

## Our Mission

The Central Missouri Humane Society is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1943 to prevent the cruelty to and alleviate the suffering of all animals.

We are committed to responsible pet ownership and elevating the welfare of all animals through adoption, education, and intervention programs.

## Our Vision

The Central Missouri Humane Society envisions a time when no animal is homeless or neglected.



**We love putting  
pets with people!**

## Foster Care FAQ's

**How long do I have to foster an animal in my home?** The average time is 2 to 3 weeks, but depends upon why the animal needs fostering.

**What about my own pets?** Make sure your animals are current on vaccinations and are social. We will only send animals that best fit your home.

**Do I need to keep my animals separate from fosters?** Each situation is unique, so we work with you to determine what's best for your situation. We ask that you provide an area in your home that can be completely separate and easily cleaned especially if you are fostering animals that are not feeling well.

**Can I choose what type of animal to foster?** Absolutely! We want you to enjoy the experience. Our goal is to match you with an animal that you feel comfortable with. We keep a daily list of animals that need to go to foster care.

**What if I need to go out of town unexpectedly?** Life happens to all of us! You can return your foster animal to the shelter at any time, just let us know if it is taking any medication so we can find another placement.

**I have a full-time job. Can I still foster?** Many of the animals will be fine while you are at work. We recommend crate-training and most times can provide one. Remember, most of our potential adopters will also hold full-time jobs, so being used to that routine will benefit the animal after adoption.

**What kind of costs will I incur?** The financial investment you will make should be minimal. We provide most of the supplies you will need including food and medication.

**Our Foster Care Coordinator will be  
happy to answer any other questions!**

## Foster Care Program

**Saving lives daily!**



Putting Pets with People

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Columbia, MO 65202  
573-443-PETS (7387)  
[www.cmhspets.org](http://www.cmhspets.org)

## What is Foster Care?

The Foster Care programs allows CMHS to place animals into temporary homes with caring individuals or families like you. The foster family prepares the animal for adoption by providing TLC and gathering personality and behavioral information.

CMHS foster families range from college students, to young professionals, to families with or without children, to retirees. The common thread of a CMHS foster home is that they are willing to provide a safe, loving environment for our animals while they wait for adoption.

## Foster for Space

CMHS takes in almost 9,000 homeless and unwanted animals each year. That's an average of 173 every week. In reality summer intake can exceed 200 animals in a week. We never turn an animal away!

Dog capacity 80, one dog per kennel
Cat capacity 56 one cat per kennel
Total capacity 136

We deal with space issues in many ways including making kennel-mates, temporary crating, rescue, foster care and euthanasia as a last resort. Sharing your home with one of our animals means one open kennel to house one or two more animals.

## Foster for Sickness

Many of the animals we receive are neglected, some severely. Some will have never been to a veterinarian, been de-wormed or been vaccinated.

These animals may bring a virus to the shelter or acquire one during its stay due to a compromised immune system. Keeping them in the shelter could endanger the other animals.

Many of these animals could become adoptable with medication, rest, and a little TLC. That's where foster families play an important role by caring for them until they are well enough to return to the shelter for adoption. Foster care gives sick animals another chance at life!



## Foster for Socialization

Most animals come to the shelter with little to no behavioral history. This makes finding a compatible family and making a forever placement challenging.

In addition, the shelter is a stressful environment for many animals which causes them to behave in ways that limit their adoptability. They shake, shiver and cower in the back of the kennels.

Monitoring these animals in a home-setting provides the insight we need to select homes they will be happy in and meet adopter's expectations. Foster care is essential to provide quality placements of our animals!

## Foster for Age

Puppies and kittens must be at least eight weeks and two pounds to be housed in the shelter. Until they reach that benchmark, they need more intensive care than the shelter can provide.

Caring for a litter means constant cleaning, around-the-clock care, and a lengthy time commitment. Families able to make this level of commitment are hard to find, but it can be a very rewarding part of fostering.

## Foster for Fun!

If you find yourself too busy for a full-time pet, fostering is a great way to share your love with an animal. It's a rewarding experience for current pet owners. It's an effective way of teaching your children humane values. Most importantly, it saves lives