

FOSTER PROGRAM FOR S.P.O.T

Wharton County Stray Pet Outreach Team

P.O. Box 584, Wharton, TX 77488

S.P.O.T. is a non-profit organization in Wharton County. Our Mission Statement: To educate the general public about responsible and compassionate pet care and guardianship, and to ensure awareness of the plight of homeless/unwanted pets. And, when facilities become available to S.P.O.T., to provide humane care and treatment for all animals needing protection in the area, and to seek suitable homes for animals without guardians.

Since we do not have a shelter facility, rescued pets are kept in private homes by our dedicated volunteers. These animals are given sanctuary and provided with love, socialization, and all the necessary veterinary care until permanent loving homes can be found. Foster care is provided according to the Health and Safety Code of Texas.

We are always in need of foster homes for dogs and cats and also, in the future, for larger animals. If you are interested in fostering, please contact us via e-mail at < wspot@hotmail.com >.

Foster Guidelines for S.P.O.T

The Rewards

To those of us who love animals, the reward of seeing an orphaned animal become someone's beloved pet is enormous. Because we do not have a facility, our method of helping unwanted pets is to foster them in our homes until they are adopted. They come from many different places and circumstances. Some have never had human contact, but have been forced to have multiple litters as an income-producing "cash crop"; many have suffered abandonment or have been rescued from abuse; some have been part of an unwanted litter resulting from family pets having never been sterilized. We also work with the City Animal Officers in Wharton County to transfer adoptable pets from the shelters in order to eliminate their chance of euthanasia. By providing temporary housing, you are saving lives and giving many pets a chance to find the perfect permanent loving homes they deserve.

Foster Animals

If you rescue an animal, please make every attempt to be certain that the animal does not already have a loving home by making phone calls to the veterinarians, the local animal shelters, friends in the neighborhood where the animal was found, etc. If you are a member of S.P.O.T., animals must be approved by members of the Board of Directors prior to entering into Foster Program. If you are not a member of S.P.O.T., you can easily become a member and enjoy the benefits of having assistance with the care of stray animals. If you are in a situation where you can become a volunteer or a foster parent for S.P.O.T., it is hard work but very rewarding and for a great cause.

Housing Requirements

Depending on whether you foster dogs or cats, requirements will vary. You may need an area away from any pets of your own, at least until vaccinations are current. All cats and kittens are to be kept indoors only. Ideally, puppy foster sites should have a separate kennel area or a small confined space. Even one puppy not housetrained can be a pain if allowed to have free run of your house and to teach other pets some bad habits! Adult dog foster sites need a securely fenced yard. An area Inside/outside is ideal. Fostering is best suited for homes without young children, unless the personality of the animal to be fostered is 100% known.

Veterinary Care

S.P.O.T. is responsible for the cost of all veterinary care while you are fostering the animal. You will be asked to take the pet to a clinic for care, and to give any medications as dispensed by the veterinary clinic. Before you introduce these animals to your own household, they will be examined, vaccinated, tested for heartworms and any other intestinal parasites, de-wormed, and spayed /neutered as appropriate (a puppy will be altered when of age for surgery). The animals will also be briefly evaluated for any obvious personality issues. If an animal is in foster care and a medical emergency arises, certain procedures/expenses will need to be approved by contacting a Board member. You will be given an emergency contact number when we arrange the foster care.

Supplies

Supplies such as food, litter, bowls and kennels (if available) may be provided by S.P.O.T. However, if you can provide any of these items, it would be most appreciated since we operate only out of donations. We are a non-profit organization, and receive no state, county or local funding.

Duration

As you know, there are a large number of unwanted animals so sometimes they may be staying with their foster families for quite a while. S.P.O.T. will sponsor adoption events and will also network with other shelters and rescue groups to find the best possible home or situation as soon as possible. Foster care of an animal might last anywhere from several days to several months, especially if an animal requires rehabilitation in a home setting. As adoption events are scheduled, you will be asked to bring your foster animal to the event location.

Questions

If you have any questions about the Foster Program through Wharton County S.P.O.T., please contact us via e-mail at < wcsport@hotmail.com > or by phone at 979-253-3446. Please leave a short message and your phone number so we may contact you directly.

Thank you for considering Foster Care for homeless pets!