

ANIMAL SERVICES FOSTER HOME ORIENTATION

recorded Oct. 2020



Thank You For Coming!

Foster Homes Are Very Important

- The Shelter is not big enough to keep all the animals for weeks at a time.
- Foster Homes provide individual care and socialization in a lower-stress environment.
- You are our ambassadors to the community.



Orientation Overview

This orientation will give you more about the foster program.

After the orientation, you can decide if this is the right fit for you.



ANIMAL SERVICES

About Me

- Chandra Mincher
- Education and Volunteer Coordinator
- Began volunteering in Jan 2006
- Was hired in Dec 2006



Animal Services

Intergovernmental since 1977

- Cities of Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater and unincorporated Thurston County contract with us

We cover strays for each jurisdiction

Each jurisdiction contracts for different Animal Control responses

Dogs need to be licensed in each of the jurisdictions and cats in city limits

Animals Entering the Shelter

How We Acquire our Animals:

- From the “field”
- From the public finding them and bringing them in
- Owner surrenders
- Owners allegedly in violation of law

Animal Entering the Shelter

In 2018

- **Over 5,000 animals came through the shelter**

Each week, that breaks down to:

- 8 wildlife are brought in by the public or by animal control officers;
- 49 strays are brought in by the public or by animal control officers;
- 41 pets are brought to the shelter by their owners;
- 48 pets are adopted or transferred; and
- 19 pets are returned to their owner.

What's In A Name

Animal Shelter, Humane Society, SPCA, Rescue

- **Anyone can call themselves anything they want**
- **There are no regulations or rules as to what each one means**
- **In our region, the different shelters are not connected**



Fostering

- We have three email lists
 - **Canines, Felines, and Everything Else**
- When we have an animal who needs fostering, we send an email to that list
 - **If it's not the right animal for you to foster, just delete the email.**
 - **If you want to foster, then sign up for the animal and reply to the email letting us know what supplies you need and when you are picking up the foster(s).**
 - **Bottle babies should be picked up that day, all other fosters by the end of the next day.**

Animals We Foster

- **Underage kittens and puppies not yet ready for adoption**
 - **Weaned vs Not-Weaned**
- **Mama cats and dogs with a litter**
- **Dogs and cats needing behavior work**
- **Animals needing medical recovery**
- **Animals who need a break or we're full**
- **Other species**

Terms of Fostering

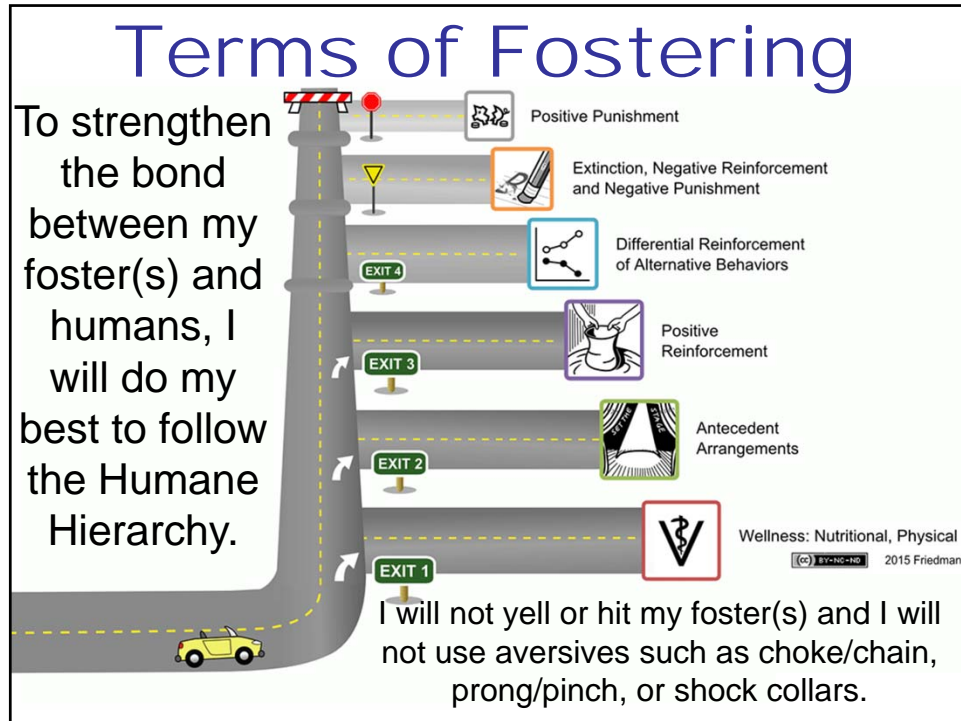
The official foster parent has to be an adult (18+ years old) and reside in our jurisdiction.

