



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Can foster parents adopt their foster pets?**

Yes! As long as foster parents meet the Tulsa SPCA requirements that are necessary for adopting, foster parents have the first choice to adopt their foster pets, unless otherwise specified.

### **Are foster animals contagious? Will my pets or my health be jeopardized?**

It is always a health risk to expose your animal to other animals, whether at the off-leash areas, the vet waiting room or other common animal areas. If your pets are current on their vaccinations, maintain healthy diets and lifestyles, and are not immune compromised, then the health risk should be minimal.

If someone in your household is immune compromised, consult the doctor before fostering. If you are pregnant (or someone in your house is) or plan to become pregnant, talk to your doctor before fostering cats. You may need to take some special precautions during your pregnancy.

### **Are purchases made for foster care tax-deductible?**

Purchases made for foster care are considered donations to the Tulsa SPCA and are tax-deductible. Keep your receipts. Bring your receipts into the Tulsa SPCA and a staff person will complete a donation form for tax purposes for you.

### **What do I do if my foster animal needs veterinary care?**

If you have an emergency during business hours, please call the Tulsa SPCA. If something happens after hours:

1. Restrain the animal to prevent it from hurting itself or anyone in the area.
2. Evaluate the situation and need for assistance.
  - a. Is the shelter open for business with vet staff available?
    - i. Call the Tulsa SPCA.
    - ii. Get the animal in to see the vet immediately.
  - b. Is the animal's life in imminent danger?  
Is the animal's airway obstructed or is the animal having trouble breathing?  
Does the animal have any broken bones

### **FOLLOWING THESE PROCEDURES IS VERY IMPORTANT!!!!**

If you seek medical treatment for your foster animal anywhere other than the shelter without prior approval, you risk bearing the full cost of the treatment. The Tulsa SPCA **cannot** reimburse you for any veterinary care.

**Emergency clearance can only be given by:**

**Business Hours:**  
**Vet Team: Tulsa SPCA Clinic**  
(918) 428-SPCA (7722)

**After Hours Only:**  
Information will be given at the time of the exit for the foster.  
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

or open wounds?

- i. Call for emergency clearance.
    - ii. Get the animal in to see the vet immediately.
  - c. Is the animal running a fever of 104° F. or greater?
    - i. Call for emergency clearance.
    - ii. Get the animal in to see the vet immediately.
  - d. Look at the animal's gums. Are they white or healthy pink? Is the animal eating or drinking?
  - e. Is the animal able to urinate and defecate? Look at the animal's stool. Is there blood in the feces or urine? Are there obvious parasites present?
3. If the situation is not an emergency, call the Tulsa SPCA vet staff first thing on the next business day.
  4. If emergency medical attention is needed, or if you are uncertain, call for emergency clearance. Have the animal's name, identification number and any information about the situation available so the staff can advise you of the appropriate steps.
  5. Once you are cleared to go to the emergency veterinary clinic, the Tulsa SPCA representative will contact the emergency vet and let them know that you are coming. The medical treatment of the animal will be billed to the Tulsa SPCA.

ALWAYS check with the shelter staff before making an appointment with a veterinary clinic. Without proper clearance, the shelter cannot reimburse you for any medical costs.

All veterinary care is given at the Tulsa SPCA. Should you choose to take your foster animals to your own veterinarian, please be advised that the Tulsa SPCA CANNOT reimburse you for any medical costs. All expenses can be counted as tax deductible charitable donations.

### **Can I name my foster pet?**

Through the holiday foster program, your foster pet may already have a name given by the shelter or his or her previous owners. Please keep the same name! The pet may already know his or her name, all the shelter paperwork will be completed under that name and the animal will be listed on our Web site with that name. We want to avoid any confusion among Tulsa SPCA staff, foster families, potential adopters and the animal. If you choose to adopt your foster pet, you are free to change the name at that point in time.