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Fostering With with Maria Meows: Supports & Guidelines

Emergency Contact Information

In case of emergency, call Maria Powers at 908-327-7444 24/7 anytime. Keep calling until she answers.

In a life-threatening medical emergency, if you call Maria and she doesn't answer, immediately take the cat to Kenilworth Animal Hospital, 741 Boulevard, Kenilworth, NJ 07033, (908) 245-8776.

Resources

Start on the Right Paw - Bringing Your Cat Home: [Start on the Right Paw Flyer.pdf](#)
It Doesn't Happen Overnight - Let Your Cat Adjust: [It Doesn't Happen Overnight Print.pdf](#)

Initial quarantine/Isolation

All cats and kittens (called cats for this document) will require an initial period of quarantine, either in a bedroom, bathroom, or office, depending on the individual cat's needs. This is both for socializing purposes, allowing the cat to decompress and settle in, and so as not to spread parasites or viruses with resident cats.

The starter room should have a bed, scratching post, food and water, litter box and a box or something they can hide inside with a bed or blanket inside. The duration of needing to be in a "starter room" will vary from cat to cat, but usually is a minimum of 1 week and will be longer for more shy/feral kittens.

A lot of people think their bathrooms are too small for this purpose, however most of the time, bathrooms are perfect! Do not upgrade your foster cat to more freedom without first checking in with the rescue.

Video Resources

Socializing Kittens

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CokTn0IvcNE/>
https://www.instagram.com/p/CooHY5UNy_k/
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CosLBRWPA0d/>

Introducing New Cats to Each Other

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tsYT7yIOdqQ>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ojS7XwtoXtw>

Introducing New Cats and Dogs to Each Other

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxycddQmRIQ;>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSu5Gi6XBaA>

Veterinary Appointments and Health

If your foster cat becomes lethargic, low energy, vomiting, diarrhea or stops eating, drinking, pooping or peeing for more than 24 hours – or if you feel something is not right or they are regressing or taking a turn for the worse in any way, mentally or physically – call Maria immediately, day or night, at 908-327-7444. Keep calling until she answers.

When a veterinary visit is required, **Maria will direct and coordinate ALL veterinary appointments.** Maria Meows uses specific vets with which the rescue is comfortable. Fosters may not take a Maria Meows foster cat to the vet unless directed by Maria. BUT in a **life-threatening emergency**, if you call Maria and she doesn't answer, you are asked to immediately take them to Kenilworth Animal Hospital, 741 Boulevard, Kenilworth, NJ 07033.

Deworming and or Other Medications

Most of our cats will require some degree of deworming once they arrive in your home. Any needed medications will be provided by the rescue. You may need to give the cat medicine, either orally, or mixed in with their food depending on the cat and the medication, on the agreed upon dates.

It's important that in addition to being in a **separate room** from any resident cat while deworming, you also use a **separate litter scoop** during this time as well, to avoid any cross contamination.

Time Commitment

A **minimum of 45 minutes twice a day** should be spent with the foster cat. This is an active 45 minutes of petting, cuddling and playing. Any longer you can spend with them is great. Especially shy and feral cats and kittens will benefit from this time.

Communication Requirement

When fostering, we require you **check in** with Maria or check in with the organization as a whole on Discord or in email with an update on the cat, along with photos, a minimum of once a week. More frequently the first couple weeks while the cat settles in is appreciated.

Supplies

Maria Meows is able to provide all the basic supplies needed to foster. Items such as food, litter, litter box and litter scooper, and a crate/playpen (if needed) can be provided.

It is your job to let Maria know when you are running low on any supplies, so she can order you more. If you wait until the day you run out of food and litter, you will have to purchase it on your own, and we cannot guarantee reimbursement.

Adoption Support

Providing Photos/Videos/Information

Once your foster cat/kitten is socialized and fully vetted, they can be listed for adoption. We need your support to do that as quickly as possible and to promote adoptable cats on social media, Adopt-A-Pet and Petfinder.

Bio

Please post a bio of all of your fosters on Discord in the #cat-intros channel, including good photos (see below), name, age, location of foster and a 4-6 sentence bio describing their personality. You can find example bios on our Adopt-A-Pet at <https://tinyurl.com/MMAadopt-A-Pet>

Good photos

Good photos are a **must** for getting foster cats adopted. Photos with natural daylight, where the cat is looking up at the camera are best. Photos of the cats being petted, cuddling with humans or other pets, laying on your lap, bed or couch are also great. Soft, colorful backgrounds look good in pictures.

Examples of good photos:

- https://www.petfinder.com/search/pets-for-adoption/?shelter_id%5B0%5D=NY1549&sort%5B0%5D=recently_added
- <https://adoptapetcom.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/4412253170843-Taking-photos-that-get-pets-adopted>

Support Adoption Process

Maria Meows will interview potential adopters, contact references and review applications. If an adopter is approved, we will connect them with you to meet the cat at a “meet-and-greet” in your home.

This is just the first meeting to assess compatibility. Maria Meows will advise whether you are to release a cat from your home. You may not give a cat to anyone without express direction from the rescue.

NOTE: If you have concerns or red flags about any potential adopter, please relay them to us ASAP.

If you or a friend/family member wants to adopt

You or your friends/family are welcome to apply to adopt your foster cat! Friends and family can apply here: tinyurl.com/MMAadopt. Fostering does not guarantee adoption approval, and we reserve the right to deny any adoption application for any reason. The adoption fee per cat will apply.

Thank you!

Thank you for helping cats and kittens decompress from their prior lives of pain and neglect and get ready for their purrfect furrever home!