All foster homes sign an agreement listing the following conditions:

Terms of Fostering

An Animal Services representative will physically inspect the home where the animals are to be fostered.

That these animals are the property of Animal Services and I agree to surrender them to shelter staff at any time when asked to do so.



Terms of Fostering

That the Shelter will provide bedding, crate, litter pan, food dishes, or medication (if necessary) for the foster(s) for the duration of their stay. An initial supply of donated food or litter is available if needed. The Shelter may be able to continue to supply food and litter if the resources are available.

I may incur incidental expenses while the foster(s) are in my care (food, toys, litter, etc.). I agree to cover these needs/costs for the animals I am fostering. I cannot be reimbursed for the items I purchase for my foster(s).

Terms of Fostering

To provide a separate room away from all other animals. I understand that mother animals are very protective of their young and can strike out at other animals. I understand they need a low-stress environment, free from extreme heat or cold.

To lower the risk to your own pets, it is advisable to keep your foster(s) separated from your personal pets. If you have concerns about passing a disease from a foster to your own animals, please talk to your vet to make sure your pets are up to date on any vaccines recommended before you bring your foster home. Animal Services cannot provide medical care or funding for your personal animals.

Terms of Fostering

If you foster the same species for another organization/person at the same time, please let us know before they are in your home.

To bring the foster(s) to the shelter for periodic health checks, or to arrange for shelter staff to visit the foster(s) in my home, to ensure proper weight gain and overall health. I agree to maintain close contact with shelter staff while the foster(s) are under my care.

Terms of Fostering

That liability for damage, illness, or injury that may occur to my home, occupants, or premises because of the foster(s), is my responsibility. I understand that I am not liable for illness or injury to the foster(s) unless caused by my neglect.

That the foster(s) are to remain in my care for the duration of their stay. They may not be “loaned” to potential adopters or anyone else.

Terms of Fostering

To notify shelter staff immediately, if the foster(s) are injured or become ill while in my care. All veterinary treatment must be pre-arranged through the Shelter. Animal Services cannot pay for vet bills that are not cleared in advance by us or that are out of our jurisdiction. I agree to accept the shelter staff's decision regarding treatment or further care of the foster(s).

Terms of Fostering

Dogs must be leashed when outside unless they are in a securely fenced yard and cannot go to dog parks. Cats are required to stay indoors. For other species, ask the Volunteer Coordinator.

To return the foster(s) to the Shelter at a predetermined time, so they may be placed for adoption.

What Type of Space?

- A spare bedroom
- Bathroom
- Laundry room
- Space in a temperature-controlled garage (secure from toxins) will do.

Time Commitment?

- Fostering can last from as little as 1 week to as many as a couple months
 - 3-4 weeks is average

Will It Cost?

- The Shelter will provide bedding, crate, litter pan, food dishes, or medication (if necessary) for the animals for the duration of their stay.
- An initial supply of food and/or litter is available, if needed.
 - The Shelter may be able to continue to supply food and litter if the resources are available.
- You cover incidental expenses while the animals are in your care (food, toys, litter, etc.).
 - The amount will depend on the animals you foster and the amount of time they spend in your care.

What If They Get Sick?

- Should one of your fostered animals get injured or become sick, please notify the Shelter immediately.
- All veterinary treatment must be pre-arranged through the Shelter. Animal Services cannot pay for vet bills that are not cleared in advance by us or that are out of our jurisdiction.
- Once you are a foster home, you will have access to the foster manual with the emergency contact information.

Can My Pets Get Sick?

- Unfortunately, the answer is yes.
- The animals we send out for fostering are almost all strays with unknown health histories.
- Depending on their age & health, they may have received vaccines at the Shelter, but it takes a while for the vaccines to kick in.
- To lower the risk to your own pets, it is advisable to keep your foster animals separated from your personal pets and talk to your vet about your pets' vaccinations.

Wez stayin' outside



Fostering Can Be Highly Rewarding...

...and a lot of fun. There are times however, that it can be heartbreaking.

No matter how hard we try, the entire litter may come down with an illness. Sadly, we may not be able to pull them through.

Other animals may develop behavior issues which make them un-adoptable and may have to be euthanized.

It is never easy to prepare yourself for these situations; however, you need to be aware and be able to concede to the decisions of shelter staff.

