



COVID COMPANIONS FOSTER PROGRAM MANUAL

A GUIDE TO BEING THE BEST FOSTER CARE PROVIDER

#COVIDCOMPANION

"Saving one pet won't change the world,
but for that one pet the world will change forever"



**Roice-Hurst
Humane Society**



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WELCOME, FOSTER CARE PROVIDER!

Thank you for signing up in this time of need to support our community and our shelter pets! We are excited to have you as part of this process and will support you at each step of the way. Our team at Roice-Hurst Humane Society hopes your foster pet lifts your spirits in this time of uncertainty and provides you companionship to combat social distancing and quarantine loneliness.

As COVID-19 leads to more restrictions in our community, your foster home is vital in allowing us to open up more space at the shelter, cater to the higher-than-usual demand for resources, and take in pets that others cannot care for due to impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. While caring for your new foster pet, we ask that you continue to practice self-care and stay both physically and emotionally healthy and reach out to us whenever questions or concerns arise.

With gratitude,

The Roice-Hurst Humane Society Team



COVID COMPANIONS FOSTER PROGRAM: POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

There is no evidence that dogs and cats can become infected with COVID-19 or that pets can transmit this virus to humans. The human-animal bond is crucial for both of our well-being, so embrace your pets and your foster pets!

All pets in foster care are the property of Roice-Hurst Humane Society and are subject to all applicable Roice-Hurst Humane Society policies, rules, and restrictions. Foster care providers must return foster or allow foster pets to be picked up upon request of the Foster Coordinator or other shelter staff at any moment, with or without advance notice. Foster care providers are expected to retain communications regarding their Roice-Hurst foster pets, including those between themselves and potential adopters, and furnish those communications upon request to be included in the pet's file. This program is scheduled to last for as long as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our shelter and community, however, if you can no longer care for your foster, for whatever reason, you may return your foster pet with an appointment.

Foster care providers are expected to abide by all guidelines and protocols regarding proper care of foster pets, including giving them adequate and proper food, access to water at all times, daylight, socialization, health care, etc. Foster pets must be kept in climate controlled homes and may not be kept in garages or screened-in porches that are not climate controlled. Foster dogs may not be left outside unsupervised. Foster cats may not be let outdoors except when on a leash and under the supervision of the foster care provider. Foster care providers are only allowed to treat foster pets with medications and supplements prescribed by the Roice-Hurst Humane Society veterinarian, unless alternative care arrangements have been approved by the Foster Coordinator.

Puppies and Dogs

Puppies should never be left unsupervised outdoors and should not be on grass until after four months old. High traffic areas, such as the dog park, public parks, pet stores, public sidewalks/trails, etc., must be avoided, as under-vaccinated puppies can be susceptible to deadly diseases that could be lurking there. Adult dogs should be given time outside for supervised play time/exercise. While outdoors, foster dogs must be kept on leash or in a securely fenced yard. Some dogs can jump/climb over or dig under fences surprisingly quickly, so please be cautious.

Foster puppies/dogs that do not have a prior history with each other should not be combined in a foster home unless the foster care provider has sought and been given permission by the foster coordinator. Any interest in introductions of PUPPIES should be discussed with the Foster Coordinator so that proper arrangements can be made ([Please see “Saying Goodbye: Showing of fosters to potential adopters, page 19”](#)). Foster puppies/dogs are prohibited from going to off-leash dog parks or other off-leash areas in public areas. They must be on leash, under your control and supervision, at all times.

Kittens and Cats

Kittens and cats in foster care must be kept indoors only. When being transported, cats and kittens must be in secure carriers. Foster kittens/cats are prohibited from being introduced to and socializing with other pets, except those living in the foster care provider's home, unless authorized by the Foster Coordinator. This includes pets owned by other foster care providers and/or potential adopters. Any interest in introductions of CATS and KITTENS should be discussed with the Foster Coordinator so that proper arrangements can be made ([Please see “Saying Goodbye: Showing of fosters to potential adopters, page 19”](#)).

Additional Requirements

Children under the age of 12 should not be left unsupervised with any foster pets. Foster care providers must notify the Foster Coordinator immediately if a foster pet bites a person or pet and the bite breaks the skin. If the foster animal is injured while in foster care, and the injury is caused from an owned animal in the home or negligence by the foster care provider, the foster care provider is fully responsible for payment of any medical costs incurred in treating the foster and/or owned animal(s).

