease.

Ringworm: Highly contagious to humans through handling and contact with an animal that has it. Small, circular, itchy spots will sporadically appear on the skin. Treatment is fairly simple but can also take quite a long time. Animals with ringworm are very rarely placed in foster care.

External Parasites: Not likely but can be transmitted to humans in close proximity. Changing clothes and washing hands after handling an animal with external parasites is necessary to protect yourself and any other animal in your home. Animals will be given initial treatments before going into foster care and may require more. (Fleas and Lice and the most common)

Sarcoptic Mange: Can be contagious to humans after handling an infected animal. Not to be confused with Demodectic Mange (Demodex) which is not contagious. Always wear gloves and change clothes after handling an animal with Sarcoptic Mange. Animals with this disease will not be placed in foster care unless there is an extreme circumstance.

Rabies: Transmitted through bite wounds. If you are ever bitten by any animal and the bite breaks the skin, immediately wash with soap and warm water and call your physician. Rabies can be fatal in humans. An animal that may have rabies will not be placed into foster care.

The chance of contracting any of these diseases from a foster animal is highly unlikely if you take proper precautions. Always wash your hands and clothes after handling your foster if they have any of the above

Thank you for being part of our Foster Care Program at HAWS. All your effort and dedication to the animals is greatly appreciated. The care you are providing will help them to find their forever homes. The individualized attention, medical treatment and socialization are just a few components of what you are doing to help these animals and give them a second chance at having a future.

HAWS HOURS OF OPERATION

**Monday – Friday
9:00am – 6:00pm**

**Saturday
9:00am – 4:00pm**

**Sunday
12:00 – 4:00 pm**

**Kennel Staff
7:00 am**

ON STAFF VETERINARIAN

Please go thru kennel lead before contacting SNIP

**Monday – Friday
7:00am – 11:00am
Call for appointment**

262-542-8851x109