



## **Foster Policy and Procedures**

The Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Service Center accepts any and all animals brought to the facility for care, despite the animals age, health status, or breed description. With the growing number of impounded animals annually, comes the inherent need for an inclusive foster program. The goal of the Foster program is to decrease euthanasia rates of animals not ready for adoption due to curable disease, young age, injury, poor health, corrective behavioral issues, or shelter overpopulation.

### **Definitions**

***Foster Agreement:*** A contract between TLCASC and the Foster Parent for each animal or group of animals fostered at one time. The Foster Agreement provides and clarifies specific conditions related to each foster charge but does not supersede or modify the Foster Policy

***Foster Charge:*** The animal being fostered

***Foster Parent:*** Any individual approved to foster animals for TLCASC

***Infant:*** Any dog or cat below the age of eight weeks; any kitten weighing under two pounds; animals unable to nourish themselves when food is provided.

***Medically Not – Adoptable:*** any ill animals as determined by the veterinary team, the TLCASC health assessment, or by the discretion of the Management team as in need of medical treatment which requires skilled or prolonged care.

***Stray Period:*** A time frame designated by Animal Control Ordinances to house an un-owned animal.

***TLCASC:*** Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Service Center

***TLCASC Behavior Assessment:*** The Assessing Dogs on Practical Tests (A.D.O.P.T.) program is a research based behavior assessment process for all shelter dogs.

## Policy

1. Foster parents may not notify breed specific rescues or transfer groups without TLCASC's management approval
2. Animals eligible for fostering include but are not limited to:
  - Those identified as requiring moderate behavior modification
  - Those that have been in the facility for a stray or adoptable time period and the facility is overcrowded
  - Infant animals with or without mothers
  - Medically not adoptable animals
3. TLCASC management team may identify additional animals that qualify for fostering at their discretion
4. Anyone registered as a foster parent interested in providing foster care for one or several animals shall receive, sign, and agree to a Foster Agreement for each animal or group of related animals to be fostered
5. No animals can be requested, fostered or released from TLCASC's custody prior to signing the Foster Agreement
6. Animals shall be picked up the same day of signing the Foster Agreement
7. Animals shall not be fostered out during a "HOLD" status, which is defined as, but not limited to a hold initiated by an Animal Control Officer, hold for the duration of a bite quarantine period, and hold for a stray period or a possible reclaim period.
8. TLCASC staff reserves the right to decide which animals will be fostered
9. Foster parents must keep their foster charges in their possession
10. Foster parents may not re-home, nor leave their foster charges for a "trail" visit with potential adopters.
11. All medically not-adoptable animals taken by a foster parent cannot be adopted until re-classified as medically adoptable by TLCASC staff
12. All infants fostered cannot be adopted until they reach applicable age and/or weight as defined for infant.
13. Unrelated juvenile animals cannot be fostered together. Only one juvenile/litter can be fostered with a foster parent at a time. Juvenile animals of different species are permitted.
14. The foster parent assumes full responsibility for the animals' safety, medical care and welfare once the animals have been removed from TLCASC's premises.

15. When resources are available, TLCASC will provide food, supplies, and veterinary care for fosters.
16. TLCASC management team reserves the right to deny any foster parent from being included in the current registrar for cause. In addition, any current registration can be cancelled at any time without notice for cause.
17. TLCASC reserves the right to exercise home or premises visits (fostered animals location) at any time during the foster or before