In some cases, you may be asked to keep your pet(s) separate from the foster pet for a predetermined period of time to prevent the spread of illness to your pet or to ensure the safe and fear-free introduction of the foster pet to the home. If a foster pet is lost, the foster care provider must contact the Foster Coordinator immediately.

HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

Roice-Hurst Humane Society was authorized, for the time being, by the Pet Animal Care Facilities Act (PACFA) to forego home checks in the effort of maintaining “social distancing” and keeping our community healthy and safe through the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, we are relying on you, the foster care provider, to ensure your home meets the following requirements. Please return this document to the Foster Coordinator before your first foster animal arrives. The checklist below is yours to keep. If you have not yet filled out this checklist and returned it to our Foster Coordinator, please request one at foster@rhumanesociety.org. We will visit your home at a later date to verify this home checklist has been completed if you continue to foster for Roice-Hurst.

- ☐ Storm doors are able to close
- ☐ Latches are functional on doors, windows, and dog/cat doors
- ☐ Other pets in the house are current on vaccinations
- ☐ Foster animals have a dedicated space not accessible to other animals (such as a bathroom or spare bedroom)
- ☐ Area is temperature-controlled
- ☐ No poisonous plants accessible to animals (neither inside nor outside, if fostering dogs)
- ☐ Have basic first aid supplies (like gauze, rubbing alcohol, etc.)
- ☐ Secure storage for pet food away from fosters and other pets
- ☐ Dedicated areas for newborn delivery if fostering pregnant animals
- ☐ Separate quarantine areas if fostering multiple unrelated animals/litters
- ☐ Home is kept clean and animal waste is removed frequently
- ☐ No evidence of small children in foster area (such as loose toys)
- ☐ Foster animals do not have access to cleaning supplies or other chemicals, such as rat poison or antifreeze (neither inside nor outside, if fostering dogs)
- ☐ Foster animals do not have access to human or animal medications
- ☐ Foster cats do not have access to electrical or window blind cords they may chew
- ☐ Foster animals do not have access to the inside of a trash can
- ☐ Foster animals do not have access to the inside of a washer or dryer

- ☐ No accessible hazards such as ashtrays, lit candles, string/thread/yarn, bobby pins, thumb tacks, sewing kits, glass or fragile objects, or toys with small removable parts
- ☐ If keeping foster animals in a bathroom, the toilet lid is kept down
- ☐ Resident pets are well-socialized, clean, and friendly toward people and other animals
- ☐ Resident pets are spayed/neutered (If not, you cannot foster an unaltered adult animal of the same species and opposite sex of your unaltered pet)
- ☐ Know where RHHS is (362 28 Road) and save the RHHS main phone number (970-434-7337) and the emergency foster phone number ([970-216-6222](tel:970-216-6222)) into your phone
- ☐ Be familiar with medical emergency protocol ([see page 10](#))

If you are fostering **dogs**:

- ☐ Indoor area for dog bed or crate (You may borrow these items from RHHS)
- ☐ Fully fenced yard
- ☐ Yard is properly shaded
- ☐ Water bowl in the yard
- ☐ Digging would not create a major problem with landscaping
- ☐ No elevated areas that a dog could leap off of and get hurt
- ☐ Nothing stacked near the fence that the dog could climb on to get out
- ☐ No potential escape routes from the yard
- ☐ No sharp objects in the yard that could injure the dog

CARING FOR YOUR FOSTER PET

The transition of a pet to a brand new environment can be stressful for them. It is important to go slowly. We recommend confining your foster pet away from resident pets for a couple of days to help them acclimate to the new home. Your foster pet may have loose stool and a lack of appetite the first couple of days in your home due to the change in environment. Be patient with your foster and allow them to approach you in their terms.

Cats

Start your foster cat in a small area, such as a bathroom or small bedroom. The kitty might hide the first couple of days. Make sure the food, water, and litter box are easily accessible. Feed according to directions given by Roice-Hurst staff at the time of pick up. The number of litter boxes you need will depend on how many cats you are keeping in one environment. Ideally, you should have one box per cat, plus a bonus box. For example, if you have 2 cats you should have 3 litter boxes; and if you have 3 cats you should have 4 litter boxes. Boxes should be scooped at least once daily.

