

## Who typically becomes a pet foster carer?

People from all walks of life. Students who can't commit to a lifelong pet; retirees who love pets but want to travel; families who want to make a difference; people without a pet of their own or people who can welcome an additional pet into their lives. The only typical thing about foster carers is their love of pets.

## Why is pet foster care so important?

Every foster carer is saving the life of a pet. Each rescue group can only take on as many pets as they have carers. Without a carer available a pet may face a very uncertain future in the pound.

## What is the biggest reward for pet foster carers?

Knowing they have saved a life, and the reward you get from spending time with an animal that loves you.



will be done at PAWS expense. If your foster animal requires urgent veterinary attention, please contact the shelter 24/7 through Facebook if possible, and we will assist you. We may as new animals come in ask you as their foster carer to book and take animals for their first vaccination and health check-up. (Vouchers will be provided)

PAWS Darwin wants to continue its good work with the help of our volunteers and while we are in a transition state, before we get to the new site we need every ones help to do this right. We are a team though and so as a team we want to share our information, education and resources so we can all do the very best by each individual animal.

It is important to us that we promote responsible pet ownership, so we would ask that any of your own animals are registered with your local council and comply with council by-laws.

It is not always possible to keep shelter dogs contained and we are aware of this and if we know there is an issue we will pass that information on forwards, we ask that you assist us in ensuring they are returned to us by keeping their collar and tag on at all times.

If you are still interested in fostering for us, and are able to commit to the above conditions, please contact us at [info@pawsdarwin.org.au](mailto:info@pawsdarwin.org.au) and we will send the application form through to you.

Thanks!

PAWS Darwin team

# PAWS DARWIN

**MORE THAN JUST REHOMING: DESEX, REGISTER, MICROCHIP & TRAIN.**

## What exactly is pet foster care?

A foster carer is someone who provides a safe, nurturing environment for a pet until a permanent home is found. Paws Darwin relies on a network of foster carers to care for pets in their own homes prior to the pet being adopted.

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## Are there any other resources I may need to commit?

Love and compassion are the main requirements of a foster carer. Paws Darwin will let you know upfront if you need to provide anything else.

## Thank you for wanting to be a fosterer for Paws Darwin!

Here at Paws Darwin we believe having our animals in foster care is fundamental to their health and wellbeing. When an animal is homed with a foster family it provides the animal with a loving environment in which to be trained and cared for prior to its adoption.

1. Before committing to being one of our foster parents, please be aware that fostering for PAWS Darwin is an ACTIVE process. Fostering does not mean you get to have an animal without having to pay for it, and being able to give it back at any time. The goal is fostering is to help an animal by rehabilitating, nurturing or re-training them with the end goal of finding them a new home.
2. You will not be considered to be a foster carer if you are not willing to participate in education and training programs provided by the shelter.
3. You will be expected to advertise your animal on social media (and tag PAWS Darwin) at least weekly, and if you are fostering a dog / puppy, you will be asked to take them out in public at least weekly, so they can a) gain exposure to being out in public and b) to help them get a forever family.
4. As a foster parent you will be asked to update your pets profile details so they can be better advertised by us, to give regular photos to the Foster Care Co-ordinator (or posted to our page) and be prepared to do meet and greets with prospective new owners.
5. All new foster carers (as well as the current ones) will be asked to participate in an induction course provided by the shelter. We will contact you when these are available.





### How much time do I need to put into it?

It completely depends on the pet. If you are looking to help a settled older dog or cat, you'll just be providing the normal number of cuddles and walks a pet needs. Puppies and kittens can require more training and time.

### How long would someone typically keep a fostered pet for?

Each pet is different. If you're fostering a small-breed puppy, they are unlikely to be with you more than a few weeks, but if you decide big boofy dogs are your thing, they may be with you for a few months. The rescue group will give you an idea on how long they would expect each pet to be in your care.

If your circumstances change - you need to go away or something comes up - the rescue group will find a new foster carer for the pet.



## What is required from our fosterers?

We need to have fosterers who will be actively involved in the re-homing process, this means:

- Take animal/s to local adoption days
- Be available for home visits from potential owners
- Actively advertise on Facebook and / or Gumtree
- Be available when possible for phone conversations with prospective owners

We need foster parents who will be actively involved in the re-training process, this means:

- Attending PAWS behavioural / socialisation classes
- Having an expectation of good behaviour in cats and dogs, and discussing any behaviour issues with the Foster Care Co-ordinator as soon as they arise.

These issues may include, but not be limited to:

- Fence fighting
- Inappropriate toileting
- Aggression towards food, children and / or certain types of people
- Over-excitement or attacking of cats and / or pocket pets
- Inappropriate chewing or scratching
- Barking
- Escaping

#### Please Note:

- Fosterers are expected to work with the behaviour co-ordinator and / or Foster Co-ordinator to ensure behaviour management is in place for any incorrect behaviour.
- PAWS expects full disclosure from our fosterers so that any animal that has particular issues can be identified and not re-homed to the wrong person.
- Fostering is not an exact science. There are no guarantees that you and your foster animal will be compatible, or that your home environment will be suitable for every animal. It is important that you acknowledge that another foster home or a different structure may be required, where an animal is not settling well into your household.
- You need to recognise the things that may or may not



### **What if I want to keep a foster pet?**

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You certainly can, however we don't offer a trial before adoption and stress you make the decision to adopt before the pet is advertised.

### **Can I choose a particular animal, breed or size?**

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Yes, Paws Darwin will work with you to find the most suitable foster pet for your circumstances.

### **On average, how many pets will a carer foster?**

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Usually one at a time, unless they are fostering litters or have resources for more. Some foster carers choose to foster while they can't make a lifetime commitment.



have impacted on the animal's behaviour issues so appropriate training can be offered to both you and the animal.

We need foster parents who believe in proper health care for all pets, this means:

- Keeping track of vaccinations, worming and de-sexing with the Foster Care Coordinator
- Taking an animal to, or making them available for vet appointments
- Following up with PAWS where any issues of health are concerned

It also means talking to your Foster Care Co-ordinator about things that are concerning you, like:

- Bald patches
- Skin irritations
- Diarrhoea and / or bloody faeces
- Sore eyes
- Limping / tenderness
- Cuts and bruises
- Anything that a normally healthy animal should not be experiencing

As an organisation, we understand that our volunteers are also busy people and are very giving of their limited time. As such, we want to assure you that we are here to help co-ordinate and make life easier for our volunteers to be actively involved in fostering.

If you have a foster animal then you will be invited to join in all PAWS Darwin pet social events that we may have, these include:

- Beach parties
- Adoption days
- Play dates at Marlow's Lagoon Dog Park
- Markets where applicable

If you are unable to attend, on some occasions we may ask that you make your foster animal available for collection on the day, or if possible, that you drop him / her at the required location so that they can actively marketed during public events, even if you can't stay yourself.

### **What we pay for, and what you do:**

While fostering for PAWS, we are able to provide you with the food required. However, if you are able, PAWS would greatly appreciate if you could pay for their food yourself. It would greatly help us by taking some of the financial stress off us.

Any vaccinations, worming, or de-sexing that is required