Fostering Can Be Highly Rewarding...

- We try to notify foster homes if behavioral or medical problems arise with their fosters after returning to the Shelter.
 - There are some emergency situations that prevent us from notifying a foster home, but we do in most cases.
- Each foster home chooses if they want to be notified. Selecting that you want to be notified doesn't commit you to taking back a foster, it just gives you the option of taking him/her back.

Notification Options

Option #1:

•“I want to be notified if an animal I’ve fostered has a medical issue that prevents it from being placed for adoption. I will have the option of fostering or adopting the animal.”

- Most medical issues are fixable, but require time back in your home while the issue resolves.
- Some medical issues are chronic, possibly brought on by the stress of being in the Shelter (like URI). Foster animals with a chronic medical issue would be returned to your foster care for a “remote adoption”.

Notification Options

Option #2:

•“I want to be notified if an animal I’ve fostered has a behavioral issue that prevents it from being placed for adoption. I will have the option of fostering or adopting the animal.”

- Some of these animals may be fine in your home, but not in the shelter environment. These animals would be returned to your foster care for a “remote adoption”.
- Other animals have behavioral issues that prevent us from adopting them to the general public and your option would be to adopt the animal yourself.

Notification Options

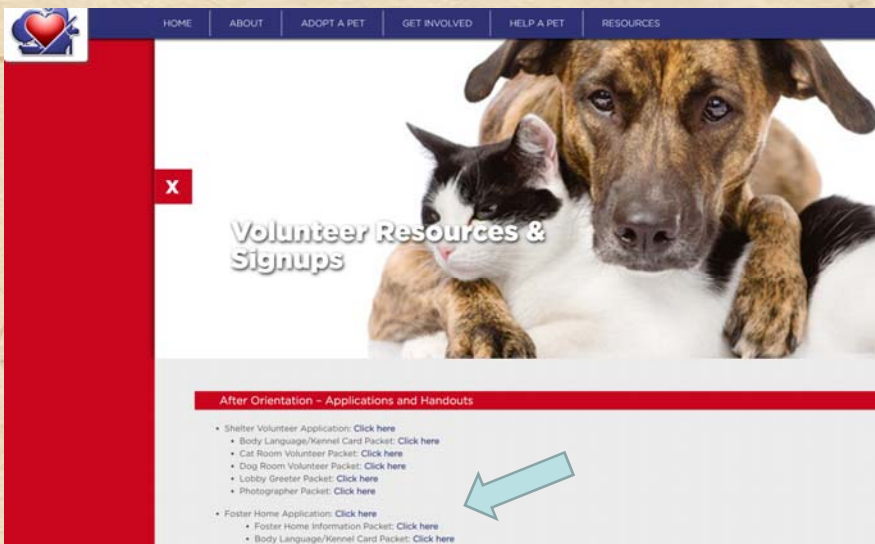
Option #3

"I want to be notified if an animal I've fostered has a behavioral or medical issue that prevents it from being placed for adoption. I will have the option of fostering or adopting the animal."

Option #4

"I do not want to be notified if an animal I've fostered has a medical or behavioral issue that prevents it from being placed for adoption. I will leave the decision to Animal Services Staff."

Fostering Handouts




The screenshot shows a website with a navigation bar at the top containing links: HOME, ABOUT, ADOPT A PET, GET INVOLVED, HELP A PET, and RESOURCES. Below the navigation bar is a large image of a brown dog and a black and white cat. Overlaid on the image is the text "Volunteer Resources & Signups". To the left of the image is a red vertical bar with a small white 'X' icon. Below the image, there is a section titled "After Orientation - Applications and Handouts" with a list of links:

- Shelter Volunteer Application: [Click here](#)
- Body Language/Kennel Card Packet: [Click here](#)
- Cat Room Volunteer Packet: [Click here](#)
- Dog Room Volunteer Packet: [Click here](#)
- Lobby Greeter Packet: [Click here](#)
- Photographer Packet: [Click here](#)
- Foster Home Application: [Click here](#)
- Foster Home Information Packet: [Click here](#)
- Body Language/Kennel Card Packet: [Click here](#)

A light blue arrow points to the "Foster Home Application: Click here" link.

Application



Foster Home Application

ANIMAL SERVICES

Resize Text
A- A+

Thank you so much for your interest in fostering for Animal Services. We look forward to having you on our team!


All portions of the application and background check pages need to be completed. About 1-2 weeks after you submit your application, I will get the results of your background check and I'll then send you an email to let you know that your clearance came through. Then, one of the foster mentors will email you to schedule your home visit.