Always give cats access to clean water, changed daily. If possible, provide them with toys. An enriched routine makes a more adoptable pet. Never let your foster cat or kittens outside. They can easily be spooked and may run away. They are also great climbers and can scurry up a tree without anyone noticing. Always keep the toilet seat lid down with fosters in your home if they will have access to the bathroom. Always check for the cat inside your washer or dryer before starting the machine, if they have access.

Dogs

Make sure food, water, and puppy pads (if necessary) are accessible. Puppy training handouts are available upon request. Provide them with plenty of safe toys. Avoid toys with plastic eyes and noses or any parts they can swallow. Do not take dogs or puppies to dog parks or let them off leash in unfenced areas. Puppies should never be left outside unattended. They may be able to squeeze under a fence or be stolen.

SUPPLIES & MEDICAL CARE

Roice-Hurst Humane Society provides all medical care and necessary supplies such as food, litter, toys, carriers, crates, blankets, etc., so long as we have the items stocked at the shelter. Please ask for any supplies you need at the time of fostering, and request additional supplies of the Foster Coordinator with at least one-weeks' notice. All borrowed and unused supplies must be returned to RHHS in good condition after the foster stay. Supplies are to be used for foster animals only. Without prior approval from the RHHS Executive Director, Office Manager, or Foster Coordinator, we will not reimburse you for supplies (including vet care) that you purchase for your foster animals. If you are low on supplies while fostering, please email our Foster Coordinator during business hours at least one week in advance of needing them. Supply pick-up will be by appointment only.

Medical Treatment Guide

For medical concerns with foster pets, please use the following guidelines for treatment:

1. **Non-Emergency Medical Conditions (during shelter hours):**

If you have a sick foster pet and the situation is not an emergency and is not immediately life-threatening and occurs during normal shelter hours (Tues-Sun, 11am-4pm), call the shelter at [\(970\) 434-7337](tel:9704347337) to schedule an appointment to bring your foster in.

2. **Non-Emergency Medical Conditions (outside of shelter hours):**

If you have a sick foster pet and the situation is not an emergency and is not immediately life-threatening, but the shelter is closed, call the foster emergency hotline [\(970\) 216-6222](tel:9702166222) and leave a message. Alternatively, if you cannot get through on the foster hotline, call [\(970\) 261-3760](tel:9702613760).

Medical conditions that are not an emergency and not life-threatening but require medical attention:

- Dog that has not eaten anything in 48 hours
- Cat that has not eaten anything in 24-48 hours
- Vomiting 1-2 times over a 24-hour period
- Diarrhea that lasts longer than 48 hours (as long as it is not dark black in color and does not contain blood)
- Frequent coughing but no fainting or signs of trouble breathing
- Coughing that gets worse over a 24-hour period
- Mucus discharge from the eyes or nose, but the dog/cat is still eating normally
- Limping or acting painful, but still walking on the affected leg/foot
- Excessively itchy skin
- Scratching ears repeatedly or acting painful when the ears are touched
- Lethargy for longer than 48 hours; lack of energy or interest in normal dog behaviors previously observed
- Minor skin wounds that are not bleeding
- Broken toenails that are not bleeding
- Mild fever (rectal temperature of 103-104 degrees in a cat or dog)

3. Emergency Medical Conditions (during shelter hours):

If you have a sick foster pet and the situation is an emergency and/or is immediately life-threatening and occurs during normal shelter hours (Tues-Sun, 11am-4pm), please call the shelter at [\(970\) 434-7337](tel:9704347337) and bring the foster pet to the shelter (if you can safely transport the animal).

4. Emergency Medical Conditions (outside of shelter hours):

If you need immediate medical assistance with a life-threatening emergency and/or injury and it occurs outside of normal shelter hours (Tues-Sun, 11am-4pm):

- Call the foster emergency hotline at [\(970\) 216-6222](tel:9702166222). Leave a message if your call is not answered, and continue calling for 10 minutes until your call is answered.
- If you have not heard back within 10 minutes, please call the secondary emergency hotline at [\(970\) 261-3760](tel:9702613760). Leave a message if your call is not answered.

