

Fostering Criteria

Dogs

- No holiday or change in circumstances within 3 months of fostering.
- Fostering to a home where a holiday has been booked within 3 months of the placement, will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- The dog cannot be regularly left unattended for more than 4 hours within a 24-hour period. If the time the dog is left exceeds 4 hours, fosterers will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- We do not foster dogs into situations where the care of the dog will be shared, e.g., where the dog is moved from house to house, or where the fosterer will “drop off” the dog somewhere else. We do not foster in this situation because it becomes very confusing for the dog, and most of the dogs in our care require further training and socialising and need to follow strict behaviour modification plans.
- Dogs cannot go to work with the fosterer.
- Dog flaps will not be accepted as a substitute for a maximum length of time the dog is left alone.
- It is usually unlikely that we will be able to foster a dog to a home which has a pet(s), as many of the dogs we have needing a foster home need additional behavioural support. All dogs are assessed on a case-by-case basis, and although rare, we may at times have a dog suitable to live with other pets. If we are fostering to a family with pets:
 - All dogs within the home must be neutered unless there is a medical/age reason not to do so. A vet’s letter will be accepted.
 - If the fostered dog is not yet neutered, and neither are the dogs in the foster home, this will need to be assessed on a case-by-case basis
 - All dogs must be vaccinated. If fostering to a house where there is an existing dog, the minimum requirement is that one dog, either the current dog or the adoptive dog, is fully vaccinated before any adoption/foster takes place. If not fully vaccinated, dogs can meet after 5 days from the first vaccination.

- As of 6 April 2016, it is a legal requirement for all dogs to be microchipped. (Please see the Microchipping section of our website for how we may be able to help with microchipping.)
- We do not foster dogs in homes with only communal or shared gardens.
- Fostering to homes with communal access to their own garden is dependent on feedback from the home visit.
- Fostering can be allowed in households with children, a good example is puppies. However, it is subject to a suitable match by the Kennel Team. Due to the nature of the dogs that come into our care, the likelihood of our dogs being suitable for homes with children is rare but not impossible.
- We do not foster dogs in homes where someone has a known allergy to dogs.

Cats

- No holiday or change in circumstances within 3 months of fostering.
- Fostering to a home where a holiday has been booked within 3 months of the placement, will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- Fostered cats are not allowed outside and are indoor only.
- All indoor cats must be provided with litter trays (two litter trays per cat) and lots of enrichment.
- A FIV-positive cat cannot be placed with a FIV-negative cat. All RSPCA Suffolk Central Cats are tested for FIV and FELV on intake. FIV-positive cats may only be placed in a foster home as an only cat or with a suitably matched FIV-positive cat.
- Where the fosterer's accommodation is near a busy road or railway, managers may authorise the fostering at their discretion. This is in case the cat escapes.
- If fostering to a house where there is an existing cat, the minimum requirement is that one cat, either the current cat or the fostered cat, is fully vaccinated. In a multi-cat household, all cats must be vaccinated.
- Kittens can be left a maximum of 4 hours at 0-6 months.
- Kittens may be left longer if two kittens are being fostered, or there is a second cat in the home. Management to decide on a case-by-case basis.
- The number of cats per household must be equal to or less than the number of bedrooms in the house. If unsure of the space available in a multi-cat household, management will work on the home visitor's feedback.
- All cats within the home are to be neutered, unless there is a medical/age reason not to do so. A vet's letter will be accepted.

- If the fostered animal is not neutered, the existing cats in the home must be neutered. Especially if of the opposite sex.
- We do not foster cats in homes where someone has a known allergy to cats.