Please add volunteer@jointanimalservices.org, chadram@jointanimalservices.org, and foster@jointanimalservices.org to your safe email list so you make sure you receive my emails.

Let me know if you have questions: volunteer@jointanimalservices.org or 352-2510 x1009. My standard schedule is 8-6 Tue-Fri. On Saturdays, I am either off, at an event, or working the front desk.

Sincerely,
Chandra Mincher
Education and Volunteer Coordinator

Animal Services the City of Lacey does not discriminate on the basis of disability. It is the policy of Animal Services the City of Lacey to provide persons with disabilities the opportunity to participate in or benefit from employment, services, activities, and facilities, where reasonably possible. Animal Services the City of Lacey will provide reasonable accommodation in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Washington Law Against Discrimination. The ADA does not require Animal Services the City of Lacey to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services or impose any undue financial or



CITY OF LACEY Application for Volunteer Services

Orientation Date: *
mm-dd-yyyy
Date

Name: *
First Name Last Name

Phone Number: *
Area Code Phone Number

Type: *
☐ Cell ☐ Home
☐ Work ☐ Other

Phone Number: *
Area Code Phone Number

Type: *
☐ Cell ☐ Home
☐ Work ☐ Other

Email: *
example@example.com

Address: *
Address
City State / Province
Postal / Zip Code

Application

Date: *
09/18/2020
Date

Please verify that you are human: *
☒ I'm not a robot

Thank you!
When you click on the "Review Answers" button, you will be taken to a screen to review what you've written. Once done, please scroll to THE VERY BOTTOM where you'll see 3 options:

- **Back** if you need to return to this form to change a response
- **Print** if you would like to print a personal copy of your application
- **Submit** to send the completed form

[Review Answers](#)

NOTHING TO SIGN FROM THIS PAGE ON – KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

City of Lacey, Washington Pre-Adverse Action Disclosure – Candidate's Copy Background Check

PROCESS:
The City of Lacey (COL) and its designated agents and representatives may request of you to

phone number you can call if you choose to remove your name and address from the lists these offers are based on. You may opt-out with the nationwide credit bureaus at 1-888-5-OPTOUT (1-888-567-8688).

You may seek damages from violators. If a consumer reporting agency, or, in some cases, a user of consumer reports or a furnisher of information to a consumer reporting agency violates the FCRA, you may be able to sue in state or federal court.

Identity theft victims and active duty military personnel have additional rights. For more information, visit www.ftc.gov/credit.

States may enforce the FCRA, and many states have their own consumer reporting laws. In some cases, you may have more rights under state law. For more information, contact your state or local consumer protection agency or your state Attorney General. Federal enforcers are:

TYPE OF BUSINESS and CONTACTS:
Consumer reporting agencies, creditors and others not listed below: Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Response Center – FCRA, Washington, DC 20580 1-877-382-4357

National banks, federal branches/agencies of foreign banks (word "National" or initials "N.A." appear in or after bank's name): Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Compliance Management, Mail Stop 6-6, Washington, DC 20219 800-613-6743

Federal Reserve System member banks (except national banks, and federal branches/agencies of foreign banks): Federal Reserve Consumer Help (FRCH), P O Box 1200, Minneapolis, MN 55480, Telephone: 888-851-1920, Website Address: www.federalreserveconsumerhelp.gov, Email Address: ConsumerHelp@FederalReserve.gov

Savings associations and federally chartered savings banks (word "Federal" or initials "F.S.B." appear in federal institution's name): Office of Thrift Supervision Consumer Complaints, Washington, DC 20552 800-842-6929

Federal credit unions (words "Federal Credit Union" appear in institution's name): National Credit Union Administration, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 703-519-4600

State-chartered banks that are not members of the Federal Reserve System: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Consumer Response Center, 2345 Grand Avenue, Suite 100, Kansas City, Missouri 64108-2638 1-877-275-5342

Air, surface, or rail common carriers regulated by former Civil Aeronautics Board or Interstate Commerce Commission: Department of Transportation, Office of Financial Management, Washington, DC 20590 202-366-1306

Activities subject to the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921: Department of Agriculture

[Back to Form](#)
[Print if you want a personal copy](#)
[Submit](#)



Joint Animal Services



Contact Information

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(Foster Coordinator)

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foster@JointAnimalServices.org

[www.JointAnimalServices.org/
volunteer-resources-signups/](http://www.JointAnimalServices.org/volunteer-resources-signups/)