Emergency medical conditions or conditions that are *life-threatening*:

- Dog that has not eaten anything in more than 48 hours
- Cat that has not eaten anything in more than 72 hours
- Vomiting that contains blood or continues many times over a 12 hour period
- Diarrhea that contains large amounts of blood
- Coughing that is severe and causes labored or difficult breathing
- Fainting
- Swelling of the face, eyelids, or lips
- Pale gums
- High Fever (rectal temperature higher than 104 degrees in a cat or dog)
- Physical trauma resulting in broken bones, deep wounds, or difficulty breathing or ambulating
- Not putting weight on a limb/foot and the limb/foot is swollen, bleeding, or extremely painful to the touch
- Skin wounds that are bleeding (and the bleeding does not stop after pressure is applied to the area for 5-10 minutes)
- Broken toenails that are bleeding
- Bleeding from the nose or mouth

- Consumption of a poison (such as chocolate, antifreeze, onions, marijuana, rat poison)
- Choking or an obstruction of the airway (such as a toy or piece of fabric stuck in the mouth/throat)
- Severe lethargy, labored breathing, confusion, or disorientation
- Straining to urinate or defecate with obvious pain present
- A cat that strains to urinate multiple times and has not produced any urine
- Seizures

There is no concern at this time of the direct spread of COVID-19 from animals to humans except for the spread of the virus attached to the haircoat or skin of animals exposed to sick/contagious humans (such as a sick/contagious human coughing on the haircoat of a cat or dog, then a person coming in contact with the haircoat, which would be similar to coughing on your hand, then touching the face of another human).

However, to minimize the possible spread of COVID-19 to the community and to our staff members, we are taking the following precautions at RHHS:

1. If your foster pet has a routine medical issue (such as diarrhea, coughing, sneezing, etc) and needs medication:

- a. You may be asked to have a phone consultation, in place of an examination, with our veterinarian.
- b. If your foster pet requires medication, the prescriptions will be filled at RHHS and will be placed in a box labelled with the animal's name outside of the front door at RHHS and can be picked up at a mutually agreed-upon time.

2. If your foster pet has a routine medical issue but needs an examination (coughing excessively, not eating, limping):

- a. You will need to schedule an appointment to bring the foster pet to RHHS and be examined by our veterinarian.
- b. Please call [\(970\) 434-7337](tel:9704347337) when you arrive at RHHS.
- c. If possible, the pet should be placed in a crate/carrier and left at the front door (you may remain in your vehicle until the animal has been examined). If your pet is too large for a crate/carrier, a staff member will greet you at the door and take your foster pet from you. Please be respectful and do not use this opportunity to ask

- d. questions or interact with the staff member (we are trying to limit human/human interaction).
 - e. A staff member will take your foster pet into the shelter (utilizing personal protective equipment) and our veterinarian will examine the pet, make a treatment plan, and dispense any medications.
 - f. The veterinarian will call you to discuss the findings and treatment plan.
 - g. The pet will be returned outside the front door and you can take your foster pet back home with you.
- 3. If your foster pet has a complicated medical issue or has a medical concern which will require repeat examinations (bloody diarrhea, eye injury, broken limb, pneumonia, etc):**
- a. Your foster pet will need to stay at RHHS until the medical condition has been fully treated.
 - b. You will need to schedule an appointment to bring the foster pet to RHHS.
 - c. Please call [\(970\) 434-7337](tel:9704347337) when you arrive at RHHS.
 - d. If possible, the pet should be placed in a crate/carrier and left at the front door (you may remain in your vehicle until the animal has been examined). If your pet is too large for a crate/carrier, a staff member will greet you at the door and take your foster pet from you. Please be respectable and do not use this opportunity to ask questions or interact with the staff member (we are trying to limit human/human interaction).
 - e. A staff member will take your foster pet into the shelter (utilizing personal protective equipment), the pet will be bathed, examined by the veterinarian, and kept in isolation for 3 days (to ensure no COVID-19 virus is attached to the haircoat of the animal) and cared for by RHHS staff.
- 4. If you or a family member develops respiratory illness from COVID-19 or has been exposed to COVID-19 virus and you are no longer able to care for your RHHS foster pet:**
- a. The foster pet will need to be brought to RHHS — but, if possible, needs to be transported by someone who is not sick/infected/contagious or exposed to the COVID-19 virus.
 - b. We will set up an appointment time for the animal to be brought to RHHS.
 - c. Please call [970-434-7337](tel:9704347337) when you arrive at RHHS.
 - d. A staff member will have unlocked one of the Mesa County Animal Services outdoor holding kennels for you, outside the front fence of Roice-Hurst.

