



# **La Plata County Humane Society Foster Care Handbook & Quick Guide**

**1111 S. Camino del Rio  
Durango, CO 81303  
Phone: (970) 259-2847**

**Updated 3/2021**

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## **Welcome**

The La Plata County Humane Society Foster Care program was created to provide a temporary home for animals that are sick, injured, pregnant, too young, and in need of socialization. This program saves the lives of hundreds of animals every year.

Fostering is a huge commitment, that requires a lot of time and energy. We appreciate your willingness to donate your time and resources to this program. By choosing to foster, you are helping to prepare these animals for a successful future by making a lasting impact on their physical and mental wellbeing.

This manual is a guide that will provide you with the information that is necessary to care for your foster animal, and will help to clarify questions and concerns you may have along the way.

***All of us here at the La Plata County Humane Society can never thank you enough for the time and commitment you have given to our Foster Care Program!***

**Contact Information**

**Regular Shelter Hours 7:30 - 5:30**

970-259-2847

**Sunday - Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Urgencies**

720-443-4783

**After Hours Emergencies**

720-443-4783

**Foster Coordinator Work Schedule**

Sunday: 9:30 - 5:30

Monday: 7:30 - 3:30

Tuesday: 7:30 - 3:30

Wednesday: 7:30 - 3:30

Thursday: 9:30 - 5:30

**Desk Phone:** 970-259-2847 Ext.109

**Email:** [Foster@lpchumanesociety.com](mailto:Foster@lpchumanesociety.com)

**Urgent Needs**

**7 Days A Week 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

**720-443-4783**

*Between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., please make the animal as comfortable as possible and contact us when we resume business.*

**Life Threatening Emergencies**

*(mama struggling to give birth, acute-life-threatening injury, anaphylaxis)*

**Shelter Hours: 7 days a week 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

**970-259-2847**

**Foster Coordinator 7 days a week 24 hours a day**

**Text 911 to 720-443-4783**

**AND**

**Call this same number**

**720-443-4783**

*If you do not get a response, you can try the following numbers in an EMERGENCY ONLY*

970-759-4976

970-946-5903

## Support During A Medical Event

### Urgencies

An urgency is defined as an animal that is experiencing ***excessive diarrhea, vomiting, hair-loss, lethargy, not eating, appears to be in pain, excessive blood in stool, blood in vomit, distended belly, worms, coughing, sneezing, weezing, pussy discharge, an allergic reaction that is not interfering with the animal's ability to breathe etc...***

In the event of an urgency, follow these procedures:

- **During shelter hours, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.** - Call the shelter directly **(970) 259-2847**
- **7 a.m. - 7 p.m. you can call 720-443-4783**
- **If it is after 7:00 p.m. and before 7:00 a.m., please**
  - Make the animal comfortable; **keep them warm, maintain blood sugar levels, keep them as hydrated as possible, and keep them clean.**
  - **Reference the *LPCHS Foster Care Manual* for information.**
  - **Call the shelter/foster coordinator when we resume business**

### Emergencies

An emergency is defined as a ***mother who is experiencing distress while in labor***, an animal that has experienced an ***acute, life threatening injury***, or an animal ***experiencing anaphylaxis***.

In the event of an emergency, follow these procedures:

- **During shelter hours, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.** - Call the shelter directly **(970) 259-2847**
- **After Hours Emergency**
  - **7 Days a week, 24 hours a day** Please **text 911 to 720-443-4783**  
**AND call this number**

*If you do not get a response, you can try the following numbers in an EMERGENCY ONLY*

970-759-4976

970-946-5903

970-903-9922

### Hospice

Sometimes as a foster, you must recognize the best thing you can do for an animal is to calmly comfort them as they pass. **A puppy or kitten that is gasping for air and cool to the touch is at the end of "fading" and death is imminent. Comfort them as best you can,** or bring them to the shelter during regular business hours, so we can assist them and ease their suffering.

The ***LPCHS Foster Care Manual*** is a great resource for fosters and is **accessible through our website.**

Reference this resource for information about common ailments, and treatments.

If you would like a printed copy of this document, or a copy emailed to you, please let us know.

In addition, we will continually post helpful resources to the Foster Roster Facebook page.

**In the unfortunate event one of your fosters passes away,** please call the shelter during regular business hours 7:30 - 5:30 to schedule a time to bring them back to LPCHS.

## **Foster Mentors**

Being a new foster can be overwhelming.

While our *Foster Coordinator* will work hard to respond quickly and communicate regularly, they are only one person.

It can be helpful to be paired with a *Foster Mentor*.

A *Foster Mentor* is someone you can reach out to when you have questions or concerns.

All new fosters will automatically be paired with a  
*Foster Mentor*.

**If you would like to be paired with a *Foster Mentor*,**

please let the *Foster Coordinator* know  
and they will help facilitate that relationship.

**If you are interested in serving as a *Foster Mentor*,**

please let the *Foster Coordinator* know!

## **Foster Policies**

### ***In order to be a LPCHS Foster you must:***

- Complete a Foster Application and have it approved by the Foster Coordinator
  - Be 21 years of age or older
  - Have the consent of your landlord, if renting
  - Have all household pets up to date on **vaccinations**
  - Have a space where fosters can be **isolated** from other pets and that can be **sterilized**
  - Understand fosters must be **isolated** from other pets for at least 7 - 10 days
- Complete an **online orientation annually**
- Consent to an **annual home visit**
- Inform the Foster Coordinator if you move to a new home.
- Understand **young fosters have not been fully vaccinated** and need to be kept on a clean surface. We prefer animals are not brought outside, but if you must, please keep them on a sterile surface outside.
- Have **adequate transportation** to and from the shelter, while foster animal(s) are in your care
- Agree to allow an agent of LPCHS to inspect the area of the home in which the foster animal(s) will be kept
- Understand **LPCHS needs to control our own marketing and messaging.**
  - You must agree to **never post pictures of and information about foster animal(s) to social media** (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc.)
  - If you would like to post to social media, please ask the Foster Coordinator about how to become an Ambassador for the LPCHS Foster Program.
  - If you have questions about this policy, please ask the Foster Coordinator.
  - You are welcome to post information and pictures of fosters to the Foster Roster Facebook page, which is managed by LPCHS.
- Understand **LPCHS remains the legal custodian** of your foster animal(s), and all animals must be returned to LPCHS on the specified date.
- Understand **all veterinary care will be provided through the La Plata County Humane Society**. Any medical care sought outside of LPCHS will NOT be reimbursed
- Provide appropriate and **sufficient food, water and shelter at all times**
- Keep the area your foster animal(s) will be living in **safe, clean and comfortable**
- Provide your foster animal(s) plenty of **affection, positive socialization and care**
- Understand any decisions made by the LPCHS staff relating to the animals, is made with the animal's best interest at heart. The **La Plata County Humane Society does not guarantee that all foster animals will survive, or be adoptable, despite our best efforts.**
- Understand animals are not available for adoption until their foster period is over and they have been successfully spayed/neutered.
- Understand **an adoption application must be submitted in order to adopt an animal.**
- Understand **death is a reality** when fostering infant animals. They do not have fully developed immune systems and may not survive despite our best efforts.

