

## FOSTER CARING

What is involved and your obligations as a volunteer foster carer

Every year between late September through to late May, the Cat Protection Society of NSW receives hundreds of homeless kittens who need foster care until they are big enough to be desexed and re-homed (usually at around 8-9 weeks of age). Although it is indeed a rewarding experience, fostering young kittens requires a committed and serious approach by those wishing to volunteer for this role.

Cat Protection has a duty of care to all of their cats and kittens, wherever they are situated (including foster homes) and they are at all times the property of Cat Protection. Carers who wish to keep a kitten they have cared for must return the kitten to our Adoption Centre and go through the same adoption procedure required of all prospective adopters, including payment of the standard adoption fee.

The application form attached highlights the requirements that need to be met and/or considered carefully before you are able to foster our kittens or cats. Listed below is a summary of what's involved:

- You must be 18 years of age or older to apply.
- Regular feeds at regular times (determined by age, weight and the health of the kittens, not by the carer)
- Provide any necessary medication, flea and worm treatment
- Daily or more frequent litter tray cleaning (not for the squeamish!)
- Supervision of kittens during feeding times (just as you would with young children or babies)
- Regular blocks of time spent socialising the kittens on a daily basis (it's important they are gently handled, nursed and played with every day)
- Provision of a safe, secure environment for the kittens at all times
- Regular notes on health and behaviour to be recorded
- While foster caring, carers must be readily contactable by Cat Protection staff
- Carers must not 'handover' the care of kittens to another person who is not listed on the application form. If a carer's circumstances change during the time they are caring for kittens/cats, they must notify Cat Protection immediately so that we can make alternative arrangements for the kittens'/cat's care.

If you are confident that you can meet the above requirements for this special role, please complete the application form, read and sign our Volunteer Code of Conduct and return or post all paperwork to:

Samantha Cummings  
Foster Care Coordinator  
The Cat Protection Society of NSW  
103 Enmore Road  
Newtown NSW 2042

**CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NSW FOSTER CARE  
VOLUNTEER APPLICATION FORM**

(please print clearly in pen)

Primary Carer Name: .....  
(must be over 18 yrs of age)

Mobile No: .....

Home No: .....

Work No: .....

Secondary Carer Name: .....

Mobile No: .....

Work No: .....

*(In some cases the responsibility of caring for kittens is shared with another person within one household. If so, please include the name and contact details of this person in the above section 'Secondary Carer')*

Full Residential Address:

.....  
.....  
.....

Email: .....

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(please circle Yes/No answers where applicable in pen)

1. Do you have your own transport?

Yes/No

*(It is sometimes necessary for kittens who have fallen ill to be taken to one of our vets ASAP (this includes out of normal business hours). Although it is not absolutely necessary to have your own transport to foster our kittens, it is important for us to know your transport circumstances if such an occasion arises.)*

2. Do you live in a share house? *(persons other than your own family)*

Yes/No

If yes, are all the other residents aware and happy for you to foster kittens?

Yes/No

*(You may consider it a private decision to foster kittens in your own room but from experience we know it is essential for everyone in the household to give you permission to foster kittens.)*

3. Is your home 'cat and kitten-proof'? *(secure flyscreens on windows and doors etc)*

Yes/No

4. Where in the home will the kittens mainly be kept?

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*(It is extremely important kittens have a safe enclosed area for sleeping and for during playtimes when they are not being supervised. Ideally, this is a spare room or an area in your home that is not accessible by small children or other animals. All outdoor areas are unsuitable, including sheds etc)*

5. Do you give Cat Protection permission to conduct a house inspection?

Yes/No

*(We have a duty of care to our cats and kittens wherever they are situated, this includes foster homes)*

6. Are there any other animals living at your home?

Yes/No

If so, what kind and how many? .....

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If there are other cats in the household, do they hold a current vaccination certificate?

Yes/No

*(If you wish to foster our kittens it will be a requirement for you to present to us current vaccination certificates for all other cats in the household. Up-to-date vaccination protects both our kittens and your own cats)*

7. Have you, other persons or other animals in your household ever had ringworm?

Yes/No

If yes, when and how are you certain the infection is no longer present?