- e. You will place the foster pet inside the MCAS outdoor holding kennel at Roice-Hurst and lock the kennel door.
- f. Please call again when the animal is inside the kennel and you can return home.
- g. A staff member will take your foster pet into the shelter (utilizing personal protective equipment), the pet will be bathed, examined by the veterinarian, and kept in isolation for 3 days (to ensure no COVID-19 virus is attached to the haircoat of the animal) and cared for by RHHS staff.

KEEPING FOSTER PETS SAFE FROM POISONS

Roice-Hurst Humane Society asks that you keep any of the toxic plants listed below out of reach of your foster cat/dog. **Please note that the information contained in the plant list below is not an exhaustive list. For more information, contact the ASPCA at napcc@aspc.org.**

(* denotes most common plants).

Aloe	Cordatum	Golden Pothos	Mistletoe "American"	Sago Palm*
Amaryllis	Corn Plant (aka Cornstalk Plant)	Green Gold Nephthysis	Morning Glory	Satin Pothos
Andromeda Japonica	Cutleaf Philodendron (aka Ceriman)	Hahn's self branching English Ivy	Mother-in-Law	Schefflera
Asian Lily (Liliaceae)*	Cycads	Heartleaf Philodendron	Narcissus*	Spotted Dumb Cane
Asparagus Fern	Cyclamen*	Heavenly Bamboo	Needlepoint Ivy	Stargazer Lily*
Australian Nut	Daffodil	Holly	Nephthytis	Striped Dracaena
Autumn Crocus	Day Lily*	Horsehead Philodendron	Nightshade	Sweetheart Ivy
Avocado	Deadly Nightshade	Hurricane Plant	Oleander*	Swiss Cheese Plant
Azalea*	Devil's Ivy	Hyacinth	Onion	Taro Vine
Bird of Paradise	Dumb Cane	Hydrangea	Orange Day Lily*	Tiger Lily*
American Bittersweet	Easter Lily*	Iris	Panda	Tomato Plant
European Bittersweet	Elephant Ears	Japanese Show Lily*	Philodendron Pertusum	Tree Philodendron
Branching Ivy	Emerald Feather (aka Emerald Fern)	Japanese Yew (aka Yew)*	Plumosa Fern	Tropic Snow Dumbcane

Buckeye	English Ivy	Jerusalem Cherry	Poinsettia	Tulip*
Buddist Pine	Fiddle-Leaf Philodendron	Kalanchoe*	Precatory Bean	Variable Dieffenbachia
Caladium	Flamingo Plant	Lace Fern	Queensland Nut	Variegated Philodendron
Calla Lily*	Florida Beauty	Lacy Tree	Red Emerald	Warneckeii Dracaena
Castor Bean	Foxglove	Lily of the Valley*	Red Lily*	Wood Lily*
Ceriman (aka Cutleaf Philodendron)	Fruit Salad Plant	Macadamia Nut	Red-Margined Dracaena (aka Straight-Margined Dracaena)	Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow
Charming Dffenbachia	Glacier Ivy	Madagascar Dragon Tree	Red Princess	Yew (aka Japanese Yew)*
Chinaberry Tree	Gladiolas	Marble Queen	Rhododendron*	Yucca
Chinese Evergreen	Glory Lily*	Marijuana*	Ribbon Plant (Dracaena Sanderiana)	
Christmas Rose	Gold Dieffenbachia	Mauna Loa Peace Lily (aka Peace Lily)*	Rubrum Lily*	
Clematis	Gold Dust Dracaena	Mexican Breadfruit	Saddle Leaf Philodendron	

Roice-Hurst Humane Society also asks you keep any of the potentially poisonous foods listed below out of the reach of your foster cat/dog. **Please note that the information contained in the list below is not an exhaustive list. For more information, contact the ASPCA at napcc@aspca.org.**

(* denotes most common poisonous foods).