## **Prepare Your Home**

Before you pick up your foster animal, you will want to prepare your home for their stay.

Pick an area of your home that you would like to dedicate to housing your foster animal. We recommend this area be constructed of water resistant surfaces, and can easily be "pet-proofed," sterilized, and isolated from household pets. Recommended common areas include spare bedrooms (non-carpeted), laundry rooms, or small bathrooms.

Acceptable water resistant surfaces include:

- Painted or sealed wood surfaces
- Sealed concrete
- Sealed cement blocks
- Stainless steel
- Vinyl flooring
- Glass
- Treated or sealed fiberglass paneling
- Tile

## **Pet-Proofing**

As a foster parent, **YOU are responsible for protecting your foster animal, yourself and your belongings.** Since foster animals are often adventurous and curious, "pet-proofing" their living area is highly recommended.

- Make sure all **cabinets** are securely shut, to keep prying paws from opening them
- Keep all **medications, chemicals,** and **laundry supplies** on high shelves or in another room
- Keep **trash cans** covered, or inside a latched cabinet
- Block any small spaces, nooks, or **holes** inside cabinetry or behind washer/dryer units
- Keep **toilet lids closed** at all times
- Place all **electrical** and **phone cords** out of reach
- Put away anything can be **easily swallowed** (drawstrings, shoelaces, buttons, children's toys)
- Put away anything an animal can become **entangled in** (drawstrings, shoelaces, plastic bags)
- Move **all houseplants** out of reach. Many common houseplants are poisonous to cats & dogs
- Remove any porous surfaces or upholstered furniture
- Keep **washer & dryer doors closed** and keep **hampers** and **piles of clothing** out of reach.
- Provide animals with **appropriate toys for chewing and scratching.**

## Family Pets

Even though the LPCHS medical staff examines all foster animals prior to sending them to foster care, they may still be harboring illnesses or infectious diseases that may be contagious to your own pets. In order to prevent transmission of disease between foster animals and your pets, extra precautions must be followed.

- All family pets must be kept **up to date on their vaccinations**, even if they do not interact with your foster animal
- **All foster animals must be isolated from family pets for the first 7-10 days**, to prevent transmission of disease to your pets. Often, foster animals are incubating a disease or sickness, and will not show signs of illness until after they are in your care. LPCHS will not be held responsible if your pets become sick while foster animals are in your care.
- Foster animals have a higher risk of contracting disease. **Please keep foster animals off surfaces that have not or cannot be cleaned/sterilized (such as soil and furniture) and on your property at all times.**
- **Once the isolation period is over**, you may socialize fosters with other pets in your home **with caution and close supervision.**
- Fosters must always be **safely isolated when you are not at home.**

## Supplies

The La Plata County Humane Society will gladly provide the necessary supplies to properly care for your foster animal(s), as available. These include, but are not limited to:

- Dry food
- Wet food
- Formula
- Dishes
- Bedding
- Toys
- Heating Pad
- Puppy Pads
- Cat litter and litter boxes
- Crate or carrier
- Collars and Leashes (for older dogs)

If any of these supplies run low, please call the Foster Coordinator, during regular shelter hours, to schedule a pick-up for refills. All items must be returned to LPCHS at the end of the foster period.

**LPCHS will not reimburse you for any food or supplies purchased outside of LPCHS.**

## Caring for Your Foster Animal

Please allow time and space for your foster(s) to adjust to their new environment.

### **Bottle-Feeder Kittens**

Newborn-4 weeks old: Needs to be bottle fed. We will train you how to bottle feed, if necessary.

Age	How Often	Feedings per day
0-2 weeks	Every 2-3 hours, 24 hours a day	8-12
2-3 weeks	Every 4 hours, 24 hours a day	6-8
3-4 weeks	Every 4-5 hours	5-6

- **Never** bottle feed a kitten while they are **on their back**, this can cause aspiration, infection and death. **Always feed kittens upright** by placing them belly down in the palm of your hand.
- **Never feed a cold kitten and never feed a kitten cold milk.**
- **Always warm formula** one serving at a time and check temp on wrist before feeding
- **Only make enough formula to last 24 hours.**
- **Kitten formula is EXPENSIVE!** Please be sure to **keep unused formula powder in the refrigerator**. Return unused formula powder to LPCHS OR if you plan to keep it for your next litter, store it in the freezer to extend shelf life.
- Feed **2 tablespoons/30 ml of milk replacer per 4 ounces of body weight every day**. The daily feeding amount should be divided into equal portions for each feeding.
- After each feeding, **stimulate the kitten to go to the bathroom** by gently wiping their genitals and anus with a warm, wet cotton ball.
- After each feeding, **burp the kitten**, just as you would a human baby, to help prevent discomfort.
- After each feeding, thoroughly **clean their face**. Leaving dried milk on their face causes irritation.
- Kittens can be **bathed in warm water with a drop or two of dawn dish soap**. After the bath, dry the kitten as well as possible and bundle them in blankies on top of a heating pad/disc.  
**It is very important to keep wet kittens warm, warm, warm!**
- The best heat source for a kitten is non-electrical, such as a "Snuggle-Safe" disc. This reduces the risk of electric shock from chewing on a cord. But use a heating pad if necessary.
- It is important to **keep kittens as clean as possible**, clean kittens grow up to be clean cats.
- **Brushing kittens** multiple times a day **with a toothbrush** is a great way to simulate their mom's grooming and helps keep kittens clean and teach them good habits.
- Always **keep kittens warm** and provide spaces with varying temperature in the enclosure so they can move if they get too hot.
- **Inappropriate suckling** (trying to nurse on a littermate's genitals) is a common problem amongst orphaned kittens. This **can lead to urinary tract infections and death**. Always stop kittens from inappropriate suckling with a gentle re-direct. Providing them with a soft blanket to knead and suckle on is helpful. It may be necessary to separate kittens if the behavior continues. If you notice irritation, or discharge from the genital area, please contact the Foster Coordinator during regular business hours for treatment.
- **Sore bottoms** are a common problem for kittens, as they tend to experience diarrhea as their diet changes. If a kitten's **anus becomes red/swollen, please let the Foster Coordinator know** and we will provide you with ointment. Please **DO NOT use human-grade ointments** on kittens, as they may contain ingredients that are **poisonous** to kitties.

## Weaned Kittens

Without mom 4 weeks-5 weeks, with mom 5 - 6 weeks,

**When no longer nursing, kittens will be eating gruel. Make gruel by** mixing a high-quality dry or canned kitten food with kitten milk replacer until it is the consistency of a milkshake. As the kitten gets accustomed to eating, gradually decrease the amount of milk replacer you add, while slowly increasing the amount of kitten food.

5+ weeks: Needs to be weaned from gruel to solid food.

