

# We Foster

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## *Challenge*

### Practices and Examples

#### **1. Foster program and processes/policies are equitable and inclusive of the entire community**

- Application process for foster volunteers is simple and free from barriers.
- Materials (applications, handbooks, training materials) are available in multiple languages as needed for all community members
- Finder-to-foster programs are available for found pets and underage puppies and kittens
- Transportation of animals, people and supplies is provided for foster volunteers and clients needing fostering
- Foster mentor programs are used to support staff and foster volunteers and are inclusive of all community members
- Training is accessible in person and/or online in different languages, (to include people with diverse physical abilities, those who are neurodiverse, those who prefer to train from home)
- Foster volunteers are empowered to serve as Adoption Ambassadors

#### **2. Marketing of foster program is equitable and inclusive of the entire community**

- Program is advertised and marketed in multiple languages as needed for all community members (for both foster volunteers and clients needing fostering)
- Marketing reaches new communities and neighborhoods
- Program marketing features pets and people that reflect the makeup of the community
- Traditional and non-traditional marketing approaches are used to reach entire community

#### **3. Foster program strives to keep pets and people together**

- Temporary fostering is offered as needed for those who are hospitalized, lacking secure housing, serving in the military, escaping domestic violence, entering rehab, etc.
- Finder-to-foster programs are available for underage puppies and kittens and found pets
- Community neighborhood networks of Return to Home fosters designate fosters for found pets

**4. Foster program supports the community by being inclusive of all dogs and cats in the organizations care**

- Program supports people and pets through behavior foster, medical foster, fospice and underage puppy and kitten foster
- Organization offers a variety of foster programs (i.e. - long term, overnights, weekend, field trips) so all community members can help
- Adoptable animals are included in program and foster volunteers are empowered to serve as Adoption Ambassadors

**5. Organization creates partnerships with other community groups.**

- Local social services organizations help promote fostering services to prevent surrender
- Program is promoted and fosters are recruited through local businesses/organizations (i.e. - senior care facilities, universities, small businesses, corporate partnerships)
- Local ordinances encourage program accessibility (i.e. - eliminating home visits, ownership laws, mandatory classes)

**6. Other**

- Something not on this list that the participating organization is doing or plans to do