

Fostering FAQs

Why does Ayla's Acres No-Kill Animal Rescue, Inc. (Ayla's Acres) use animal fosters?

A foster home environment enables the animals to learn what to expect in their forever home. Housebreaking, climbing stairs, navigating screens, etc. can be learned while living in a home. Even after Ayla's Acres Animal Resource Center is built and being utilized, we will continue to use fosters.

What qualifications do I need to be an animal foster?

A foster applicant can complete an application at aylasacres.org. We will call your references and your veterinarian. If the applicant has pets, they must be spayed/neutered and must be up to date on vaccines and heartworm medication (if applicable). When these criteria are met, we place the animal in the home that is the best fit for the animal and the foster.

Who pays for a foster animal's food, vet care, supplies, etc.?

Ayla's Acres pays for all expenses covering the foster animal. This includes food, supplies, vet care, etc. If a foster wants to pay the animal's expenses to help Ayla's Acres, we welcome it.

How long is an animal foster commitment?

Ayla's Acres negotiates the commitment with the foster before the animal is put into a foster home. We try limiting the number of transitions for the animal by placing an animal in a foster home that can accept the animal until it's adopted. However, if a foster needs a break, we'll find a new foster home for the animal he/she has been fostering. We ask that the foster allows Ayla's Acres time to make this happen.

I don't think I can foster because I will want to adopt every animal I foster.

We all become attached to animals we foster. You wouldn't be a good foster if you didn't feel some attachment. We take careful steps to make it easier for a foster to let the animal go to a new home. Ayla's Acres checks references, veterinarian records and housing accommodations on anyone who is adopting

an animal from us. We only adopt the animal to a forever home, if we truly believe it is a good fit for the animal. By fostering animals, you are saving lives. When an animal that you have been fostering finds a new home, it opens another opportunity for another animal in need to be fostered. You are also able to adopt animals that you foster.

I already have animals of my own. Can I still be an Ayla's Acres animal foster?

Yes. Your animals must be spayed/neutered and up to date on vaccines and heartworm medication. Ayla's Acres will visit and look at your home environment and the animal needing to be fostered. We do our best to fit the right foster animal into your home.

What happens if I must leave town during the time a foster animal is in my care?

Ayla's Acres will find a house sitter acceptable to you to stay in your home while you are gone.

What happens if Ayla's Acres cannot find a foster family for an animal?

We must have a foster home secured before accepting an animal. If we can't find a foster home, we must decline to bring the animal into our system.

How does Ayla's Acres promote animals that are ready for adoption?

Ayla's Acres promotes animals ready for adoption in several ways. Every animal is posted on our website, the Ayla's Acres Facebook page, Instagram and PetFinder (a national pet adoption registry). Our animals attend adoption events so that people can meet them. The Ayla's Acres Advocate, our quarterly newsletter, promotes animals available for adoption. We also create promotional videos and posters.

I have small children. Can I still foster?

Yes. Ayla's Acres assesses each animal prior to placing it in a foster home. The appropriate animal would be placed into a home with small children.

I have a teenager. Can they earn community service hours by fostering?

Yes, a teenager in a fostering home may perform foster care duties for community service credit. The requirements:

- A parent must do the recordkeeping for the foster care hours the teenager works.
- “Work” may not be just companionship that the teen shares with the animal. Work that counts toward community service: feeding; walking the animal; litter box maintenance or other sanitary cleanup; other tasks directly necessary for the animal's safety and welfare.
- The primary foster person must be 25 years of age or older.

How do I apply to become an animal foster?

Foster applications can be found at aylasacres.org/get_involved. Fill out the application to begin our process.

