Thank you for your interest in the Foster Program at GCHS!

At GCHS, we often take in animals needing more individualized care and attention. Through our foster network, we have placed hundreds of animals into the care of compassionate, dedicated foster volunteers. In doing so, we have saved and improved the lives of these sweet, vulnerable dogs, cats, puppies and kittens.

Our Typical Needs:

**Cats/Kittens:**
- Mothers and their litters
- Bottle Baby Kittens (need to be fed every 2-4 hours)
- Weaning Kittens (need to be fed every 4-6 hours)
- Independent Kittens (can be left alone 6-8 hours a day)
- Undersocialized cats/kittens, cats who need a break from shelter life
- Cats/kittens with Upper Respiratory Infections
- Injured/Recovering cats and kittens

**Dogs/Puppies:**
- Mothers and their litters
- Unweaned/orphaned puppies
- Injured/Recovering dogs/puppies

What We Provide:
- An orientation including introductory training to help you feel prepared to bring foster animals into your care.
- All supplies including: litter if needed, milk replacer, bottles, canned food, blankets and bedding, a crate or carrier, dishes if needed
- We do provide medical care such as medications, vaccinations
- 24/7 communication with a staff member to answer any questions you have, including a separate medical emergency phone number

What You Provide:
- A separate space in your home from your other animals.
- We do ask you to bring the animal(s) back in to our facility so we can weigh them, give necessary medications and vaccinations here in an effort to keep costs down. This is typically once every 2-3 weeks, depending on medical needs and length of foster placement
FAQs

Why do you have a foster program at the Green County Humane Society?

At times, GCHS has animals that require more individualized attention than the shelter can provide. By opening up your home to foster animals, you’re not only helping to save lives, you’re providing the individual attention and care these animals desperately need.

What if I have other animals?
We do ask that you keep foster animals separate from your household pets, both for socialization and medical reasons. This helps to provide a calm environment for the animals you are fostering, as well as provide a smoother experience for your own pets.

What do I do in a medical emergency?
We have a dedicated foster emergency phone line you can contact any time night or day. When you take in your foster animals, you will be informed of what constitutes an emergency and what would necessitate calling the foster medical phone. When calling, we will ask details regarding the situation and will guide you toward next steps.

What on earth is “kitten season”?!?
We use that term often here! “Kitten season” refers to that time of year - usually April through October - when nature brings us kittens. We take in dozens of kittens during these months, and try to have foster volunteers already “waiting in the wings” so that we can move these kittens into a warm, loving home as soon as possible after their intakes are completed.

How much care do kittens require?
The amount of care needed for kittens is based on several factors, including age, medical concerns, amount of kittens, etc. We will work with you at your orientation to determine a good placement, based on the needs of the kittens, and also on your availability and comfort level. We don’t want anyone to feel overwhelmed. We want you to enjoy your time with these sweet animals!

Can I adopt my foster animal?
It can be tempting to want to adopt an animal you’ve spent time caring for. Some fosters do choose to adopt. We do encourage foster volunteers to understand the valuable role they play in the adoption process at GCHS, and to keep the end goal in mind when accepting animals into foster care - getting them ready to say goodbye!! Much like pet-sitting, where you know you take care for a limited time, we like our fosters to understand that the goal is to care for a certain period of time in order to have animals adopted out to their forever homes.
Can I find an adopter for my foster animal?
In most cases, we are more than happy for our foster volunteers to promote the animals in their care through sharing photos with us and online (tagging GCHS of course.) We do insist that all adoptions run through GCHS as always, including following our procedures for filling out applications and coming to our facility. When fosters help promote the animals in their care (especially our vulnerable kittens during "kitten season") we find that the process of adoption is much faster and enjoyable, and our animals spend LESS time here at the shelter. It's a win for everyone!!