Alcoholic beverages	Mushroom plants
Apple seeds	Mustard seeds
Apricot pits	Onions and onion powder *
Avocados	Peach pits
Cherry pits	Peanut Butters containing Xylitol*
Candy (particularly chocolate, which is toxic and any candy containing the sweetener Xylitol) *	Potato leaves and stems (green parts)

Chicken bones *	Raisins
Coffee (grounds, beans, chocolate covered espresso beans)	Rhubarb leaves
Grapes	Salt
Hops (used in home beer brewing)	Tea (caffeine)
Macadamia nuts	Tomato leaves and stems (green parts)
Milk (for cats)*	Walnuts
Moldy foods	Yeast dough

CLEANING PROTOCOLS

Sanitizing your home between foster animals

If you are returning an animal to the shelter or adopting it out and taking in another, please make sure to sanitize your home thoroughly. Bleach everything that can safely be bleached using 1 part bleach and 32 parts water. All laundry should be run through the dryer on high heat. Dishwashers and clothing washers work great for sterilizing toys and bedding. Throw away toys that cannot be bleached (eg., feather toys).

Cleaning Carriers

We can provide carriers upon request, but if you would like to use your personal carrier, please make sure that all debris is cleaned out, the carrier is cleaned with a 1:32 dilution bleach/water solution and is allowed to soak for 10 minutes. The carrier can then be rinsed and used for a new animal(s).

SOCIALIZATION & ANIMAL BEHAVIOR

If you have a “*behavior foster pet*” with a specific behavior such as under-socialization, fearfulness, or over-activity, you should have received a separate packet with information on how to work and socialize your new foster pet. If you have not yet received it, please contact us at foster@rhhumanesociety.org and let us know. A staff member will check in on you and your behavior foster pet periodically to ensure you have all the tools you need to help your foster animal continue its behavioral progress and become the most adoptable pet it can be.

Should you have any questions about the behavior or training of your foster pet, please contact us at foster@rhhumanesociety.org and a staff member will reach out to you. Many people are not

aware cats can also be trained to perform tricks just as dogs do. Our shelter staff has mastered this and can help you do the same. **Below are a few socialization activities you are encouraged to try with your new foster pet:**

- If the *kitten* is comfortable, practice handling toes to mimic nail clipping — a gentle squeeze of their feet and offer them a reward.
- If the *cat* is comfortable, brush as needed. Ask RHHS staff for brushes should you need any.
- When necessary, gently clean feces and/or urine off the pet's fur using baby wipes or a damp washcloth.
- If the *puppy* is comfortable, practice checking the puppy's teeth and rubbing its gums with your fingers.
- If the *puppy* is comfortable, handle their toes — a gentle squeeze of their feet to mimic nail clipping.
- For *dogs*, work on leash training by going for walks and rewarding good behavior (keeping in mind the social distancing precaution).
- Bathe and brush as needed.
- Give them lots of love and attention.
- Teach them basic commands like "sit" and "stay."

PROMOTING YOUR FOSTER PET

We hope our fosters take part in sharing their Covid Companions on social media in hopes we can get them adopted more quickly. You are not only allowed to, but encouraged to actively promote your foster pet in the search of its "forever" home. If you choose to post your foster on social media, please be mindful of our posting guidelines. **If you haven't already, please join our Covid Companions Facebook group at: [facebook.com/groups/RHHSCovid](https://www.facebook.com/groups/RHHSCovid) and share photos, videos, and stories about your foster pet!**

Roice-Hurst takes pride in being a "*socially conscious shelter*." This means we never euthanize due to lack of space/resources, breed, or length of stay. We do not classify ourselves as a "*no-kill*" shelter because, if an animal in our care is terminally ill or shows severe aggression causing placement in a home to be considered unsafe for the pet or for our community, for example,

Roice-Hurst reserves the right to humanely euthanize and avoid prolonged suffering or diminished quality of life. While these instances occur rarely, it is important that all social media posts related to Roice-Hurst do not use the term “no-kill”.

When mentioning an ideal home for an animal, use informative verbiage. Instead of “Fido can be really particular,” say, “We know that Fido takes a while to warm up to strangers and ideally would be placed in a home that doesn’t have a lot of new visitors.” Instead of, “Muffy is not good with kids,” say, “Muffy is looking for a home with no young children because she can get easily over-stimulated and needs adopters who can respect her boundaries.” Our goal is to find the *right* home for each pet, and it’s okay if that takes time. We would much rather be thorough and transparent with potential adopters as opposed to sugar-coating a behavior or medical issue.

