

Chapter 5: Foster & Adoption

Foster parents are a vital part of our Community Cat Coalition work, as they provide a temporary home for cats/kittens as they recover from surgery or illness, or simply need to put on a little more weight before being desexed.

What you need:

- Transport, time & flexibility – to transport to the vet and to care for them
- Bedding, toys and a litter tray in a secure area – to keep them safe and contained and away from any pets that you have at home.
- Food, water, bowls & kitchen scales (to weigh food).

The table below lists the 5 key daily responsibilities:

<h3>Feeding</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐾 Kittens should be fed at least three times per day, adults twice per day 🐾 Replace uneaten wet food with fresh food at mealtimes 🐾 Monitor appetites closely 🐾 Fresh water readily available 	<h3>Cleaning Schedule</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐾 Scoop litter box at least 2 times daily 🐾 Check for diarrhoea 🐾 Litter should be dumped and changed every other day for 2 kittens, daily for more than 2 kittens or if kittens have diarrhoea
<h3>Health Check</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐾 Look over your cat/kitten every day for any changes or potential medical problems (refer to the Health chart on page 9 of the Foster Manual, Annexure L). 🐾 Weigh kittens and record weight 🐾 Check energy levels 	
<h3>Playtime & Mental Stimulation</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐾 Cats/kittens should receive 1-2 play sessions daily with interactive toys 🐾 Discourage play with hands 🐾 Interactive toys should not be left unattended with cats/kittens 🐾 Safe solo toys such as ping pong balls should be left out at all times 🐾 Change up the environment in small ways, e.g. add cardboard boxes, swop toys, etc. 	<h3>Handling & Socialization</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐾 Socialize kittens a minimum of two 15-minute sessions daily 🐾 Timid kittens and cats should have at least three 15 minute sessions daily 🐾 Encourage affectionate behaviour 🐾 Once settled, cats and kittens should be introduced to visitors so they become used to strangers



The following table is the **Kitten Symptom cheat sheet**, which gives one guidelines on what to do in certain situations.

SITUATION:	WHAT TO DO:
Kittens are losing weight and/or are not very energetic.	Make a vet appointment to have the kittens seen AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Kittens are so that any weight loss is significant.
Kittens are having diarrhoea for more than 12 hours	Make a vet appointment to have the kittens seen right away. Diarrhoea can cause dehydration which can be fatal. If the kittens are having liquid diarrhoea, are not eating well and are not energetic, this could be an emergency.
Kittens are not eating, don't seem interested in food but are energetic	Try offering some wet food; warming it up or choosing a strong smelling flavour such as fish will make it more tempting. If your kitten is still not eating after 12 hours, regardless of energy level, please consult a vet.
Kittens are having very soft stool but are eating and energetic	Monitor for 24 hours; if no improvement or diarrhoea worsens, consider a veterinary consultation.
Kittens are not losing weight, but are not gaining weight	If the kittens are energetic, eating well and don't have diarrhoea, keep monitoring the kittens. If they still do not gain weight in 24 hours or if their appetite or energy level drops, make a vet appointment.
Kittens are sneezing and have nasal discharge	Make a vet appointment. In the meantime, you can gently wipe away nasal discharge with warm water and a cotton ball. If they're not eating offer warmed wet food
Kittens eyes look weepy and are red or have green/yellow discharge	Make a vet appointment. In the meantime, use a cotton ball or soft cloth with warm water to gently clean the eyes (don't rub!) of any discharge.
Vomiting	If vomit is frequent or foamy make a vet appointment to have the kittens seen AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. If vomiting happens immediately after eating this could be because your kitten is eating too fast.
Kittens have got fleas and/or worms	Administer the correct dosage of flea or deworming medication as per the weight of the cat/kitten.
Kittens have hair loss	Phone the vet to discuss.

Refer to the **Foster Manual**, Annexure L for additional information about fostering cats, including preventing bad and encouraging good behaviour; tips for handling timid cats, etc.



The CCC is committed to rehome all healthy well-socialised stray cats/kittens once they have been desexed and microchipped. The process for finding “forever” homes can be quite cumbersome, as one often needs to resort to using one’s own network of friends and family.

The CCC have created a section on its Website to advertise cats/kittens who are ready for adoption. Each CCC member will have the ability to complete and upload a template and picture of the cat/kitten available for adoption. The following key information will be provided:

- Name
- Animal ID
- Breed or description of cat
- Gender
- Approximate age
- A brief narrative about the cat’s life to date
- The cat’s suitability for other pets and children as well as his/her special characteristics/qualities

All interested parties can click on the “How to adopt me” icon on the Website which will then take them to the **Adoption Application form** (Annexure M), which they can download or complete and submit online. The relevant CCC member will receive the application forms and assess the applicants.

The CCC recommends that a nominal adoption fee is charged. Not only does this create value for the cat/kitten, but also this can pay towards some of the veterinary and other expenses incurred by the CCC member to date.

