

When you foster a homeless animal, you save two lives: the one you take into your home, and the one who can take the space in the shelter. Many people also find that fostering benefits a third life: their own. Fostering a homeless pet isn't easy, but nothing worthwhile usually is, right? Rescue Ur Forever Friend (RUFF) exists thanks to fosters. If you're thinking of making a difference, consider these benefits:

- **Fostered animals have a better chance of being adopted** and finding a FOREVER family. You're helping the animal adjust to living with a family, following rules, being around other pets. . . all the things a potential adopter will want to know before making a lifelong commitment. Adopters can visualize a potential pet in their home when they see it thriving in one already.
- **Animals in foster homes aren't living in a shelter.** You're giving them a chance to be comfortable and realize their true potential without the stress of a shelter environment. They get comfort and love.
- **You can help many animals over time.** You don't need a farm to save multiple animals. Saying goodbye can be heart-wrenching, but saying hello to the next animal in need helps bring the good feelings back. Over time you take comfort in the joy of having helped save multiple lives, one at a time.
- **You're teaching compassion.** Maybe you're teaching your children, your neighbors, or strangers you meet with the animal - but people see your demonstration of kindness and that can be contagious!
- **Kindness isn't expensive.** Opening your heart and home to a foster animal won't break the bank. RUFF covers nearly all of the essentials, if you'll invest the time and provide the attention.



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*Even if fostering isn't for you,
there are plenty of ways to help.*

You don't have to be a foster to make a difference. A tax deductible contribution to RUFF helps us in our efforts to reduce the homeless population of cats, kittens, dogs, and puppies through medical care, supporting foster expenses, and conducting community outreach. Contributions of supplies like food, toys, bedding, and even newspapers (for potty training) make a difference, too. And, we are always open to new locations and events for fundraisers and adoptions, too.

Whatever way you choose to help, you are investing in the future of many homeless dogs. Through caring citizens like you, we are able to work towards our vision of every homeless dog being placed in a safe, nurturing and loving family. We never want these animals to be homeless again.

Thank you!



Visit www.ncruff.org now to learn more about fostering, donating, or adopting. We are always interested in partnering with the community to enhance the lives of homeless animals everywhere.



**can we
hang out
with you
for a while?**



what to know about fostering with





What is RUFF?

Rescue Ur Forever Friend (RUFF) is an all-volunteer, non-profit rescue dedicated to reducing the homeless population of pets through foster care, medical treatment, and adoption into forever homes. RUFF encourages responsible pet ownership through community outreach and education.

Why do we need rescue groups?

- Approximately 7.6 million companion animals enter animal shelters nationwide every year. Of those, approximately 3.9 million are dogs.
- Each year, approximately 2.7 million animals are euthanized (1.2 million dogs).
- Approximately 2.7 million shelter animals are adopted each year (1.4 million dogs).
- About 649,000 animals who enter shelters as strays are returned to their owners. Of those, 542,000 are dogs.
- Of the dogs entering shelters, approximately 35% are adopted, 31% are euthanized, and 26% of dogs who came in as strays are returned to their owner.
- About twice as many animals enter shelters as strays compared to the number that are relinquished by their owners.

Estimates from www.asPCA.org, August 2016.

questions? answers

? don't have a lot of space or a fenced yard, Can I still foster?

Just like people, different animals require different living arrangements. Many love exploring the great outdoors, while others are content at home with a good book (or bone). While a fenced yard is ideal for some, it's the love and attention of a good foster that makes the most difference. Of course, you'll need to verify if there are any restrictions/rules about pets in your neighborhood or property, and we'll do some checking, too. Our organization will send a volunteer to see your space. We're not worried about how fancy it is, or if all of your dishes are put away! We're looking at safety, suitability, and what type of dog would do best in your home.

What will it cost?

Food and medical costs are covered by RUFF. As a Foster, you may incur the costs of any treats and toys you choose to purchase, as well as costs for transporting your animal(s) to the vet, adoption events, etc. Kindness and patience won't cost you a thing.

Can I choose what animal I want to foster?

We rely on you to help select the pet that will work best in your home - with your space, your family, and any other pets you may have. You will be assigned a Foster Coordinator who will help with approval and the steps necessary to place a foster in your care.

What if I need help or have questions?

RUFF provides guidance, outside training, tips, and other help from professionals and experienced fosters in our organization. We want this to be the best experience possible for you, your family, your personal pets, and the foster animal. It's likely that one of our volunteers has experienced a situation you may be experiencing, and can help, counsel, or provide direction to a professional for assistance.

What if the animals don't get along?

Just like people, sometimes animals won't get along. That's another great thing about fostering: we learn about the animals to help them find a perfect match for their personalities, too. Your foster coordinator and others will provide suggestions for introducing a new animal into your home and to your family. And, if it's not a good fit, we'll be sure to find alternatives so everyone's comfortable and safe.

How long does it take for an animal to be adopted?

The time from rescue to adoption can vary. A very small percentage of our animals are with fosters for more than six months. We help promote all of our animals through adoption events, community activities, and online. A foster family's help with attending events, talking to friends, and taking advantage of pet-friendly social opportunities all help find an animal's forever home.

Are there health risks to my personal pets?

All foster animals receive vet care through RUFF's trusted providers. They're spayed/neutered, current on all vaccinations, receive monthly parasite (flea/tick/heartworm) prevention, and any other treatments necessary for good health. We require proof of the same for any animals in the foster home as well, to ensure the safety is mutual.

