

Hi *Foster's Name*,

Thank you so much for volunteering as a foster parent for Austin Pets Alive! It was great talking with you about the program and I'm excited that you are going to help us save more kitties in Austin. Here's more information about our program.

**[KEEP THIS LETTER HANDY, AS IT HAS VALUABLE INFORMATION FOR YOU!](#)**

This foster program is split into two distinct departments: CAT and NEONATAL.

Cat Foster Program	Neonatal Foster Program
<p>This department handles all adult cats and kittens over 8 weeks old, although kittens between 6-7 weeks will sometimes be available.</p> <p><b>Program Manager:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ashley Middleton</li></ul> <p><b>Program email address:</b> <a href="mailto:cat-foster-manager@austinpetsalive.org">cat-foster-manager@austinpetsalive.org</a></p> <p><b>Pleas come from:</b> <a href="mailto:cat-foster-pleas@austinpetsalive.org">cat-foster-pleas@austinpetsalive.org</a></p>	<p>This department handles all kittens under 6 weeks old and all nursing and pregnant mom cats. Kittens between 6-7 weeks will sometimes be available.</p> <p><b>Program Managers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kristen Rieger (orphan kittens)</li><li>• Sheri Kleeman (nursing moms)</li></ul> <p><b>Program email address:</b> <a href="mailto:bbfostermanager@austinpetsalive.org">bbfostermanager@austinpetsalive.org</a></p> <p><b>Pleas come from:</b> <a href="mailto:bb-foster-pleas@austinpetsalive.org">bb-foster-pleas@austinpetsalive.org</a></p>

### Getting Started

Now that you're approved to foster cats or kittens, you will be added to the Google Group by one of our volunteers, and you should receive a confirmation email. It is an essential communication tool for our foster parents. We use the Google Group to distribute information about cats and kittens needing foster homes, adoption events, important news, and special events. Please make sure that you are receiving emails from the Google Group, and check your spam folder if you do not see them. If they still cannot be found, please let us know.

A representative from the foster program may also reach out to you directly. Please keep an eye on your emails!

### Fostering Requirements

We are counting on you to get your foster kitties **Happy, Healthy, and Home!** A foster mentor will be assigned to you, and they will guide you through the APA fostering process. Expect them to contact you within 48 hours of receiving your foster pet!

**HAPPY:** Most cats coming from the shelter are scared and stressed. Help turn your foster into a perfect pet by teaching him to love the company of humans. Your shy kitty will blossom if you provide lots of petting, brushing, playing and treats. Especially timid cats benefit from being confined to a very small space - such as a bathroom - at first, while they get to know you and become comfortable in their new surroundings. When your foster cat greets you with a purr and a head butt, you've succeeded! If you have any cat behavior questions or problems please don't hesitate to contact [cat-behavior-team@austinpetsalive.org](mailto:cat-behavior-team@austinpetsalive.org).

**HEALTHY:** Your foster pet may need regular booster vaccines, spay/neuter, flea medicine, etc. You will receive an email when you take in a new cat explaining exactly what medical needs your foster has, when they are due, etc.

To schedule medical appointments, you will use the links below:

Vaccines and Wellness Checks:

[https://docs.google.com/a/austinpetsalive.org/spreadsheets/viewform?hl=en\\_US&formkey=dG9JU2U5VnU0cF9rY3NuZi1tdzYxb3c6MQ#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/a/austinpetsalive.org/spreadsheets/viewform?hl=en_US&formkey=dG9JU2U5VnU0cF9rY3NuZi1tdzYxb3c6MQ#gid=0)

Spay/Neuter Surgery:

[https://docs.google.com/a/austinpetsalive.org/spreadsheets/viewform?hl=en\\_US&formkey=dGVBRWWhrTTFnVF9NUmE3Vk95Ymx3Q2c6MQ#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/a/austinpetsalive.org/spreadsheets/viewform?hl=en_US&formkey=dGVBRWWhrTTFnVF9NUmE3Vk95Ymx3Q2c6MQ#gid=0)

If your cat or kitten is showing ANY signs of illness (sneezing, vomiting, diarrhea, not eating, runny eyes or nose, hair loss, urinating out of the box, losing weight, fleas, etc.), or if you have questions about their health, please email [medtechs@austinpetsalive.org](mailto:medtechs@austinpetsalive.org).

**FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES CALL ANYTIME DAY OR NIGHT 512.466.0720 or 888.733.8840 (after hours.)**

**HOME:** Once your kitty is happy and healthy, it is time to find him a home! Please provide at least 3 photos and a description of your cat (or each kitten) within two weeks of receiving him, even if he's not yet ready for adoption. This photo and description will go on our website and will help jump-start the adoption placement. You can either email your photos and description to [cat.marketing@austinpetsalive.org](mailto:cat.marketing@austinpetsalive.org), or you can submit photos and personality info through this link: [www.austinpetsalive.org/cat-profile](http://www.austinpetsalive.org/cat-profile).

Once your cat is healthy and happy you will need to sign your cat up to move to an adoption center! Cats are adopted much quicker from the adoption center, so this is really their best way of finding a forever home! Cats and kittens must meet the following qualifications to move into the adoption center:

- Healthy,
- Ringworm-free,
- At least 8 weeks-old,
- At least 1.5 pounds,
- Have at least 2 FVRCP vaccines

We have a waiting list to get into the adoption center and you can sign your foster kitty up at: <https://goo.gl/vP8lBW>. Our Cat Program Manager will email you once there is space for your cat or kittens to come in.

### Important Fostering Tips

1. Keep foster cats and kittens separated from all other pets in your household for at least 10 days (longer if they are showing signs of illness). This is the only way to fully protect the health and safety of your beloved pets.
2. Contact our medical staff immediately if your foster pet's health begins to decline, or if you see any patches of fur missing. A cat's health can deteriorate in a matter of hours, and kittens are particularly fragile. You must be vigilant in monitoring their food intake, behavior, appearance, and (yuck) even their waste. Check with your mentor about signs to watch out for.
3. If you have any questions or concerns during your fostering experience, please contact the appropriate foster team. They are there to help!

### Important Contacts

The entire APA organization is available to support you in your goal of getting your foster kitties Happy, Healthy and Home.

- Cat Foster Manager - [cat-foster-manager@austinpetsalive.org](mailto:cat-foster-manager@austinpetsalive.org)
- Neonatal Foster Managers - [bbfostermanager@austinpetsalive.org](mailto:bbfostermanager@austinpetsalive.org)
- Marketing - [cat.marketing@austinpetsalive.org](mailto:cat.marketing@austinpetsalive.org)
- Behavior - [cat-behavior-team@austinpetsalive.org](mailto:cat-behavior-team@austinpetsalive.org)
- Cat Foster Mentors: [cat-foster-coordinator@austinpetsalive.org](mailto:cat-foster-coordinator@austinpetsalive.org)
- Neonatal Foster Mentors: [bbfostermentor@austinpetsalive.org](mailto:bbfostermentor@austinpetsalive.org)
- Illness/Injury - [medtechs@austinpetsalive.org](mailto:medtechs@austinpetsalive.org)
- Ringworm Team - [ringworm@austinpetsalive.org](mailto:ringworm@austinpetsalive.org)
- Medical emergencies: 512-466-0720

### Other Volunteer Opportunities

Many of our fosters dedicate additional time to the cause of saving Austin's homeless animals by becoming an APA volunteer. APA volunteers help care for the animals, promote them for adoption, pitch in at events, and so much more! To sign up for our next volunteer orientation, please visit:

<http://www.austinpetsalive.org/get-involved/volunteer/>.