### Feeding Time Table

Age	How Often	Feedings per day
4-5 weeks	Every 5-6 hours	3-4
5-6 weeks	Every 6 hours, during the day	3-4
6-8 weeks	Every 8 hours	2-3

- **Only give animals the amount of gruel they will eat within a couple hours.** After several hours, gruel will become spoiled, hard and yucky and it will need to be thrown away.
- Once your foster animals are eating gruel, leave a bowl of dry kibble and a small dish of water out at all times, so when they become interested, it will be available to them.
- **Sore bottoms** are a common problem for kittens, as they tend to experience diarrhea as their diet changes. If a kitten's **anus becomes red/swollen, please let the Foster Coordinator know** and we will provide you with ointment. Please **DO NOT use human-grade ointments** on kittens, as they may contain ingredients that are **poisonous** to kitties.
- Once weaned the **kittens should be using the litter box** regularly, no need to stimulate.

## Mom & Kittens

### When fostering a mom and her kittens keep the following things in mind"

- Mom is expending a lot of calories feeding her babies, **be sure to offer her plenty of food & water.**
- Mom is using up lots of fluids feeding her babies, so **offer her wet food and plenty of fresh water every day.**
  - *Did you know? Cats do not have a strong thirst drive. This is because they evolved in the desert and their bodies adapted to get most of their fluids they need from the food they eat. For this reason, wet food is great for cats and water fountains that trigger their thirst drive are a good idea!*
  - *Cats are classy. For some reason, a lot of cats prefer water from a ceramic dish. You may find your foster kitty drinks more when offered water in a ceramic mug or bowl.*
- Mom is of course **very protective** of her babies, so **give her lots of love**, patience, time, and space and gain her trust **before trying to touch her babies.**
- After labor, mom may be in pain. **Pain can make kitties unpredictable**, so keep them away from other pets and pay attention to the cat's mood when handling.
- Mom does most of the hard work for you, but keep an eye on the babies to ensure they are growing and developing as they should by; weighing them regularly, checking the eye and nose area daily for discharge; try to observe them going to the bathroom regularly as well.
- You will **use the "Health Tracker" which has been shared with you digitally** to enter information about mom and her litter, such as , delivery date, weight gain/loss & any symptoms of illness, ready to wean etc...
  - If you are unable to complete this form online, please let the Foster Coordinator know and they will provide you with a hard copy of this form.
- Once the kittens are weaned (5 - 6 weeks) mom will be returned to the shelter to be fixed and the kittens will remain in foster, either with you, or a new foster.

## Adult Cat

Like all fosters, provide this animal with adequate food, water, and an isolated space. It is important to keep fosters isolate for the first 7 - 10 days to ensure they are not harboring illness.

If you are fostering an adult cat by itself, it is because they have a medical issue or need socialization. Be sure to **follow all medical instructions you have been given and follow medication regimens closely and thoroughly**. When socializing a semi-feral kitty, give them their own safe space, sit in this space, but do not approach them or try to touch them, **let them come to you**. You may need to sit in this space with them for multiple hours a day for several days before they even start to approach you. **Be patient, be calm and always let them come to you**. Sometimes scared kitties can be engaged by play. Sit in their space, and play with a toy that may interest them to see if they will engage with you.

### Each day you will need to:

- Clean the food and water dishes
- Put out fresh water
- Feed fresh food
- Change any soiled bedding
- Scoop litter boxes
- Make sure your fosters are clean and dry

When working with a shy or semi-feral cat, you **DO** want to

- Give them their own, quiet, comfy, safe space
- Let them come to you
- Try to engage them in play using a toy
- Sit in their space without reaching for them
- Encourage them with kind, soft words and actions.
- Let them figure things out in their own time
- Give them lots of patience, time and space
- When they do come to you for affection, pet them under the chin and on the side of the face

When working with a shy or semi-feral cat, you **DO NOT** want to

- Corner them
- Reach for them
- Attempt to pet their belly
- Put your face in their face
- Bend over them
- Attempt to hold them
- Pet them before they are ready
- Expose them to chaos
- Punish them

## Bottle-Feeder Puppies

Newborn-4 weeks old: Needs to be bottle fed. The Foster Coordinator will train you how to bottle feed, if necessary.

Age	How Often	Feedings per day
0-2 weeks	Every 2-3 hours, 24 hours a day	8-12
2-3 weeks	Every 4 hours, 24 hours a day	6-8
3-4 weeks	Every 4-5 hours	5-6

- **Never** bottle feed a puppy while they are **on their back**, this can cause aspiration, infection and death. **Always feed puppies upright, belly-down**
- **Never feed a cold puppy and never feed a puppy cold milk.**
- **Always warm formula** one serving at a time and check the temperature on your wrist before feeding.
- **Only make enough formula to last 24 hours.**
- **Puppy formula is EXPENSIVE!** Please be sure to **keep unused formula powder in the refrigerator**. Return unused formula powder to LPCHS OR if you plan to keep it for your next litter, store it in the freezer to extend shelf life.
- Feed **2 tablespoons/30 ml of milk replacer per 4 oz of body weight every day**. The daily feeding amount should be divided into equal portions for each feeding.
- **Do not overfeed puppies.** It is better to feed many small meals, rather than a few large meals. Puppies will overeat if given the chance, which **can cause gastrointestinal discomfort and bloat**, which can be life threatening.
- After each feeding, **stimulate the puppy to go to the bathroom** by gently wiping their genitals and anus with a warm, wet cotton ball.
- After each feeding, burp the puppy, just as you would a human baby.
- After each feeding, thoroughly **clean their face**. Leaving dried milk on their face causes irritation and can lead to infection.
- Puppies can be bathed in warm water with a drop or two of dawn dish soap. After the bath, dry the puppy as well as possible and bundle them in blankies on top of a heating pad/disc. **It is very important to keep wet puppies warm, warm, warm!**
- The best heat source for a puppy is non-electrical, such as a "Snuggle-Safe" disc. This reduces the risk of electric shock from chewing on a cord.
- It is important to **keep puppies as clean as possible**, clean puppies grow up to be clean dogs.
- **Touching a puppy's paws, ears, tummy, tail etc...** while feeding and snuggling **is great** as it helps them become dogs who are easily handled.
- Always **keep puppies warm** and provide spaces with varying temperature in the enclosure so they can move if they get too hot.
- **Inappropriate suckling** (trying to nurse on a littermate's genitals) is a common problem amongst orphaned puppies. This **can lead to urinary tract infections and death**. Always stop puppies from inappropriate suckling with a gentle re-direct. Providing them with a soft blanket to knead and suckle on is helpful. It may be necessary to separate puppies if the behavior continues. If you notice irritation, or discharge from the genital area, please contact the Foster Coordinator during regular business hours for treatment.
- **Sore bottoms** are a common problem for puppies, as they tend to experience diarrhea as their diet changes. If a puppy's **anus becomes red/swollen, please let the Foster Coordinator know** and we will provide you with ointment. Please **DO NOT use human-grade ointments** on kittens, as they may contain ingredients that are **poisonous** to puppies.

## Weaned Puppies

Without mom 4 weeks -5 weeks, with mom 5 - 6 weeks

When no longer nursing, pups will be eating gruel. This is a mixture of puppy or kitten milk replacer combined with wet food and should be the consistency of a milkshake.

5+ weeks: Needs to be weaned from gruel to solid food.

