



RESCUE FOSTER POLICY & PROCEDURES

POLICY

PURPOSE: The Lac La Biche Regional Humane Society, hereinafter referred to as the LLBRHS, considers the fostering of potentially adoptable animals to be essential to the welfare and proper placement of our rescues and wishes the experience to be enjoyable and free from misunderstandings. The LLBRHS recognizes that fostering a rescued animal in a home environment while awaiting permanent placement, facilitates the ability to better evaluate the animal, both physically and emotionally. A home environment is not only less stressful on an animal than a boarding facility but is also considerably less expensive for the LLBRHS. The additional exposure the animal gets from being treated as "one of the family" allows better evaluation of the individual animals' suitability for permanent placement.

POLICY:

The LLBRHS will strive to foster out animals that meet the following criteria;

- Are in need of transitional housing while awaiting permanent adoption
- Have medical conditions or concerns that can be better met in a foster home;
- Have behavioral concerns (examples; kennel rage, un-socialized, etc.) that can potentially be rehabilitated in a foster home;
- Animals too young to be spayed/neutered;
- Are from within the boundaries of Lac La Biche County, inclusive of Aboriginal reserves & Metis settlements.

Animals will not be fostered out as a means of a trial adoption.

The LLBRHS retains all rights of legal ownership of a fostered animal until it returns to the LLBRHS or is adopted.

PROCEDURES

A. FOSTER HOME APPROVAL:

1. LLBRHS shall take applications for Foster Homes on a continual basis. Applicants will be screened and, if deemed acceptable, kept on file for up to two years. At the end of the two year period, applicants will be contacted to see if they wish to extend (with or without revisions) or withdraw their application.
2. Persons wishing to foster Rescues in their home must complete a Foster Home Profile Application which will then be brought forward to the LLBRHS Board of Directors for approval (APPENDIX A).
3. An approved the Foster Home must complete a Rescue Fostering Agreement (APPENDIX B) each time they assume the care of a new foster animal.
4. An interview with the prospective foster family a further home visit will be conducted by a Rescue Coordinator prior to placement.
5. A Rescue Coordinator will be assigned to an approved Foster Family and will be the first point of contact for them.
6. Foster Families must agree to comply with all federal, provincial and municipal laws, regulations and ordinances applicable to the animal.

7. All Foster Home Applicants must:
 - Be 18 years or older;
 - Show proper identification;
 - Live in the Lac La Biche Region (i.e. within the boundaries of Lac La Biche County, inclusive of Aboriginal reserves & Metis settlements);
 - Be willing to provide a safe, loving and stable environment for the foster animal;
 - Be willing to nurse any injury and/or illness with the understanding that some issues may result in the death of the animal;
 - Be able to transport the foster animal to and from veterinary appointments and adoption events;
 - Complete an interview and/or animal/site visit within 24 hours of a request being made by the assigned Rescue Coordinator;
 - If applicable, provide proof that their landlord allows the type/breed of animal to be housed on site.

8. An applicant may be refused approved foster status if, but not limited to, he/she:
 - Lives outside of the Lac La Biche Region;
 - Request to foster animals not allowed by landlord;
 - Demonstrates or acts in an aggressive or cruel manner towards an animal;
 - Has turned in an owned animal to a shelter;
 - Was convicted, suspected or under investigation for animal cruelty, has left dead animals on property, or has left an animal in a vehicle in extreme weather conditions that caused death to the animal;
 - Has a home environment that is not conducive to fostering an animal;
 - Refuses to adhere to LLBRHS policy/procedures.

B. MEDICAL

1. Dogs & cats shall be vaccinated (excluding Rabies) upon intake by the LLBRHS prior to placement in a Foster Home.
2. Rescue Coordinator will conduct a 2 week evaluation to determine course of action for spay or neuter timelines on dogs and cats
3. The Foster Family will immediately contact their Rescue Coordinator if the foster animal shows any signs of sickness, lethargy, loss of appetite, breathing difficulty, rapid weight loss or gain, diarrhea, vomiting, etc.
4. Determination of veterinary requirements will be made by the Rescue Coordinator. The Foster Family will contact their Rescue Coordinator if they believe the animal requires veterinary attention and the Coordinator shall make any necessary appointments. If the Foster Family takes the foster animal to a veterinarian without LLBRHS approval, the Foster Family shall be responsible for all incurred costs.
5. The LLBRHS is responsible for all veterinary costs that have been approved by the Rescue Coordinator, including costs for spaying or neutering. The LLBRHS may also compensate travel costs for veterinary appointments when use of a livestock trailer is necessitated.
6. The LLBRHS will assume all medical expenses previously authorized by the assigned Rescue Coordinator while the animal is in foster care.
7. Any expenses over \$150 will need LLBRHS Board prior approval for reimbursement.

8. All unauthorized medical expenses will require a receipt submitted to LLBRHS Board of Directors for possible approval and reimbursement.
9. Fosters parents that wish to pay for the Fosters veterinary expenses without being reimbursed shall provide a copy of the treatment the animal received to the shelter for the Society's records. If this is done with the intent to adopt and then the animal is not adopted the expenses will not be reimbursed.

C. ADOPTING A FOSTER ANIMAL

The Foster Family has the opportunity to adopt the animal in their care. If they wish to adopt their foster, they must contact their assigned Rescue Coordinator to begin the adoption process as per the LLBRHS Adoption Policy. LLBRHS will make all final decisions regarding their placement. Any adoption of an animal in foster care MUST go through the LLBRHS adoption process with all applicable and accompanying LLBRHS forms and fees.

D. SHELTER/HOUSING/FOOD

1. The LLBRHS agrees to facilitate alternative care for all animals in foster care in the event that a foster parent needs to return the animal to the shelter for any reason.
2. The Foster Family is responsible for providing shelter as deemed acceptable by the assigned Rescue Coordinator and to attend to the mental well-being of the animal, including proper socialization. Foster families agree to house all small animal fosters indoors. If the fostered animal is outside, the animal must be safely and appropriately confined or kept on a leash. If requested, the LLBRHS agrees to provide food or the cost of food for the Rescue while being fostered.
3. It is expected that the Foster Family care for the animal as if it were their own.
4. The animal can at no time be placed under the care of another individual unless it is cleared with LLBRHS (This does not apply to routine, daily care like dog walking, but to situations whereby you must leave town for more than one day unexpectedly or planned.) In that event, the Rescue Coordinator must be contacted to discuss a mutually acceptable care-giving plan for the animal at least 7 days before such care is needed or, in emergency situations, as soon as possible.

E. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Foster Families are requested to assist the LLBRHS in promoting the adoption of the Foster and to bring the animal to any adoption events. The Foster Family will also be required to allow access to the animal by potential adoption families. The final adoption decisions are the LLBRHS, however input from the Foster Family is encouraged.
2. After 90 days in foster care, the Foster Family will be contacted by the Rescue Coordinator to review the placement plan for the animal. However, length of placement in foster care can vary from days, to weeks, to months to years and a foster family must be prepared to care for the animal on a long-term basis.
3. Every effort will be made by the LLBRHS to find permanent placements for the animals. If an animal begins to show aggressive behavior, a chronic debilitating or painful condition, or is terminally ill, euthanasia maybe considered. This is rare, but the ultimate decision is reserved for the LLBRHS in consultation with the veterinary services utilized by the LLBRHS.
4. Clear and accurate reports showing the number of animals in foster care will be presented to the Board of Directors at each regular meeting.

Approved March 23, 2015