



Foster Care Program Overview

- Fostering gives Orange County Animal Services' neediest animals a chance to find permanent, loving homes.
- During FY 2007/2008, **more than 700 animals were saved** through Animal Services' Foster Care Program.
- Last year, Animal Services successfully adopted or rescued 99% of fostered animals that returned healthy from foster care!
- Fostering helps to create healthier, better socialized and more adoptable pets.
- Fostering is often the only option for animals that are too young to be adopted, have special needs, or are sick or injured. Foster parents give these animals a chance to be adopted by caring for them in their homes until they are able to enter the adoption program.
- Fostering is a great opportunity for individuals or families who cannot have an animal full time, since it requires only a short-term commitment to help an animal in need. A foster placement can range from a few weeks to a few months, depending on the situation. A typical foster placement is one month.
- All foster parents must complete an application and required training. Shelter staff will discuss the specific needs of foster animal(s) with them. A foster parent's main job is to provide TLC! Often, foster parents also administer medicine to animals in their care.
- Animal Services monitors the health and growth of foster animals via pre-scheduled veterinarian appointments with our Clinic.
- Animal Services provides assistance with basic supplies, such as food, bedding, crates and bowls, when available. Foster parents usually provide litter, toys and most other items themselves.
- Contact Debra Villeda, adoption and foster care coordinator, for more information on how to get started at 407-254-9159 or visit www.ocnetpets.com/foster.

Kitten Season Information *(adapted from the Humane Society of the United States)*

- Kitten season is the time of year when cats give birth, flooding animal shelters with homeless litters. Kitten season usually starts in the Spring, peaks in early Summer, and ends in the Fall. The warm weather during this time of year coincides with female cats' heat cycles.
- Kitten season presents many challenges for animal shelters and the cats in their care. Resources already hard to come by are stretched to their limits as shelters are inundated with homeless cats.
- Fostering kittens helps keep shelter space available for healthy, adoptable cats.

