



Fostering for Community Spay-Neuter Clinic



With the help of an amazing group of foster caregivers, the Community Spay-Neuter Clinic (CSNC) Foster Program gives animals who are not yet ready for adoption a chance to live and be loved in foster homes. This exciting partnership with foster families allows the CSNC to take in more cats and kittens, and provides us with valuable information from foster families to help prepare animals for adoption. Fostering is an incredibly rewarding experience you'll never forget, and improves the lives of homeless animals in a very direct way. If you live in the greater Topsham area and are interested in becoming a foster caregiver, read on!

Why should I foster?

Whether you're helping a cat learn to love and be loved, or watching an injured kitten recover from illness or injury, thanks to your care and attention, fostering gives you the opportunity to single-handedly change an animal's life for the better.

- Each animal fostered out to a home opens up space for us to save another animal.
- Fostering can provide the unique, individualized attention that some special-needs animals require before they're ready for adoption.
- Fostering has a direct, positive impact on the animal and is a hugely rewarding experience for those who choose to become caregivers.

The CSNC Foster Program is always in need of temporary housing for rescued animals.

What kinds of animals need fostering?

Foster candidates are animals who aren't quite ready for adoption, including orphaned or very young kittens and animal recuperating from illness, injury or medical procedures. Some cats simply need an attentive foster caregiver to help socialize them so they'll become more confident and trusting. Many foster animals require special medical attention, including medicated baths, daily medication or other medical care. Many of our cats and kittens just need some time and attention to become better socialized.

Community Spay-Neuter Clinic also welcomes baby kittens. Many of these kittens are too young to be made available for adoption, and we need your help to provide them with a safe place to grow and play. Fostering kittens helps them develop and thrive in a home environment as they prepare for adoption. Kitten foster periods typically range from two to six weeks.

What requirements are necessary for fostering?

Prospective Foster Parents first submit an application. If the application is approved, they will be invited in for an interview with our staff. Approved Foster Families will be provided any necessary training, resources and materials to care for a foster animal.

Please note:

- We require foster parents to be at least 21 years old. If you are not 21, please have a guardian complete the Foster questionnaire.
- We ask that our foster parents reside in the Topsham area (within 20 miles) in order to easily get to and from our Topsham-based clinic with their foster animal(s) and for supplies and veterinary checks as needed.
- Foster families must agree to bring cats to the Topsham clinic for their medical care and spay-neuter surgery. This amounts to approximately 1 trip to Topsham per week.

- Our goal is to match potential Foster Parents to the needs of the cats we rescue. Special consideration may be given to foster applicants who have experience with kittens with special medical needs.

How long does fostering last and will it cost anything?

Foster time periods typically range anywhere from two weeks to months, depending on the animal's needs. CSNC is able to provide foster caregivers the food, equipment and supplies they need to care for their animals, and we cover all of the animal's medical expenses, including medication. You need only provide your home, attention and love for your foster animals!

Can I foster if I already have a pet?

Yes, however, we will ask you to keep the foster cats separate from your own pets. This helps reduce any spread of infectious agents that the foster cat may harbor, as well as reduce the stress of new introductions. We do require foster cats be kept strictly indoors.

This sounds great. How do I get started?

Ready to enroll? Simply fill out our application. Completed applications will be reviewed by staff, and you will be notified of your status. Please be sure to check your email and spam folders for communications from our staff, from the email address, communityspayneuterclinicmaine@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you!