HARK Fostering Policy

A foster parent provides a temporary home for dogs or cats in need. The length of fostering can vary from a few days to several months, depending on the amount of care or behavior modification that is needed. The devotion and care given during this time allows the animal a second chance to be adopted by a loving home. All animals placed in foster homes will remain advertised as available for adoption. A foster home that wishes to adopt the fostered animal will be given the first consideration to do so within 24 hours of an adoption inquiry.

A fostering application must be completed and signed by the fostering party. Shelter staff will review the fostering application, contact references and request board input when appropriate.

If possible, the fostering party must come to the shelter to meet the animal and staff. The Fostering Agreement must be signed before the animal is released to the foster home.

It is the responsibility of the fostering party to make sure the animal is fed, watered, exercised and safely sheltered.

Dogs in foster care may not be left on a ‘run’ for more than 9 hours at a time.

Cats in foster care must reside indoors only.

If an unaltered female animal goes into heat, the animal must be returned to HARK for secure confinement.

Until the animal is adopted, HARK will assume responsibility for all Vet care for the animal, unless negligence by the foster provider is the cause of the injuries.

Shelter staff will conduct regular check-ins with the fostering party to assess issues and needs. All fostering paperwork will be renewed every 3 months.