Please utilize the following hashtags at the bottom of your social media posts: [#covidcompanion](#) [#roicehurst](#) [#morethanashelter](#) [#fostering](#) [#westpetsbestpets](#) [#adoptashelterpet](#) [#notjustashelter](#) [#StayPawsitive](#), and tag us on our social media accounts:

- Instagram at [@roicehursthumanesociety](#) and [@rhhsfosters](#)
- Facebook at [Roice Hurst Humane Society](#) and [Fosters of Roice-Hurst Humane Society](#)

We’ve also come up with fun ways you can promote your foster on your social media accounts and we ask that, if posting a video, please make sure the duration is less than 30 seconds.

- **Introductions:** Post a video or picture at the beginning of your journey with your foster. Explain why you decided to foster in the first place. Show off your new friend by sharing their name, age, and any information you’ve learned about what a good fur-ever home would look like for them.
- **Dear Diary:** From the perspective of your foster pet, post a journal entry about how this experience is going each day. Add a picture capturing their personality.
- **Practicing Social Distancing... or Lack Thereof:** Is your foster pet a cuddler? Get a picture of them cozying up with you or a family member with a caption that this pet did not get the memo about social distancing.
- **Dorky Dog/Quirky Cat:** Have you learned any fun facts about your foster that an adopter might like to know? Do they know a cool trick or have a funny habit? Try and get a picture of them at their weirdest.
- **A Day in the Life:** Take a minute or two to update how your fostering journey has gone in a video. You can attempt to try something new with your foster, like experimenting with treats or

teaching a trick. You can also show a cute part of the new daily routine such as anticipation before getting dinner or excitement when going for a walk.

- **Tinder:** Your foster is looking for their match, so why not set up a dating profile? Does this cat like curling up on the couch and watching movies? Does this dog enjoy long walks? Make sure to add a photo with their dashing good looks!
- **Pawsitive Impact:** How has it felt having an animal to share your time and home with? If you've had to stay at home, has it helped having a foster by your side? Has your health and wellbeing improved because of it? Tell everyone why they should foster or adopt, too!

SAYING GOODBYE: PROCESSING AN ADOPTION

As a Covid Companion foster home, you will act as an adoption ambassador for your foster animal. Potential adopters may see your foster animal on our website and request to meet the animal if it is available for adoption. You will be notified via phone or email when a potential adopter has requested to meet your foster animal. Please contact the potential adopter and schedule a meeting within 24 hours and notify the Foster Coordinator once a meeting is scheduled. If you would like to meet with the potential adopter at RHHS, please contact the Foster Coordinator to check for space availability. If you do not respond to potential adopters' requests to meet your foster animal, we may ask that you return the animal so we can place it in a different foster home.

Step 1: Screening a potential family. You are encouraged to help find forever homes for your foster animals. You may find adopters on your own, either by posting on your social media or through friends and family. You may also find adopters using our Roice-Hurst Facebook group (facebook.com/groups/RHHSCovid). You will be notified by Roice-Hurst of any potential adopters. Use your best judgment when finding potential adopters. Ask about the person's history with pets, living situation, ability to care for the animal for a lifetime and the adopting family's lifestyle. Please note RHHS has the right to deny potential adopters. If foster animals do not find a home during their stay with you, they will move back into the shelter after the COVID-19 pandemic and will be available for adoption.

1.1. Showing of fosters to potential adopters. Showings in your own home are done at your own risk. Please ensure you are being safe and also adhering to the "social distancing" rule.

If you are more comfortable showing the animal at Roice-Hurst, **cats, kittens and puppies are to be shown with an appointment in the *Intake Room*** during the hours of 11am to 4pm. Both foster care providers and potential adopters are to enter the building through the *Intake Room* door next to our “catio,” not the lobby (see picture).



Showings of adult dogs are allowed in public places and parks with a scheduled appointment between foster and potential adopter. No notification of the Foster Coordinator is needed, but is suggested as a safety measure. We strongly suggest you follow our “**Dog-To-Dog Intro**” **sheet** suggestions to keep everyone safe. If a foster care provider is more comfortable showing the adult dog at Roice-Hurst, both foster care providers and potential adopters are to enter the ***Side Yard*** through the gate located *on the right of the front door*, never the lobby (see picture).



