

KHS FOSTER CARE PROGRAM QUICKSHEET

Transitioning Food

Because our ability to provide food to foster animals is based on donations, the availability of our resources varies. We will try to supply about a week’s worth of food; you are welcome to come back if you need more and we will see what we can do. If at all possible, we ask that you feed your foster animals what we feed them at the shelter (Science Diet) so that they don’t need to adjust to a new environment AND new food. But if you want to use a different brand, we ask that you **use a brand of food that is not dyed**, as we need to know the true color of their feces to monitor their health! Here are the guidelines to transitioning from shelter-provided food to the food you are personally providing:

- Day 1-2: Entirely shelter-provided food
- Day 3-5: Half shelter-provided food and half personal food
- Day 6-7: ¼ shelter-provided food and ¾ personal food
- Day 8+: Entirely personal food

Please note that this DOES NOT apply to animals that are on a special diet (i.e. medical reasons, bottle-fed babies using KMR, etc) as KHS will provide that food.

Illness

Your foster animal may have loose stools for a couple days after bringing them home. This could be due to the change in food and/or the new environment. If it persists, contact your Mentor for advice and arrange a time to bring in a stool sample to be checked by our Vet Services staff.

MEDICAL NON-EMERGENCIES

- Runny discharge from nose or eyes
- Lack of appetite and/or weight loss
- Lethargy and/or unusual behavior
- Coughing and sneezing
- Lack of bowel movement for more than 24 hours
- Several bouts of vomiting or diarrhea
- Large distended belly
- Non weight-bearing lameness persisting for more than 12 hours
- Swollen, painful joints or a gait that appears as if the animal is “walking on eggshells”
- Lameness that initially improves but does not resolve in 24 – 48 hours
- Incessant scratching of self

If your foster animal experiences one or more of these signs, **please contact your Mentor for advice or to set up a Vet Check**



MEDICAL EMERGENCIES



- Diarrhea for more than two days, especially if light colored—yellow or bloody
- Vomiting for 24 hours or more
- Not eating for more than 12 hours
- Listless behavior or dehydration (pulled skin stands up over the nape of the neck for more than 3 seconds)
- Very high/very low temps (anal, above 102.8F/below 100.2F)
- Any difficulty breathing
- Any problem associated with systemic signs, such as lethargy, loss of appetite, weakness, and fever
- Bleeding
- Trauma

If your foster animal experiences one or more of these signs, **please call the Veterinarian listed on the Foster Request Form if it is after hours, and notify the FCC. If the emergency is during business hours, please bring the animal to KHS and notify the FCC.**