# General Tips: Fosters for Pets with Medical Needs

* Briefly explain illness, treatment, and any particular home set-up needed
* Explain WHY they need to go to foster homes
* Have a handout for foster caregivers on the illness, how to care for a pet that has it and (if needed) how to disinfect their home afterward
* Use pet-centered language
  + Cat who’s being treated for ringworm
  + Dog who has a behavioral challenge
  + ~~Ringworm cat~~
  + ~~Behavior dog~~

# Foster Pleas for Dogs with Heartworm Disease

**Post Montage of Dogs Needing Foster During Heartworm Treatment**

What do all of these adorable dogs have in common? They’re all being treated for heartworm disease! Click through the photos to learn more about each of the dogs featured.

Heartworm is a mosquito-borne disease that can affect dogs and cats. If left untreated, heartworm disease can make a pet very sick or even kill them.

Last year we took in over (#) dogs and cats who had heartworm disease and we treated every single one. Heartworm requires aggressive treatment to cure, with an average cost of ($x) per animal and 1-2 months of recovery. The vast majority of pets treated for heartworm go on to live perfectly normal lives.

We prefer to place pets into foster care during heartworm treatment if it’s at all possible. Kennel stress can negatively impact a pet’s immune system and a home environment is best for a pet’s wellbeing, especially for those with extended stays.

We are always looking for foster caregivers who can care for a (dog, cat) for 1-2 months during heartworm treatment. You can learn more and apply to foster at (link)

**Post of Individual** **Dog Needing Foster During Heartworm Treatment**

(Name) needs a foster caregiver who can give her a soft spot to land for a few months while she is treated for heartworm disease. During treatment, she'll need to rest and do quiet activities like food puzzles. We prefer to place pets into foster care during heartworm treatment if it’s at all possible, as a home environment is best for a pet’s wellbeing, especially for those with extended stays. (Name) will be available for adoption once her treatment is finished and our vet gives her the all-clear.

If you're interested in fostering (Name) or another dog who is undergoing heartworm treatment, visit (link)

**Post for Pair of Dogs Needing Foster During Heartworm Treatment**

(Name) and (Name) need foster caregivers!

Both of these cuties have heartworm disease and need a soft place to land for several months while they're being treated for it.

No experience is required. To sign up, visit our website and sign up to foster.

**Post for Pets with Heartworm Disease and Other Medical Issues (Rescue-specific)**

Did you know that pets with treatable illnesses are some of the most at-risk populations in shelters? Many of our shelter partners are small and under-resourced, without the funding to treat illnesses like heartworm or the space to isolate pets recovering from contagious illnesses such as respiratory infections. This is where we come in!

We need fosters who can care for pets who are being treated for heartworm disease or other medical issues. Fostering for us is easy, and we’ll teach you everything you need to know! Learn more at \_\_\_\_.

# Pleas for Pets with Contagious Illness

## Upper Respiratory Infection

* (Name) needs a lifesaver! (They’ve/he’s/she’s) been in isolation with an upper respiratory infection for (amount of time) and is having a hard time recovering here in our shelter. Kittens’ developing immune systems have a harder time fighting illness, and even the best shelters can be stressful for pets. Stress inhibits the immune system and can make it harder for pets to get better.   
  The solution? Foster care! In the low-stress environment of a home, pets recuperate more quickly. This is why your help is critical. To be (name)’s hero, sign up to foster now!
* As shelters fill, space is at a premium, putting many at risk. Most shelters don't have staffing through the night, so unweaned kittens, who need to be fed as often as every 2 hours, need to be rescued in order to survive. Fuller shelters mean higher risk of disease; kittens' fledgling immune systems can't fight illness like adults. The stress of being kenneled can weaken them further.

The solution? Foster care! In the low-stress environment of a home, pets recuperate more quickly. This is why your help is critical. To be (name)’s hero, sign up to foster now!

## Ringworm

* (Name) and (name) are in need of a foster lifesaver! These two kittens have ringworm, a fungus that causes a rash and is treated with oral medication. Kittens heal more quickly in the caring, low-stress environment of a home, so getting into a foster home as soon as possible is critical. We’ll provide the medication and information you need to help them recover- you provide the love! Sign up to foster at (link to foster signup).
* (Tell pet’s story)   
  All we need is a foster family who can take them in. It will be best for (name) to be kept separated from other resident cats while they’re being treated for ringworm (about 8 weeks). We'll cover all (name’s) medical expenses - we just need someone who can give (them/him/her) a place to recover.   
  Can you help? Sign up at (link).
* (Dog name) urgently needs a foster home! (Dog) is an 8-month-old pup who is being treated for ringworm, a fungus that causes a rash and is treated with oral medication. Ringworm is contagious but not life-threatening, and in separating him from other animals and washing up (we'll teach you how!), we can keep the ringworm from spreading. We'll teach you all you need to know about his treatment as well.

His life is not at risk, however, at his young age he is in a critical stage in his development. Right now, he needs to be learning how to live in a home and practicing forming attachments with his caregivers, not spending his puppyhood in isolation here in the shelter. Additionally, pets heal more quickly in the caring, low-stress environment of a home, so getting him into a foster home as soon as possible is critical. (add details on signing up)

**Examples from Other Organizations**

* Great example of a Facebook Live plea for fosters for cats with ringworm: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=353696848983575&ref=watch_permalink>
* Distemper foster plea <https://www.facebook.com/pvastx/posts/5385664438144910>

# Foster Pleas for Canine Behavioral Fosters

**General foster recruitment post with unicorn add-on**

💜FOSTERS NEEDED! 💜

We need fosters who can care for dogs and cats as they await their forever homes. Signing up to foster for us is easy, and we'll give you all the guidance you need!

🦄ARE YOU A UNICORN? 🦄

We're especially in need of "unicorn" fosters, who don't have other pets and/or children.  These, most special of fosters, help us care for dogs and cats who have illnesses contagious to other pets (such as upper respiratory infections), pets who have manageable behavioral challenges and pets just simply prefer to be the king or queen of their castle. 👑 If you're a 🦄, please let us know!! 🌈

🐱 If you're interested in fostering a cat, sign up at (link)

🐶 If you’re interested in fostering a dog, sign up at (link)

💻 Learn more about fostering for us at (link)

**General behavioral foster plea** (combine with photos of the dogs who need fosters)

Do you have a soft spot for dogs that may be misunderstood, overlooked or have behavioral needs that require a certain home set-up? One of the greatest and most helpful gifts we could give these dogs is the gift of a foster home. Some of our dogs need a foster home simply to help them relax and let their true personality shine. Others would love a foster to commit to helping them further develop some pre-outlined life skills they’re working on.

If you are interested in being paired with one of our pups for foster, (insert call to action)

**Plea for pet who has shelter stress**

* In shelters, repetitive behavior like spinning can be an indicator of acute stress. Living in a shelter long-term can be hard on pets. They need to be in homes, with families.
* **If the pet’s behavior is deteriorating in a way most people would understand, you might want to describe it so they can picture it in their minds and make that emotional connection. For example,** Zeke was just fine when he arrived in early August after being picked up as a stray. A few days later, shelter stress began to take a toll on him. He became anxious and nervous, panting in his kennel. Two weeks into his stay, the spinning began.
* [Example](https://www.facebook.com/pvastx/videos/391422639117799/)