
KITTEN FOSTERING PROGRAM

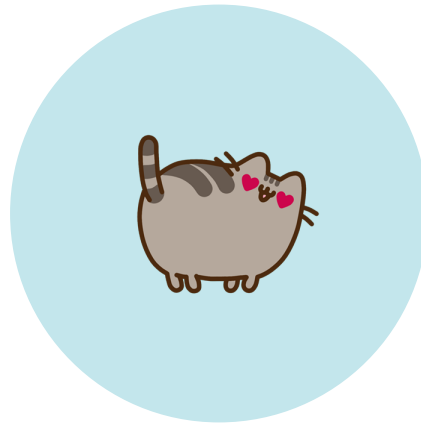
MILWAUKEE AREA
DOMESTIC ANIMAL
CONTROL



NEW KITTEN FOSTER ORIENTATION



FOSTERING SAVES LIVES



FOSTERING IS
REWARDING



FOSTERING HELPS YOUR
COMMUNITY

MADACC STAFF

Kate Hartlund, Shelter
Outcomes Coordinator
(Foster Coordinator)

Kathy Shillinglaw,
Outreach and
Volunteer Coordinator

Dr. Libby Gutting,
Medical Director
Dr. Justin Bergeron
Dr. Zoie Schaefer



WE ARE HERE TO:

- Provide behavior support
- Provide medical support including spay/neuter surgeries
- Provide food, medicine, and other supplies
- Market adoptable kittens



WHY IS FOSTERING IMPORTANT



Fosters

- Provide individualized attention
- Socialize kittens for the “real world”
- Find adopters for pets (optional)
- Facilitate adoption paperwork (optional)
- Take care of day to day needs of kittens
- Bring kittens to checkups and to surgery dates

Requirements for being a foster

- 18 years or older
- Live somewhere kittens/cats are allowed
- Time to dedicate to the kittens/cats
- Resident pets spay/neutered, vaccinated, licensed and not exceeding pet limits
- Designated room(s) for foster
- Ability to transport animals to and from facility
- Access to email and phone for communication
- Willingness to market kittens (optional)

PROCESS

How do I get kittens?

- Attend orientation and have foster application on file.
- Kittens/cats come into MADACC every day, once the foster coordinator is informed there is a need for foster, an email will be sent to the group informing them of need
- Needs may also be put on Foster Facebook Group
- Once contact is made, a pickup time is set
- At pickup you fill out the foster agreement, get medical paperwork, and any medications or supplies needed.
- You can bring a carrier, or one will be provided

What kinds of cat/kittens will need fostering?

- Bottle babies
- Mom cats (called Queens) and babies
- Kittens under 2 lbs
- Kittens under 2 lbs that need socialization
- Kittens over 2 lbs that need socialization
- Adult cats that need foster for medical or behavior reasons

TIME COMMITMENT AND SUPPLIES

House guests

- Average kitten fostering is 2-5 weeks
- Queens and kittens can be up to 10 weeks
- Kittens that need socialization or have health issues move on their own timetable
- Ever effort will be made to give you an accurate estimate of time commitment
- Vacations can be accommodated

Supplies (most can be provided)

- Designated foster room
- Carrier
- Litter pans/ boxes (box lids) and Paper litter
- Food/water bowls and Food
- Toys and Beds/ blankets
- Scale
- Syringe/ Bottles (milk replacement)
- Cat tree (not required)

SAFETY GUIDELINES

- Remove any potentially toxic items (listed in foster manual)
- Keep toilet bowls closed
- Make sure all vents are secure and closed
- Secure any exposed electrical cords
- Make sure any open windows have secure screens
- Remove any valuable or breakable items
- Limit height that kittens can reach (avoid falls)
- Check for any and all possible escape routes and make sure they are secured
- Separate litter pan from food/water area
- Anchor or tie up window blind cords and curtains/ drapes
- Keep washer and dryer closed when not in use
- Follow cleaning guidelines that are both safe for pets as well as standard protocol for disinfecting (see manual)

CLEANING PROTOCOL FOR FOSTER ROOM

- Clean the designated room with soap/water before disinfecting. Sweep and mop hard surfaces thoroughly, vacuum and steam carpeted areas. All organic debris must be removed before disinfecting process.
- Use a solution of bleach and water to clean all areas of your designated foster room. This can be made as a wipe down solution in a spray bottle that can be used on hard and carpeted surfaces. Let the solution set for 10 minutes before wiping down. The dilution ratio is 1 part bleach to 30 parts water (1/4 cup bleach to one gallon water).
- Wash all bedding/towels used in foster room separately from household laundry. You may add bleach and baking soda to these loads for disinfection and to remove odors (1/4 cup bleach and 1/2 cup baking soda to unscented detergent). It is not recommended to use fabric softener, but using unscented dryer sheets to reduce static is okay.
- Wash all food/water bowls daily and litter pans/boxes as needed.
- Always wash your own hands with antibacterial soap after each time spent in the foster room and before interacting with your own resident animals. If any of your foster animals are being treated for infectious illness, using gloves while handling or wearing designated clothing (smock, sweatshirt, shoes) which will be washed frequently is strongly recommended.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL

- Little kittens can take a medical turn for the worse, often quick action needs to be taken. Below are a list of possible medical concerns are considered an emergency. ***Foster parents are not authorized to take any animal to outside veterinary clinics without permission from appropriate MADACC staff!***
 - Severe lethargy
 - Labored breathing
 - Seizures
 - Diarrhea in kitten 5 weeks and under (3 or more times in 24 hour period, especially in conjunction with anorexia)
 - Major wounds
 - Excessive vomiting (3-4 times in 24 hour period)
 - Lack of appetite lasting 12 hours
 - No urination for 24 hours or more
 - Temperature over 103 F or under 98 F

WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY



- *During regular MADACC business hours (M-F 8am-7pm, Sat/Sun 8am-5pm) – FIRST contact Kate Hartlund at #414-510-2556 and then bring the animal(s) directly to the facility for clinic staff to evaluate.*
- *During non MADACC business hours (M-F 7pm-8am, Sat/Sun 5pm-8am) – contact foster coordinator Kate Hartlund at #414-510-2556. You will be directed by Kate what to do after discussing the emergency with the vet on call.*
- *Foster parents are not authorized to take any animal to outside veterinary clinics without permission from appropriate MADACC staff!*

NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL

- Discharge from eyes/nose
- Coughing/Sneezing
- Lack of appetite
- Diarrhea lasting 2 times or less
- Vomiting (1-2 times during a period greater than 24 hours)
- First sign of weight loss
- Limping
- Skin disease
- Minor wounds
- Not defecating for more than 2 days



VACCINATION AND SURGERY SCHEDULE

- In most situations kittens will need to return to the shelter for booster shots and vet checkups every two weeks before surgery.
- Appointments are typically daily 10-3 pm.
- Appointments will be made either by fosterappt@madacc.org or by the Foster Coordinator at foster@madacc.org
- Surgery dates will be made by the Foster Coordinator and will typically happen when the kittens' approach 2 lbs (>1.5 lbs if healthy and ideally no larger than 3 lbs).
- Kittens in foster for socialization may be altered before going into foster or an appointment will be made by the Foster Coordinator during their foster stay.
- Surgery space is very limited, so it is important that you make your appointment.



THE BIG TWO

- Two types of fosters are in critical need- Bottle baby fosters and socialization fosters.
- Bottle babies take more time and training but are incredibly worth it.
- Socializing kittens that are scared saves lives.
- Saving more lives depends on recruiting more homes to foster bottle babies and kittens needing socialization.



BOTTLE BABIES

- Need to be feed every 2-4 hours
- Helps to have others in the house willing to help
- Need to warm milk and weigh kittens before feeding
- Need to potty kittens
- Keep a detailed log of feeding and weight
- Need bottles or syringes
- Need to keep babies warm (heating pads or incubators)



SOCIALIZATION

- Critical to socialize kittens everyday
- Toys are important
- Introductions to as many people as possible is important
- Make sure you are the only source of food
- Plan to keep kittens in a very confined space, sometimes a large crate or cage or small room.





HOW WILL I LEARN ALL THIS!!!

- Foster Mentor program on the MADACC Foster Facebook page.
- “Kitten Lady” Hannah Shaw has provided her webinars to any shelter that is saving kitten lives.
- Attending appropriate seminars is required, can be done on your own schedule and is free.
- Orphan Kittens Booklet and MADACC’s Foster handbooks will be emailed to you
- <http://www.kittenlady.org/kitten-care>
 - Kitten care guidelines
- <http://www.kittenlady.org/webinar>
 - Kitten webinars for bottle babies, growing kittens, and feral kittens.

*Thank you to ©Hannah Shaw and Kitten Lady LLC, 2020

WHAT HAPPENS IF A KITTEN DOESN'T MAKE IT?

- Fostering is rewarding and life saving, but can also be very difficult.
- Sometimes despite all of your and our best efforts, some kittens don't make it.
- It is heartbreaking, but remember, it is not your fault!
- Deaths can occur from congenital defects, low birth weight, diseases resulting from inadequate diet fed to mother, infectious diseases, lack of antibodies from mother, severe intestinal parasites or other causes.
- If a kitten passes, you will contact the Foster Coordinator, and return the kitten for cremation.





KITTENS ARE READY FOR ADOPTION, NOW WHAT?

- Kittens come back for surgery to spay/neuter and stay for adoption
- If you have an adopter lined up, contact the Foster Coordinator as soon as you know and you will be sent paperwork
- Ideally adoptions should be completed two days prior to surgery
- Adopter profile needs to be filled out, and adoption agreement and post adoption health policy. Payment will also be taken over the phone from the adopter. (typically, \$125)

OH, MY GOODNESS, I CAN'T LET THIS ONE GO!

Yes, you can adopt your kitten!

- You do the same process as any other adopter.
- You do get first dibs unless informed by the foster coordinator of a different circumstance prior to fostering.
- Adoption fees are the same for fosters as all adopters.



CONTACT INFO

Kate Hartlund

Address: 3839 West Burnham Street

West Milwaukee

Phone: 414-649-8640

Cell: 414-510-2556

Email: foster@madacc.org

Website: www.madacc.org

Hours: 10 am – 7 pm Mon-Fri, 10 am-5 pm Sat-Sun

Thank you for considering fostering!

