



Becoming a Foster Carer for a sick, injured or very young animal is an incredibly rewarding experience for all involved. Not only does it provide cats and dogs who require a bit of extra TLC time to recuperate away from the shelter, it gives carers a deep sense of fulfillment in knowing they have helped a cat or dog get a new start to life.

### Submitted an application to become a foster carer?

The application process can take anywhere from 4–8 weeks, depending on the number of applicants we have at any one time.

### Want to submit an application to become a foster carer?

Please visit our website [www.dogshome.com](http://www.dogshome.com) and navigate to 'How You Can Help' where you will find a foster care section and application for expression of interest.

Fostering can be a fun and enriching experience for both you and the animal. It's also an alternative way for you to volunteer in your own home and give back to your community. Many of our carers find fostering to be a fantastic way to enjoy a cat or dog's company if they are not in a position to make a lifetime commitment right now.

At the Home, we often have animals who are in need of extra attention and care before they are suitable for adoption. They may be underweight, recovering from surgery, or illness, underage or participating in a behaviour rehabilitation program.

We run a proactive foster care program to give these animals a temporary home away from the shelter, where they can rehabilitate and recover in safe and relaxed surrounds.

Animals heal faster in a stress-free environment, and a home is the perfect place for them to get one-on-one interaction and the love they need to grow and or get well.

Here at The Lost Dogs' Home, we have dedicated Foster Care Coordinators who will match your capabilities with the foster animal's needs. We are always looking for new carers to participate in our gratifying program, so if you have any further questions after reading the information below, please contact our program coordinator on (03) 9321 8786 or email [pathways.team@dogshome.com](mailto:pathways.team@dogshome.com).

### REQUIREMENTS

If you are interested in becoming a Foster Carer, you will need to meet the following criteria:

- ✓ Submit a completed foster care application form, accompanied by all of the required supporting documents
- ✓ Hold a valid driver's licence or have access to reliable and safe transportation
- ✓ Must be a minimum of 18 years of age
- ✓ Have the ability to provide an environment that is safe and secure within your home (mostly indoors). You must have the ability to isolate the foster animal(s) from family pets when required

- ✓ Confident animal husbandry skills
- ✓ Able to commit to care for animals from 2–8 weeks, if required.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

The Lost Dogs' Home is always recruiting new foster carers for our program. Prior to becoming a foster carer, you will be required to participate in a training workshop, which are held continuously throughout the year. The application process can take anywhere from 4–8 weeks, depending on the number of applicants we have at any one time.

To apply, simply apply at our website after you obtain all of the supporting documents listed below. Alternatively you can submit the form and ALL of the supporting documents by post to **2 Gracie Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051** or you can hand deliver them to the Home at the same address. You can also email them to **pathways.team@dogshome.com**. Our Foster Care Coordinator will contact you once your documentation has been received by the Home.

### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Prior to sending in your application form, please ensure it is accompanied by all of the required supporting documents. Application forms can not be accepted without the following documents:

- ✓ Written reference from your current vet (if you have animals at home)
- ✓ Written reference from your employer or foster/volunteer organisation
- ✓ Written permission from your landlord/agent (if renting)
- ✓ Signed copy of The Lost Dogs' Home Foster Carer agreement form

Applications that are not accompanied by supporting documents cannot be accepted for further review.

### TRAINING PROGRAM

Successful applicants will be required to attend a training workshop prior to fostering their first cat or dog. Workshops are held throughout the year and the Foster Care Coordinator will notify successful applicants when the next one is scheduled.

Please be patient if you are not contacted immediately. As your details will be kept on file, you will be contacted as soon as possible. You will need to supply form of photo identification, such as an original drivers license or passport, when you attend the workshop at the Home.



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Twitter [lostdogshome](https://twitter.com/lostdogshome)  
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Since our official opening in 1913, we have been a voice for animals without owners caring for thousands of cats and dogs each year. Pioneers for fair animal laws, we continue to work on the front line to reduce the number of lost, abandoned and stray cats and dogs.

We rely on public support to run services and programs, including: proactive adoption, foster care, behaviour rehabilitation, low cost desexing and microchipping, and the promotion of better pet ownership through education.