

Foster Care

KCCPR is a rescue based in Cabarrus County, North Carolina. We welcome foster homes that live within 30 miles of Lowes Motor Speedway and Concord Mills Mall.

If you are located in our area, and would like to participate in the Foster Care program, be sure you have read this entire packet carefully, and then fill out the application form completely.

After you have submitted the application, the KCCPR foster care coordinator will contact you about your application.

Thinking about becoming a foster care home?

Ask yourself these important questions first...

1. **Are you at least 21 years of age?** Due to insurance issues and safety concerns only people over 21 can participate in this program. Children can help, but adults must be the primary caregivers.
2. **Are you able to drive to KCCPR frequently?** You will need to transport animals back and forth to KCCPR on a regular basis for vaccinations, vet checks, weight checks and various other procedures.
3. **Are you able to drive to adoption events?** Adoption events are held each Saturday from 11am to 4pm. Occasionally we set up appointments during the week at the fosters parents convenience.
4. **Are you able to work with harsh cleaning chemicals such as bleach?** Between sets of foster animals you should thoroughly clean the foster area with a disinfecting chemical.
5. **Are you aware that there is a great deal of clean-up and even possible damage to your home when you take a foster animal home?** Foster animals have ruined drapes, carpeting, clothing, and other valuable items. Preparing your home and the area the animals will stay in can prevent most accidents, but not all of them!
6. **Are you able to monitor the health of the foster animals?** You will need to pay attention to signs of illness or worsening of symptoms and call KCCPR if you are concerned. The KCCPR Foster Care team will help you decide if you should bring the animals in for treatment.
7. **Can you get to us quickly in case of an emergency?** If the animals you are fostering need medical attention, you will need to make arrangements with us to take the animal to our veterinarian to be seen.
8. **Are you emotionally prepared to return the animal to KCCPR after the foster period is up?**

It can be very difficult to let go once you have become emotionally attached to the animals! Be prepared for tears and heartache when the day comes that you must bring your first foster animals back to KCCPR.



9. **Can you place your trust in the KCCPR staff to decide the best for the animal regarding its medical care and adoptability?** Sometimes adoption is not an option even after the animal has been fostered. Knowing that an animal you have fostered may need to be euthanized can be very hard to deal with.
10. **Do you feel comfortable explaining to friends that these animals are not yours to adopt out and that they must go through the regular adoption process at KCCPR because KCCPR is the legal owner of the animal?** If you are interested in helping to find homes for your foster animals, refer your friends and family to the KCCPR shelter staff to complete an adoption application

Preparing your home for foster care

Note that it is always a health risk to expose your animals to other animals, so to be on the safe side, you should keep them separate for the entire foster period.

Not only do puppies and dogs have things that can be passed from pet to pet but also from pet to human. Be sure to wash your hands after handling a new puppy, cleaning up after the pet and between pets.

If you are fostering puppies, remember that they will play or chew anything they can find! Drapes, electrical cords, lamp shades, and Austrian Crystal, animals are as much fun as the toys that you give them, so be sure to "puppy-proof" your home.

Supplies you will need

Plastic Carrier: You can use the carrier in which you took the animal home. It will provide a familiar smelling, dark, quiet home. A bigger box may be desirable to allow you to see in, as well as to provide plenty of room if you have a mother and a litter of puppies.

Food Bowl: For the dry food. You can use TV dinner trays, paper plates, or whatever you have -- any shallow bowl or saucer will do. The larger the litter, the larger the plate should be, so that no one in the litter gets crowded out. We prefer metal pans as they tend to be more sanitary and easier to clean.

Water Bowls: Provide access to water at all times. Remember, young animals can drown, so make sure the bowl is very shallow.

Food: All dog and puppy food is supplied by KCCPR. We feed Esbilac puppy formulas to our infant puppies.

Toys: Go crazy if you want! Puppies can amuse themselves with empty rolls of toilet paper. Empty cardboard 12-pack soda boxes are good for a number of different games. Clean tennis balls, make great toys as well. We just ask that you watch the puppy with toys so that they don't ingest pieces of the toy.



Other considerations: Bottle of "Nature's Miracle" for accidents, adoption applications to give to people who are interested in your foster care animals, and baby gates to help keep foster animals safely contained in their room/area and out of inappropriate areas.

Foster parents are people who take an adoptable animal into their home until a suitable adoptive home can be found.

- All of our animals stay in foster homes since we don't have a physical shelter at which to house our animals. Without foster homes, we have no place for the animals to go. Kreitzer's Critter Corral Puppy Rescue (KCCPR) provides food and medical care for the foster pet, as well as any support the foster family may need with training and behavior issues. All it takes to be a foster parent is a home and some love. Many of our foster parents also work on basic house manners with their foster animals.
- Foster pets are family members, just like foster children, foster parents need to be sure to familiarize themselves with the adoption application, adoption process, and fees.

It doesn't take a lot to be a foster parent for KCCPR.

- Any other pets in your home must be current on their vaccinations, spayed/neutered and in good health.
- A fenced yard is required if you'd like to foster large dogs.

How long will my foster pet stay with me? We ask for a minimum 3 week commitment. (We understand that some foster homes can only foster for a week or two and that is okay as well, as long as we know ahead of time.) Some foster pets are adopted after the 3 week foster period. Others take a few months to find the perfect forever home. And there are some animals that may take up to a year or more to be adopted. Every effort is made to find new homes quickly, but fostering can sometimes be a long term commitment. We generally try to find an animal we think will be adopted relatively quickly for your first foster animal to ease you into it and give you a feel for the whole process. We will also give you our honest, best guess opinion of how long it might take. Any training you can do with your foster animal goes a long way towards finding a new home. Even just housetraining a dog can increase their chances of being adopted.

Won't I get attached to my foster pet? It is only natural to get attached to a pet that you care for every day like one of your own. It usually helps our foster families when saying goodbye to their foster pets to know that KCCPR screens applicants thoroughly to assure that all pets go to caring, responsible homes. While we do allow our foster parents to adopt a pet they are fostering, we try to discourage it in most cases since adopting often means a family can no longer foster, and foster homes are hard to find.

How much does it cost to be a foster home? The only payment our foster homes have to make is one of love. KCCPR provides almost everything else, including food, routine and emergency medical care. We can often also provide crates if needed or available. Our foster homes can buy toys or treats for their foster animals, but that is optional.

What if I want to go on vacation, or have an emergency and need to go out of town? We just ask that you give us as much advanced notice as possible so we can make arrangements.