Such showings must happen during the hours of 11am to 4pm **with an appointment with RHHS**. Please bring all provided paperwork with you to the showing in the event of an adoption.

Step 2: Adoption. Once verified your foster pet is ready for adoption and you have determined the animal and adopter are a good match, you are ready to fill out the adoption forms. Please read this packet ahead of time, follow the written instructions, and reach out to the Foster Coordinator if you have any questions.

2.1. Paperwork: You are receiving 2 separate sets of paperwork; Adoption Forms, which you must go through first with the adopter (follow the written instructions), and an Adopter Handout, which has specific details on the animal you will give the adopter to take home.

- You are required to review all pages (front and back) with the adopter and note if questions arise.
- **It is essential that you take a picture/photocopy of the adopter's (front AND back) form of a government issued photo I.D.** You may email them to foster@rhumanesociety.org. Without this item, the adoption cannot take place.
- A copy of the Adoption Contract will be emailed to the adopter once adoption is processed in our internal system.
- Should the adoption forms require a behavior and/or medical consult, those are necessary prior to the animal going home with the adopter and will be by appointment, via phone. The animal should remain in the foster care provider's home until the consult has taken place and been verified.

2.2 Adoption Fee Payment: You are authorized to receive checks made out to RHHS and cash for payment. If an adopter wishes to pay with a credit/debit card, they must pay via phone at [\(970\) 434-7337](tel:9704347337) during business hours. Our adoption package includes all age-appropriate vaccinations, spay/neuter surgery, microchipping and one year of registration, heartworm test (for dogs), preventive deworming treatment, a free health exam from one of our Partners in Care veterinarians, and free access to our Animal Resource Center for 30 days (behavior consults with our animal behavior experts via phone to help the animal acclimate to the new home and address any questions/concerns).

<u>Kittens (<6months) \$125</u>	<u>Puppies (<6months) \$225</u>
<u>Adult Cats \$90</u>	<u>Adult Dogs \$165</u>
<u>Senior Cats (over 8yr) \$75</u>	<u>Senior Dogs (>8yr) 115</u>

2.3 Mesa County License Fee Payment: Cats DO NOT need licenses. All dogs residing in Mesa County must have a current Rabies vaccine and are required by law to be licensed through Mesa County Animal Services. If the dog received a 1-year Rabies vaccine, the license should be for 1 year (\$10). If the dog received a 3-year Rabies vaccine, the license may be for 3 years (\$25). For each license given out, there should be a corresponding

MCAS metal tag. Fill out the license form in its entirety and give the adopter the white copy along with the metal tag.

2.4. Take a picture. Please make sure to take a picture of your foster pet with their new adopter before they leave and send that photo to foster@rhumanesociety.org immediately.

Step 3: Notify the Foster Coordinator. As soon as the adoption contract is signed by the adopter, let the Foster Coordinator immediately via email foster@rhumanesociety.org or at (970) 216-6222. Keep all adoption forms and return them to RHHS as soon as possible.

Special Case: Adopting Your Own Fosters

You may adopt your own Covid Companion foster after going through the adoption process with one of our staff members via phone. Return all adoption forms to RHHS as soon as possible. The adoption fee remains the same. If you are interested in adopting your own foster, notify the Foster Coordinator at foster@rhumanesociety.org.

Step 4: Saying Goodbye.

Saying goodbye to your foster can be an emotional time. Cry if you need to, but make sure they're happy tears! You have set up a homeless pet for a successful, healthy life full of love and happiness. You have given a family a new member that will bring countless amounts of joy, love, and companionship for years to come. That's something to celebrate! Be proud. Goodbye is the goal of fostering, and there are many more shelter pets who need your help!

ROICE-HURST LOCATION, HOURS, & CONTACT INFORMATION

Jenna Kretschman, Foster Coordinator jenna@rhumanesociety.org (email preferred)
970-216-6222 (call/text). This is also the primary after hours emergency number.

Secondary emergency number [\(970\) 261-3760](tel:(970)261-3760) . Leave a message.

Dr. Chris Hoppe, Shelter Veterinarian / Emily King, Veterinary Technician [\(970\) 434-7337 ext. 105](tel:(970)434-7337).

Roice-Hurst Humane Society 362 28 Road, [\(970\) 434-7337](tel:(970)434-7337) Hours: Tuesday – Sunday, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm.