

## Things You Should Know

 Be prepared for mess! Not all cats and kittens are litter trained. We will provide you with support and guidance on how to litter train your foster animal.

 Cats and kittens scratch, claw, leap and climb! These are all natural behaviours exhibited by felines but if they did this to you or your curtains could you cope? Are you willing to put away your precious ornaments or risk them being broken?

 We sometimes encounter very talkative cats. In fact we've known cats be relinquished or returned because they are so vocal. Could you cope with a meowing moggy?

 Foster cats and kittens cannot be let outside. Will you be able to make sure windows and doors are kept shut so there are no escapes?

 Be prepared for heartache. Sadly we don't always have happy endings with our animals due to the horrible circumstances that they are rescued from. Whilst it is rare, loss does happen and we want you to be aware that being a foster carer can be tough.

 If you are in rented property you will need written permission from your landlord to have animals in your home.

 Whilst not common, some cats/kittens may carry diseases or infections that have not been diagnosed prior to admission. If your foster animal turns out to be carrying a contagious health problem and your animals are affected then we will pay to treat your animals too and remove your foster animal.

## Why Foster?

Temporarily caring for a rescued animal and seeing it develop in vitality and confidence is incredibly rewarding. Although changes can be small and slow coming, knowing that it is down to your patience, compassion and care is highly motivating.

Whilst it can be very hard to let your foster animal move on for rehoming, there is no better feeling than seeing them happy and settled in their new home. Your contribution to fostering can often be the difference between life and death and you can't put a price on that.



## What Next?

If you meet our requirements and would like to apply to be a foster carer please get in touch.

We will ask you to complete a volunteer application form and then come round to meet you in your home. If the home assessment goes well then you will be supplied with your fostering kit and support information.

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**RSPCA Manchester  
& Salford Branch**

Registered Charity No. 232255

## Guide to Cat & Kitten Fostering



What is fostering, fostering requirements & our commitment to you

# Who Are We?

There are 165 local branches of the RSPCA in England and Wales. We are all independent, registered charities responsible for raising money to fund our work.

The role of a branch is to support the National RSPCA by rehabilitating and rehoming the animals that are rescued by them. 100% of the animals the **RSPCA Manchester & Salford Branch** have come via the RSPCA having been rescued from cruelty, neglect and abandonment. This means all our time, effort and resources are dedicated to the neediest of society's animals.



At our branch we use a network of foster carers and two private boarding facilities to help us care for and rehome our animals. Because we do not have our own animal centre our volunteers play a vital role in enabling us to help over 400 animals each year find a second chance of happiness.

## What is Fostering?



A foster carer is someone who temporarily cares for an animal in their home. **We place cats in foster homes for a variety of reasons, such as:**

1. **Some cats simply don't cope well with living in a cattery** and struggle with the confinement, proximity to other cats or loss of regular attention. On other occasions a cat may have been waiting in the cattery a long time for a home, so we want to give them respite and some home comforts. And then there are elderly cats that are better off in a cosy, quiet home waiting for a new home.

2. **Some cats may require foster care due to ill health** and associated veterinary care required. These can vary from between one to three months.

3. **When it comes to kittens we prefer to care for them in a home environment so they can receive lots of attention**, they can get used to every day life experiences and be closely monitored for signs of ill health. We are most often in need of foster homes for queens and kittens or motherless kittens.

## Who We Need



**To foster adult cats we need people who:**

-  Have experience of caring for cats whether they be owned or fostered.
-  Have experience of giving cats medication and have nursed cats through ill health.
-  Have a suitable space inside the home for the cat to live in separately from any other animals in the home, i.e. a spare room.
-  Have all existing animals in the home neutered and up to date with vaccinations, where applicable.
-  Are willing to comply with our programme of care.
-  Are available at some point during office hours, Monday to Friday, to enable RSPCA staff to deliver/collect the animal and supplies.
-  Live in South Manchester or Salford.

**To foster nursing queens and/or motherless kittens we need people who:**

-  Have experience of caring for cats and a good knowledge of kitten behaviour.
-  Have experience of giving cats medication and have nursed cats through ill health.
-  Have a suitable space inside the home for a nursing queen to live in separately from any other animals in the home, i.e. a spare room. (NB This is not essential with motherless kittens.)
-  Have all existing animals in the home neutered and up to date with vaccinations, where applicable.
-  Are willing to comply with our programme of care.
-  Will not leave kittens on their own for more than 3 to 4 hours a day.
-  Live in South Manchester or Salford.

## Our Commitment to You

**We will help you to care for your foster animal by:**

-  Providing all the equipment that you need, e.g. litter trays, beds, scratch posts, toys etc.
-  Transport the foster animal to and from the vets during office hours and where possible outside these hours too.
-  Pay for all veterinary treatment the foster animal requires.
-  Pay for all food, unless you are willing to do this.
-  We will be here to support you whenever you require, including evenings and weekends.