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*(In the context of a private household, ringworm infection is a minor inconvenience. But in a shelter environment (our cattery) where cats are kept at a higher density, infection of a single cat can rapidly lead to an outbreak, which can be extremely costly, difficult to manage and have a significant impact on re-homing capacity. In some cases, it can even lead to euthanasia. It is vital, therefore, that our foster kittens/cats do not enter homes where ringworm has been present unless it is certain that there is no longer any risk of transmission or presence of spores.)*

8. Have you ever fostered kittens for Cat Protection?

Yes/No

If yes, approximately how many times and what year? .....

.....

9. If you haven't previously fostered kittens for Cat Protection, have you ever had first-hand experience at raising a kitten?

Yes/No

If yes, from what age was the kitten(s) .....

10. Please rate the level of activity in your home (please circle)

Quiet 1 2 3 4 Active

11. Are there any children living in the home?

Yes/No

If yes, how many and how old are they? .....

*(In most cases, it is of enormous benefit for kittens to have exposure to children, although at times we do take in kittens/cats who are so timid that a home without children would be preferred)*

12. How much time each day can you dedicate to socialising the kittens (playing, nursing etc)?

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13. Most litters range from between 3-7 kittens. How many kittens would you be prepared to foster at any one time?

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14. Are you able to provide midday feeds?

Yes/No

*(Younger kittens need carers who are not working fulltime or who can come home to provide midday feeds)*

15. The age of kittens we receive ranges from 3-8 weeks. The younger they are, the more frequently they need to be fed and for very young kittens this may include around the clock bottle feeding. Below is a general guide to the different age stages of feeding requirements. Based on your previous experience and your ability and willingness to meet their requirements, please 'tick' the age range of kittens you'd be able care for:

- 3-4 week old kittens normally require bottle feeding every 4 hours around the clock
- 4-5 week old kittens normally are able to eat on their own and require feeding 4-5 times a day
- 5-6 week old kittens are able to eat on their own and require feeding 3-4 times a day

- 6-8 week old kittens are able to eat on their own and require feeding 3 times a day.

16. At times we need carers who can foster a mother cat and her babies. In these circumstances it is preferable that the mother and her kittens are provided with their own room (as opposed to simply a secured area that might be suitable for kittens alone). This is because mother cats are normally very territorial and anxious about the safety of their babies. Would you be willing to foster a mother cat and her kittens and do you have a single secure room that you could provide for them?

Yes/No

17. At times we need carers who can foster adult cats and older kittens who have experienced trauma or cruelty prior to entering our shelter. These cats need special care from a special carer. Their primary need is to be rehabilitated through gentle, patient socialisation which could take a few weeks at the very least. Based on this information, are you willing and able to foster an older kitten or an adult cat who needs this special care?

Yes/No

18. For those of you who have fostered for us before, do you have any of the following equipment remaining at your home?

Litter trays:	Yes/No	How many? .....
Food bowls:	Yes/No	How many? .....
Blankets:	Yes/No	How many? .....
Towels:	Yes/No	How many? .....

Do you have any comments you wish to make?

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND YOUR KINDNESS**

# cat protection society

OF NSW INC.



## **Volunteer Code of Conduct**

With respect to their duties, at all times volunteers:

1. Must act with honesty, integrity and good faith
2. Other than by way of courtesies such as the volunteer discount on CPS merchandise, or authorised volunteer work schemes, must not gain financially, or in any other material ways, from volunteering at CPS
3. Must not place CPS under any obligation, financial or otherwise, to any other organisation or person
4. Must not act in a manner that could damage or undermine the reputation of CPS or its staff or Board or volunteers, or undermine CPS's feline welfare objectives
5. Must disclose to the Volunteer Coordinator any conflict of interest, real or perceived, that may arise in the course of their duties
6. Must not seek gifts in connection with their duties
7. Must treat all stakeholders with courtesy and respect
8. Must keep confidential information confidential
9. Must fulfill their duties in accordance with CPS's vision, mission and values
10. Must comply with all relevant policies and procedures.

Volunteers are entitled to be treated with courtesy and respect, and to a safe workplace.

If a volunteer has concerns about conduct of staff or other volunteers, or any matter relating to the health, safety or wellbeing of people or cats at CPS, they are asked to report their concerns to the Volunteer Coordinator. Questions regarding operating procedures may be directed to any relevant member of staff at any time.

Name: .....

Signature: ..... Date: .....