Time table

Age	How Often	Feedings per day
4-5 weeks	Every 5-6 hours	3-4
5-6 weeks	Every 6 hours, during the day	3-4
6-8 weeks	Every 8 hours	2-3

- Only give animals the amount of gruel they will eat within a couple hours. After several hours, gruel will become spoiled, hard and yucky and it will need to be thrown away.
- Once your foster animals are eating gruel, leave a bowl of dry kibble and a small dish of water out at all times, so when they become interested, it will be available to them.
- **Sore bottoms** are a common problem for puppies, as they tend to experience diarrhea as their diet changes. If a puppy's **anus becomes red/swollen, please let the Foster Coordinator know** and we will provide you with ointment. Please **DO NOT use human-grade ointments** on kittens, as they may contain ingredients that are **poisonous** to puppies.

## Mom & Puppies

- Mom is expending a lot of calories feeding her babies, **be sure to offer her plenty of food.**
- Mom is using up lots of fluids feeding her babies, so **offer her a lot of wet food and plenty of fresh water every day.**
- Mom is of course **very protective** of her babies, so **give her lots of love**, patience, time, and space and gain her trust **before trying to touch her babies.**
- After labor and after lots of nursing, mom may be in pain or uncomfortable. **Pain can make doggies unpredictable**, so keep them away from other pets and pay attention to the dog's mood when handling.
- Mom does most of the hard work for you, but keep an eye on the babies to ensure they are growing and developing as they should by; weighing them regularly, checking the eye and nose area daily for discharge; try to observe them going to the bathroom regularly as well.
- You will use the **"Health Tracker" which has been shared with you digitally** to enter information about mom and her litter.
  - If you are unable to complete this form online, please let the Foster Coordinator know and they will provide you with a hard copy of this form.
- It is **critical that newborn puppies be kept inside and away from your own dogs to prevent the spread of infection, which their new immune systems cannot handle.**
- **Once the puppies are weaned** (5-6 weeks) mom will be returned to the shelter to be fixed and the puppies will remain in foster, either with you, or a new foster.

## Adult Dog

Like all fosters, provide this animal with adequate food, water, and an isolated space.

If you are fostering an adult cat by itself, it is because they have a medical issue or need socialization. Be sure to **follow all medical instructions you have been given and follow medication regimens closely and thoroughly.**

### Each day you will need to:

- Clean the food and water dishes
- Put out fresh water
- Feed fresh food
- Change any soiled bedding
- Scoop litter boxes
- Make sure your fosters are clean and dry
- Take adult dogs out for "potty time" regularly - First thing in the morning, after breakfast, before you leave for the day, mid-day (if possible), when you get home, after they eat dinner and before bed.
  - **Because puppies are not fully vaccinated, please do not take them outside,** especially on natural ground. Soil can harbor viruses, such as Parvo for up to 1 year!
  - Once puppies are fully vaccinated and adopted out, they can learn housetraining in their new home.
- **Older, vaccinated dogs are allowed to go for leashed walks** around your neighborhood, but please **never take them off leash or to the dog park.**

When working with a shy dog, you **DO** want to

- Turn your back to them
- Let them come to you and smell you without reaching toward them
- Wait for them to ask for petting
- Give them a space and time to watch their surroundings
- Let them figure things out in their own time
- Pet them under their chin and side of the face
- Keep their environment calm and predictable
- Crouch down in front of them
- Encourage them with soft, kind words and actions
- Gently re-direct them
- Always be generous, safe, confident and calm with them

When working with a shy dog, you **DO NOT** want to

- Reach for them
- Corner them
- Put your face in front of their face
- Bend over them
- Expose them to chaos
- Punish them

## **Socialization**

Socializing your foster animals at any age is **extremely important** for their development. Animals are fostered because they need extra attention, beyond what the shelter environment can provide. Human interaction from a young age, helps them become easier to handle when they are older.

**Every day, you should spend at least one hour socializing your foster animals.**

This includes:

- Playing
- Snuggling
- Petting
- Brushing
  - Young kittens LOVE being groomed with a toothbrush!
- Desensitizing to touch. (Mess with their ears, hold their paws, open their mouths, etc.)
- Talking to them
- Sitting with them

We understand that foster animals are usually not the “easiest” animals to care for. Beyond providing basic care, the most helpful thing you can do is **shower them with positivity**. Foster animals that return happy and well socialized, are generally more appealing to adopters.

## **Common Health Issues in Cats & Kittens**

### ***Fading Kitten/Puppy Syndrome*** (Urgency)

Noted by an often unexplainable, sudden death of a puppy or a kitten. It can be thought of as the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) for puppies and kittens. Animals are vulnerable between their time of birth and 9 weeks. Sadly, the syndrome often sets in very quickly with little to no symptoms. Animals with this syndrome often exhibit lethargy, chills, paleness and a loss of appetite. It often occurs because the animal's underdeveloped immune system does not allow it to fight off illness.

#### **Symptoms include:**

- Low body temperature: the kitten feels cool or cold to the touch
- Extreme lethargy: the kitten is not getting up, unable to stand, or responding to touching/petting
- Gasping for breath
- Pale gums

#### **When you see these symptoms**

- **Sunday - Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.** contact the Foster Coordinator at 970-903-2693, or call the shelter 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. 970-259-2847
- **Friday & Saturday 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.** contact....., or call the shelter 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. 970-259-2847
- **After hours** (after 10 p.m. or before 7 a.m.), **do your best to make the animal comfortable** (see below) and **call** the shelter/foster coordinator the **next day**.

#### **Things you should do when you see signs of fading:**

- **Keep them warm.** Wrap the animal up in a towel like a burrito, leaving only their face exposed and wrap a heating pad, turned on low, around the burrito, or place the kitten on top of the heating pad
- **Get their blood sugar up.** Using a syringe or your finger, give a dime sized amount of **Nutri-cal into the mouth.** You can also **create a kind of soup with chicken broth and wet food and feed them via a syringe.** Do this every 1-3 hours until the condition improves, or you can get them to the shelter.

***Once an animal is cool to the touch, has white gums and is gasping for air, the best thing you can do is calmly comfort them and keep them warm until they pass away.***

## ***Ringworm*** (Urgency)

This is one of the few infections that **can be transmitted between dogs, cats and people**. Ringworm is a **fungal infection on the skin's surface** that is spread through direct contact. Ringworm is not life threatening, but is unsightly, irritating and highly contagious.

### **Symptoms Include:**

- **Circular patches of hair loss**
- **Brittle fur & nails**
- **Scabby or inflamed skin**
- **In people, ringworm shows as a distinct circular red rash on the skin.**

### **When you see these symptoms**

- Handle them with latex/nitrile gloves, wash your hands and forearms thoroughly after handling
- Contact the shelter during **regular business hours**.

### **Treatment**

- There are topical and oral treatments for ringworm. LPCHS will treat foster animals for ringworm, if you contract ringworm, you will need to schedule a visit with your own physician and pay for your own treatment.

## ***Parasitic Worms***

This occurs when parasites are living in the animal's intestine. There are a variety of different types of worms including tapeworms, roundworms, whipworms or hookworms. **All animals are given a dewormer upon intake at LPCHS. After being given dewormer, they may pass dead worms in their stool. If you see moving worms in a foster's stool, or suspect your foster has worms, contact the shelter during regular business hours.**

### **Symptoms Include**

- Moving worms in the stool, or fragments of worms in the stool
- Bloated belly
- Excessive hunger
- Diarrhea
- Blood in the stool
- Weight loss
- Dry hair
- Vomiting

### **Treatment**

- LPCHS will treat your foster with an oral dewormer

### ***Feline Upper Respiratory Infection (Urgency)***

This illness is a contagious virus that can be spread through interaction with another cat carrying the virus.

#### **Symptoms Include**

- Nasal discharge
- Sneezing
- Coughing
- Runny eyes
- Fever
- Nasal or oral ulcers

#### **Treatment**

As Feline Upper Respiratory Infection is a virus, you usually have to let it run its course. However, some of the symptoms can be treated with antibiotics.

- We may have you return the animal to the shelter, or provide training so you can provide restorative care in your home.
- Keep animal hydrated, by providing subcutaneous fluids daily
- Provide lysine, which is a supplement that can be added to food to boost the immune system.
- Keep animal warm
- Provide a humidifier, or take them in the bathroom when you take a shower so they get a "steam"
- Keep eyes, nose and face clear of discharge
- Apply erythromycin to eyes
- Oral Antibiotics

### ***Feline Calicivirus Infection (Urgency)***

This illness is a very contagious respiratory disease that infects the respiratory system, the mouth, the intestines and even the musculoskeletal system. Feline Calicivirus Infection spreads through interaction with other infected cats.

#### **Symptoms Include**

- Ulcers on the tongue or mouth
- Discharge from eyes
- Discharge from nose
- Loss of appetite
- Difficulty breathing
- Pneumonia
- Fever
- Bleeding
- Difficulty walking.

#### **Treatment**

- Animals that exhibit these symptoms will need to be returned to the shelter.

### ***Feline Infectious Peritonitis*** - FIP (*Urgency*)

This illness is an infectious viral disease that attacks the intestinal walls. FIP is spread through common contact, namely through inhalation or exposure to the feces of an infected cat. FIP is spread through common contact.

#### **Symptoms Include**

- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss
- General lethargy
- Labored breathing
- Excessive thirst and urination

#### **Treatment**

- Animals that exhibit these symptoms will need to be returned to the shelter.

### ***Feline Leukemia Virus*** - FeLV (*Urgency*)

FeLV is a retrovirus that attacks a cat's immune system and is spread through common contact.

#### **Symptoms Include**

- Lethargy
- Pale gums
- Weight loss
- Collapse
- Excessive thirst
- Diarrhea
- Unusual gait
- Inflammation of nose/eyes/gums.

#### **Treatment**

- Cats with FeLV will need to be returned to the shelter.

### ***Feline Immunodeficiency Virus*** - FIV (*Urgency*)

A retrovirus that compromises immune system responses in cats. FIV is spread through direct contact with infected cats, in particular, through biting and scratching.

#### **Symptoms Include**

- Susceptibility to illness
- Eye inflammation
- Skin infections
- Nose inflammation
- Fever
- Behavioral changes
- Changes in vision or hearing.

#### **Treatment**

- Cats with FIV will need to be returned to the shelter.

### ***PanLeukopenia (Urgency)***

PanLeukopenia is a highly contagious viral disease that attacks the digestive system, bone marrow, lymph tissue and nervous system. PanLeukopenia is spread through direct and indirect contact with infected cats.

#### **Symptoms Include**

- Fever
- Lack of appetite
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Crouching near a water bowl but not drinking
- Dehydration
- Lethargy

#### **What You Can Do**

- Keep the animal warm
- Keep the animal hydrated as best you can by syringe feeding
  - 1 part full strength broth:1 part water
- Cats with PanLeukopenia will need to be returned to the shelter.

#### **Treatment**

### ***Feline Herpesvirus - FHV (Urgency)***

Feline Herpesvirus is a virus that typically causes upper respiratory infections in cats. This illness is spread through direct contact and indirect contact (bedding, inhalation, etc.)

#### Symptoms Include

- conjunctivitis
- lethargy
- sneezing
- fever
- coughing
- eye-ulcers
- skin inflammation.

#### **Treatment**

The treatment for FHV is treated by antiviral therapy and antibiotics.

## **Common Health Issues in Dogs & Puppies**

### ***Fading Kitten/Puppy Syndrome*** (Urgency)

Noted by an often unexplainable, sudden death of a puppy or a kitten. It can be thought of as the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) for puppies and kittens. Animals are vulnerable between their time of birth and 9 weeks. Sadly, the syndrome often sets in very quickly with little to no symptoms. Animals with this syndrome often exhibit lethargy, chills, paleness and a loss of appetite. It often occurs because the animal's underdeveloped immune system does not allow it to fight off illness.

#### **Symptoms include:**

- Low body temperature: the kitten feels cool or cold to the touch
- Extreme lethargy: the kitten is not getting up, unable to stand, or responding to touching/petting
- Gasping for breath
- Pale gums

#### **When you see these symptoms**

- **During Shelter Hours 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Call LPCHS 970-259-2847**
- **7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. 720-443-4783**
- **After hours** (after 7:00 p.m. or before 7 a.m.), **do your best to make the animal comfortable** (see below) and **call** the shelter/foster coordinator when we resume business  
(see contact info on page 3)

#### **Things you should do when you see signs of fading:**

- **Keep them warm.** Wrap the animal up in a towel like a burrito, leaving only their face exposed and wrap a heating pad, turned on low, around the burrito, or place the kitten on top of the heating pad
- **Get their blood sugar up.** Using a syringe or your finger, give a dime sized amount of **Nutri-cal into the mouth.**
- You can **create a kind of soup with chicken broth and wet food and feed them via a syringe.** Do this every 1-3 hours until the condition improves, or you can get them to the shelter.
- You can also **syringe feed pedialyte** occasionally to help spike blood sugar and keep electrolyte levels up.

***Once an animal is cool to the touch, has white gums and is gasping for air, the best thing you can do is calmly comfort them and keep them warm until they pass away.***

## ***Ringworm*** (Urgency)

This is one of the few infections that **can be transmitted between dogs, cats and people**. Ringworm is a **fungal infection on the skin's surface** that is spread through direct contact. Ringworm is not life threatening, but is unsightly, irritating and highly contagious.

### **Symptoms Include:**

- **Circular patches of hair loss**
- **Brittle fur & nails**
- **Scabby or inflamed skin**
- **In people, ringworm shows as a distinct circular red rash on the skin.**

### **When you see these symptoms**

- Handle them with latex/nitrile gloves, wash your hands and forearms thoroughly after handling
- Contact the shelter during **regular business hours**.

### **Treatment**

- There are topical and oral treatments for ringworm. LPCHS will treat foster animals for ringworm, if you contract ringworm, you will need to schedule a visit with your own physician and pay for your own treatment.

## ***Parasitic Worms***

This occurs when parasites are living in the animal's intestine. There are a variety of different types of worms including tapeworms, roundworms, whipworms or hookworms. **All animals are given a dewormer upon intake at LPCHS. After being given dewormer, they may pass dead worms in their stool. If you see moving worms in a foster's stool, or suspect your foster has worms, contact the shelter during regular business hours.**

### **Symptoms Include**

- Moving worms in the stool, or fragments of worms in the stool
- Bloated belly
- Excessive hunger
- Diarrhea
- Blood in the stool
- Weight loss
- Dry hair
- Vomiting

### **Treatment**

- LPCHS will treat your foster with an oral dewormer

## **PARVOVIRUS - COMMON & DEADLY** (Urgency)

**Parvo is a very contagious, deadly viral disease that is very prevalent in our area.** Parvo infects the lymph nodes, bone marrow and intestines of the animal. **Parvo spreads through contact with infected feces, and surfaces (directly or indirectly).** LPCHS examines each animal before they go into foster, but it takes **7-10 days for symptoms to show.**

The **best treatment** for PARVO is **PREVENTION.** Keep unvaccinated puppies indoors.

***THE THREAT OF PARVO IS VERY REAL  
UNFORTUNATELY, WE LOSE MANY PUPPIES EVERY YEAR TO THIS VIRUS.  
PLEASE BE DILIGENT AND KEEP PUPPIES INSIDE.***

**Be sure your own dogs are up to date on their parvo vaccine.**

### **Symptoms Include:**

**Intense lethargy, severe vomiting and diarrhea** (may be bloody), loss of appetite & **dehydration.** If you suspect parvo, **please contact the shelter during regular business hours.**

**If you suspect your puppy has parvo, contact the shelter and keep the pups warm and hydrated.**

If your foster(s) becomes ill with parvo, you will need to **spray the areas where the animal stayed with a 10% bleach solution, let sit 10 minutes before wiping, do this multiple times in the same area.** Throw away, or wash with bleach, all blankets, towels etc...Additionally, you will have to **wait a minimum of 6 months before fostering dogs again** to avoid infecting new foster animals.

**Parvo can live in the soil and on surfaces for up to 1 year.** Because parvo is so contagious, persistent and virulent, it is **critical that puppies who are in foster be kept off soil, out of public places, and away from the feces of other dogs.**

**It is heartbreaking when a litter of puppies succumbs to parvo,  
so please do your part to help prevent infection.**

### **You can help prevent Parvo infection by:**

- Keeping foster puppies **inside** (open curtains & windows to give them natural light & fresh air)
- Keeping foster puppies **away from the feces of other dogs**
- Keeping foster puppies **off of soil & grass**
- Keeping foster puppies **out of public places**
- Keeping foster puppies off **carpet and other porous surfaces**

## **Parvovirus Cont'**

We understand it can be difficult to keep all foster puppies indoors until they are 8 weeks.

### **Ways to let puppies have safe outdoor time:**

- Keep puppies **off the natural ground** (soil, grass, etc...)
- **Never allow puppies to come into contact with feces from another dog.**
- **Always supervise** puppies outside.
- Never leave puppies unattended outside.
- Puppies can play on a **concrete pad that is disinfected with an antiviral** solution prior to and after puppy play time
- Place a **blanket** on the ground and an **x-pen** on top to keep puppies contained on the blanket, which can be washed before and after puppy time with **bleach**.
- Contain **puppies on a deck, that can be washed with an antiviral cleaner** before and after puppy time.
- Placing a **mat** on the ground and an **x-pen** on top to keep puppies contained on the mat, which can be **washed with an antiviral** solution before and after puppy time.
- Contain them in a **large kiddie pool** or large **water trough** that can be cleaned with an antiviral solution before and after puppy play time.

## **Bloat/Distended Belly** (Urgency)

Puppies are susceptible to bloat from overeating and constipation, which can be life-threatening.

The best treatment for bloat is prevention. **You can prevent bloat by ensuring proper positioning while feeding and avoid overfeeding.**

### **Symptoms Include**

- Distended, hard belly
- Constant repositioning/appears uncomfortable
- Whining
- Trying to poop, but nothing comes out
- Loss of appetite

### **What You Can Do**

- Attempt to **stimulate** their **anus** to see if they will poop.
- Give them a **gentle enema** by injecting a small amount of sterile (make sterile by boiling or microwaving and allow to cool briefly), warm water into the anus using a small syringe.
- Give the puppy a small amount of **infant gas-x**, or a few drops of **food-grade peppermint oil**.
- Lie down and **place the puppy on your chest** and cover them with a blanket. **Firmly pat and massage** their belly to help them pass gas. **Reposition** the puppy regularly and continue patting and massaging. **Continue patting & massaging and withhold food until their belly is back to normal.** It may be necessary to burp them like this for **15 minutes every hour until they get back to normal.**

If the puppy is not finding relief, **contact LPCHS/Foster Coordinator 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.**  
720-443-4783 to bring them in for treatment.

### ***Bordetella - Kennel Cough*** (Urgency)

This illness, known more commonly as “**kennel cough**”, is a very contagious viral infection that harms the respiratory system. It can be spread through saliva or nasal discharge. Kennel cough is common, especially in a kennel or shelter setting. When fostering puppies & dogs, be sure your own dogs are up to date on their Bordetella vaccine, which needs to be done every 6 months.

If you suspect one of your fosters has kennel cough, keep them isolated from other pets and contact the shelter during **regular business hours**.

#### **Symptoms Include**

- Runny Nose
- Sneezing & Coughing

#### **Treatment**

- Because this is a viral infection, typically this virus just has to run its course. To help the dog recover, we can boost their immune system and provide them cough suppressants. For a persistent infection, antibiotics may be used to curb the infection.

### ***Coccidia*** (Urgency)

This is an illness which infects the intestinal tract primarily of puppies, though adult dogs can often be carriers of the disease despite not showing symptoms. While many dogs and puppies are able to build up an immunity and withstand the illness, a young puppy who becomes very stressed or generally unwell may experience a “flare up” of the illness.

#### Symptoms Include

- Diarrhea (of a pale gray or white color)
- Vomiting
- General lethargy
- Weight loss
- Loss of appetite.

#### **Treatment**

- Coccidia can be treated within 5-10 days of an oral antibiotic provided by our resident veterinarian.

### **Mange** (Urgency)

This illness is a parasitic infection of the animal's skin, and it is also known more commonly as "mites". These parasites embed themselves in the hair follicles or skin of dogs. There are two types of mange: Sarcoptic (which is contagious) and Demodex (which is hereditary, but not contagious).

#### Symptoms Include

- Hair loss
- Itching
- Inflammation

#### Treatment

Treatments for mange include medicated shampoos, antibiotics or parasitocidal agents.

### **Heartworms** (Urgency)

This illness is caused by a **parasite spread to dogs by mosquitoes**. The worms often live inside the animal's heart and nearby blood vessels where they can cause extreme damage. Without intervention, the heartworms can cause permanent damage to the heart.

#### Symptoms Include

- Coughing
- Shortness of breath
- Tiredness
- Fainting after exercise
- Weight loss
- Loss of appetite
- Lethargy and nervousness
- Some animals will show no symptoms at all

#### Treatment

Oral medication and rest

***All dogs should be tested for heartworm each spring and put on an oral preventative each year Spring - Fall.***

## **EMERGENCIES**

### **Life Threatening Emergencies**

*(mama struggling to give birth, acute-life-threatening injury, anaphylaxis)*

**Shelter Hours: 7 days a week, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

**970-259-2847**

*Please call before driving to the shelter, as it may be quicker to send a vet to your home.*

**7 days a week 24 hours a day**

**Text 911 to 720-443-4783**

**AND**

**Call this same number**

**720-443-4783**

*If you do not get a response, you can try the following numbers in an EMERGENCY ONLY*

970-759-4976

970-946-5903

### ***Laboring Mother in Distress*** (Emergency)

If you are fostering a pregnant mother and she is struggling to birth her kittens or puppies, or hemorrhaging, please treat this as an emergency and follow the emergency protocol above.

Signs of distress during labor include

- Stage I labor has gone on for 24 hours without producing a pup.
  - Stage I normally lasts 6 to 12 hours – the dog will exhibit nesting behavior and her temperature will drop.
- Steady strong contractions have continued for over half an hour without producing a pup.
- Prolonged resting phase continues over 4 hours when there are more pups to be delivered.
- There is a foul smelling, green or bloody vaginal discharge.
- The mother-to-be has excessive vomiting or is extremely lethargic.
- Excessive bleeding

### ***Life Threatening Injury*** (Emergency)

We do our best to keep our fosters safe, but accidents happen.

If one of your fosters has suffered a life threatening injury, this is considered an emergency.

While you await a response, do your best to contain the animal, stop excessive bleeding and keep them warm.

Remain calm and do your best to keep them calm

**BE CAREFUL, ANIMALS IN PAIN ARE VERY LIKELY TO BITE.**

Do not risk getting bit in order to help them

## **EMERGENCIES**

### **Life Threatening Emergencies**

*(mama struggling to give birth, acute-life-threatening injury, anaphylaxis)*

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*Please call before driving to the shelter, as it may be quicker to send a vet to your home.*

**7 days a week 24 hours a day**

**Text 911 to 720-443-4783**

**AND**

**Call this same number**

**720-443-4783**

*If you do not get a response, you can try the following numbers in an EMERGENCY ONLY*

970-903-2687

970-759-4976

970-946-5903

### ***Anaphylaxis (Emergency)***

A severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. The reaction can occur within seconds or minutes of exposure to an allergen.

#### **Symptoms Include**

- Excessive itching or rubbing up on walls/furniture
- Pawing at their moth
- Swollen eyes and/or lips
- Skin rash
- Coughing, wheezing, difficulty breathing
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Shock
- Unconsciousness

**If you suspect an animal is having an allergic reaction, try to get benadryl in them immediately.**

- Adult Tablet Benadryl Dosage for Dogs - 1mg per 1lb every 4 - 8 hours
- Adult Tablet Benadryl Dosage for Cats - ½mg per 1lb every 8 hours
- Children's Liquid Benadryl DOsage for Dogs - 0.5 ml per 1 lb every 8 hours
- Children's Liquid Benadryl Dosage for Cats - 1/4 ml per lb every 8 hours

If their throat has closed and they cannot breathe, you can place your mouth over the animal's nose and mouth and attempt to blow air into their lungs. You can see an outline of how to do CPR on a dog/cat later in this booklet.

## Medications

If medication is to be administered, it will be provided to you as well as instructions on dosage. **Please follow the instructions carefully and be diligent about medicating on schedule.** If you are having trouble pilling, or if your foster animal's condition worsens, please call the Foster Coordinator during regular business hours. While a foster is on medication, it is imperative they be kept away from family pets, to prevent the spread of illness and to lessen the stress level of your foster animal.

### Quick Guide to Meds

- **Clavamox** - This is an **oral antibiotic** that should be used only when necessary to treat a potential bacterial infection. Clavamox should be administered for 7-10 days, every 12 hours even if symptoms seem to clear, continue the medication schedule to completion. Only administer Clavamox if you have been instructed to do so by LPCHS staff.
- **Strongid** - This is a **dewormer** that is given to each animal upon intake at LPCHS. If live worms are seen while in foster, you will be given Strongid or a similar dewormer for the animal. Strongid is **yellow in color and smells like bananas.**
- **Erythromycin** - This is an antibacterial ointment to be applied to the eyes, using a clean q-tip or freshly washed finger. Use a new applicator with each animal.
- **Albon** - This is a **liquid antidiarrheal** medication that can be administered as needed. Follow instructions on the bottle. It is **light in color and smells like vanilla.**
- DO NOT GIVE AN ANIMAL HUMAN-GRADE MEDICATIONS WITHOUT CONSULT FROM LPCHS STAFF/VET - There is a guide to human-grade medications that are safe for animals on the next page.

## **Foster First Aid Essentials**

Below is a list of supplies and medications that are handy to have as a foster.

**Always check with LPCHS, if possible, before attempting to administer any over the counter medication.** However, as an LPCHS we do trust you to make decisions in an urgency if you are unable to reach anyone.

Please **do not administer meds to an animal who is unconscious, pregnant, or already on meds**, unless you have explicit permission from LPCHS staff

**Hydrogen Peroxide** - Depending on the dog's size, hydrogen peroxide can be given 1 tsp/TBSP at a time, to encourage vomiting if an animal has consumed something they shouldn't have. NEVER USE THIS TECHNIQUE ON A LETHARGIC OR UNCONSCIOUS DOG, it can cause them to aspirate and die.

**Wound Spray** - Properly diluted wound spray intended for dogs and cats is good to have on hand for minor wounds and abrasions. Diluted Iodine can be used as an effective wound cleaner.

Please always notify the shelter of any wounds, even minor ones.

**Dawn Dish Soap** - Creating a diluted soapy solution with dawn dish soap is the best way to wash a kitten or puppy, about **2-3 drops of soap per gallon of water**. Always use warm water.

**Benadryl** - Benadryl is a very safe and effective medication for dogs and cats experiencing allergic reactions, excessive itching, or restlessness. Never give benadryl for more than 2 days without veterinary approval and never give benadryl if the animal is taking another medication without veterinary approval.

**Saline** - Sterile Saline (like you would use to clean contacts) is good to have on hand and can help flush runny eyes & noses and also minor wounds.

**Gas-X** - This can be given to puppies experiencing gastrointestinal discomfort.

1. **Small Dogs & Puppies** can have about **20 milligrams**
2. **Medium-Sized Dogs** can have about **40 milligrams**
3. **Large Dogs** can have about **80 milligrams**

**Peppermint Oil** (Food Grade) - This can also be given to puppies experiencing gastrointestinal discomfort. Give a few drops at a time as needed. Peppermint oil can also help relieve nausea and can be used topically on hot spots.

**Hot Spot Spray** - Sprays intended for dogs and cats. You can purchase these sprays over the counter at pet stores or wal-mart. They are good to have on hand to help alleviate itching and chewing at hot spots until a dog can get to the shelter for vet care.

**Kaopectate** - Can be used to alleviate diarrhea in **DOGS ONLY** (not cats) 0.5mg-1.0mg per lb

**Imodium** - Can be used to alleviate diarrhea in **DOGS ONLY** (not cats) 0.5 ml per lb

## Quick Guide to Vaccinations

Vaccinations typically begin at 4 weeks of age

**Puppies** (3 months and younger)

***Bordetella*** - Kennel Cough, every 6 months

***DA2PPV*** - Every 14 days while in the care of LPCHS

- Helps guard against Distemper, Adenovirus, Parvovirus, and Parainfluenza. However, **an animal is not considered fully vaccinated until 5 months**. Therefore, it is very important to help guard them from exposure to these pathogens.

**Kittens** (3 months and younger)

***FVRCP*** - Every 14 days while in the care of LPCHS

- Help guard against Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, and Panleukopenia. However, **an animal is not considered fully vaccinated until 5 months**. Therefore, it is very important to help guard them from exposure to these pathogens.

***Rabies***

Kittens & Puppies do not receive rabies until they are about 6 months old. Rabies vaccines are good for either 1 year, or 3 years.

## **Returning Your Fosters**

You will be asked to return animals the day before their surgery (spay/neuter) is scheduled. **Please be sure to return your foster on the agreed upon date and time.** It is important for the surgery schedule to have animals here on time, in the morning.

If you cannot make this date/time, please call the Foster Coordinator as soon as possible, to make new arrangements.

**Clerical errors do happen**, if the agreed upon date of return comes and goes and you have not heard from the Foster Coordinator, please **take it upon yourself to contact us.** Typically, puppies and kittens are back at the shelter once they are 8 weeks of age. If your fosters are 8 weeks and you are **unsure when you are supposed to return them, please contact the shelter for clarification.**

## **Adoption**

If you or a friend are interested in adopting one of your fosters, [please complete an adoption application through our website](#) and specify that the animal you want to adopt is currently in foster. Send an email to the foster coordinator as well, [foster@lpchumanesociety.org](mailto:foster@lpchumanesociety.org) .

***Adoption fees apply.***

Please remember, your foster is still at a vulnerable stage in its life and still needs to be spayed/neutered. Although it is uncommon, there are instances when an animal does not wake up from their surgery. It is important to maintain realistic expectations until the animal is officially all grown up, fixed and up for adoption.

## FAQ

### ***Why haven't I been called to foster?***

Our foster needs ebb and flow throughout the year. Spring & Summer tend to be very busy and Winter & Fall tend to be quieter.

If it has been awhile since you have been asked to foster, feel free to reach out and remind us you want to help!

### ***Why can't I post pictures of my fosters to social media?***

It is critical to the success of LPCHS that we maintain control of our marketing and messaging.

Because our fosters are so vulnerable, we want to wait until they are out of the woods before we share their adorableness with the world. It's unfortunate when cute pictures are shared too early and then you/we have to explain that an animal has gotten sick or died.

Fosters are always welcome to join the Foster Roster on Facebook and share pictures there with LPCHS staff and fellow fosters.

If you would like to be more involved with LPCHS's social media presence, let the Foster Coordinator know and learn how you can become a LPCHS Ambassador.

### ***My fosters tested positive for parvo, now what?***

Disinfect all areas the puppies came into contact with using a 10% bleach solution. Let the solution sit for 10 minutes before wiping off. You may want to repeat this process on all surfaces 2 or 3 times.

Use an antiviral cleaner on surfaces that cannot be bleached, let sit 10 minutes before wiping off and repeat the process.

Take a break from puppy and dog fostering for 6 months - 1 year.

During this time, you can foster cats and kittens!

### ***My fosters tested positive for PanLeukopenia, now what?***

Disinfect all areas the puppies came into contact with using a 10% bleach solution. Let the solution sit for 10 minutes before wiping off. You may want to repeat this process on all surfaces 2 or 3 times.

Use an antiviral cleaner on surfaces that cannot be bleached, let sit 10 minutes before wiping off and repeat the process.

Take a break from kitten and cat fostering for 6 months - 1 year.

During this time, you can foster puppies and dogs!

## **FAQ Continued**

### ***My friend wants to adopt one of my fosters, what should they do?***

Tell them to complete an adoption application on our website and specify that the animal they want to adopt is still in foster. LPCHS staff will review their application and let them know if it has been approved. Please do not promise friends an animal you are fostering. Explain that the animal still needs to grow and be spayed/neutered. There are instances when animals do not wake up from surgery, although this is rare, it is worth mentioning to set proper expectations and prevent heartbreak.

### ***I want to adopt my foster, what should I do?***

Complete a foster application online and specify that the animal you want to adopt is currently being fostered by you. Also, email the foster coordinator.

Be aware that your foster is still young, needs to continue to grow and develop and is still very vulnerable. In addition, the animal must be spayed/neutered. Although it is rare, sometimes, animals do not wake up after their surgery.

### ***I am no longer able to foster, but still want to help LPCHS, what else can I do?***

#### ***Or, I am a current foster, but would like to be more involved with LPCHS.***

**Become a Foster Mentor.** If you are experienced in animal care, but do not have the time or space to foster, sign up to support those who are fostering.

**Become an Ambassador** for the LPCHS Foster Program. Ambassadors attend events, help recruit new fosters, and can help promote LPCHS's Foster Program on social media, and help spread our messaging regarding responsible pet ownership and training with kindness.

**Become a dog walker, or visit the cattery** to help socialize our kitties!

[Visit the LPCHS Foster Amazon Wishlist](#) to see what supplies we are in need of.

**LPCHS IS ALWAYS IN NEED OF DONATIONS OF:**

- PetAg Kitten & Puppy Formula
- Snuggle-Safe Heating Pads
  - Pee Pads
  - Bottles & Nipples
  - Blankets & Towels
- Hard Chew Toys for Puppies
  - X-Pens
  - Non-Clumping Litter
- Nutrisource Dry Food (Cat & Kitten, Puppy, and Adult Dog)

Make a monetary donation, or become a kennel sponsor!

**Finally,**

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!  
A MILLION TIMES, THANK YOU!!!**

LPCHS staff can never do or say enough  
to show you our appreciation and gratitude  
for helping to care for the  
most vulnerable animals that come into our care.

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Our Foster Coordinator is always open to feedback  
to help improve your LPCHS foster experience.

**LPCHS Foster Coordinator Contact Information**

**You can contact the Foster Coordinator directly  
During Regular Shelter Hours 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
970-259-2847 ext 109**

Sunday - Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Work Cell: 720-443-4783

Email: [Foster@lpchumanesociety.com](mailto:Foster@lpchumanesociety.com)

Foster Coordinator Schedule

Sunday: 9:30 - 5:30

Monday: 7:30 - 3:30

Tuesday: 7:30 - 3:30

Wednesday: 7:30 - 3:30

Thursday: 9:30 - 5:30

*Please refrain from cell phone contact 7:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m.*

If you have an issue you are not comfortable discussing with the Foster Coordinator,  
please contact the LPCHS Director, Chris Nelson, or Assistant Director Liz Schenk  
by calling the shelter during regular business hours, 970-259-2847.



**THANK YOU AGAIN  
FOR HELPING PETS IN NEED  
IN LA PLATA COUNTY!**

