

Fostering 4 Rock Stars

Presenter: Kristi Brooks



Cat Adoption Team's Foster Program



- 1 foster coordinator
- 100 foster families
- 1000 moms & kittens



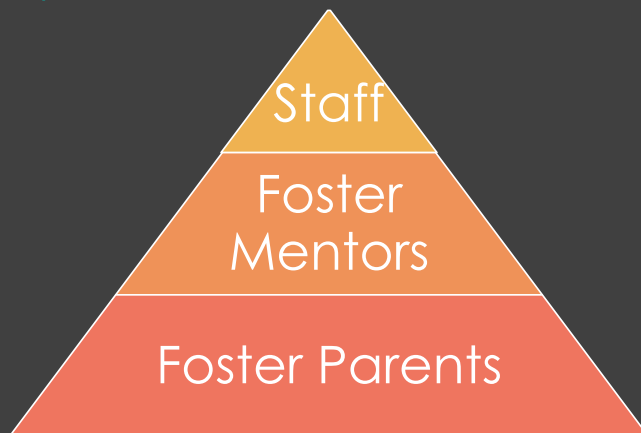
CAT Timeline

- 1998 Cat Adoption Team was founded.
- 2002 Small fostering program - 200 kittens/Hospital was built.
- 2004 First volunteer foster coordinator - 500 kittens/training started.
- 2005 First staff foster coordinator – fostered 700+ kittens.
- 2006 Mentor group loosely formed – fostered 1102 kittens.
- 2007 Fostered over 1300 kittens – too many!
- 2008-2009 Still fostering over 1200 – too many! Losing mentors.
- 2010 Fostered 1000 – just right. Had 15 mentors.
- 2011 Took in more at-weight kittens – less foster kittens. Didn't work!
- 2012 Went back to what works – 1000 kittens!
- 2013-2015 Demand declined. Expanded to bottle babies and socialization – The Final Frontier!

Why Have a Foster Program?



Pyramid of Fostering



Foster Parents – Educate, Empower, & Trust

- Foster Training
- Foster Manual
- Policies/Procedures
- Disciplinary Plan
- Limits
- Continuing Education
- Mentors



Kitten Baby Bag

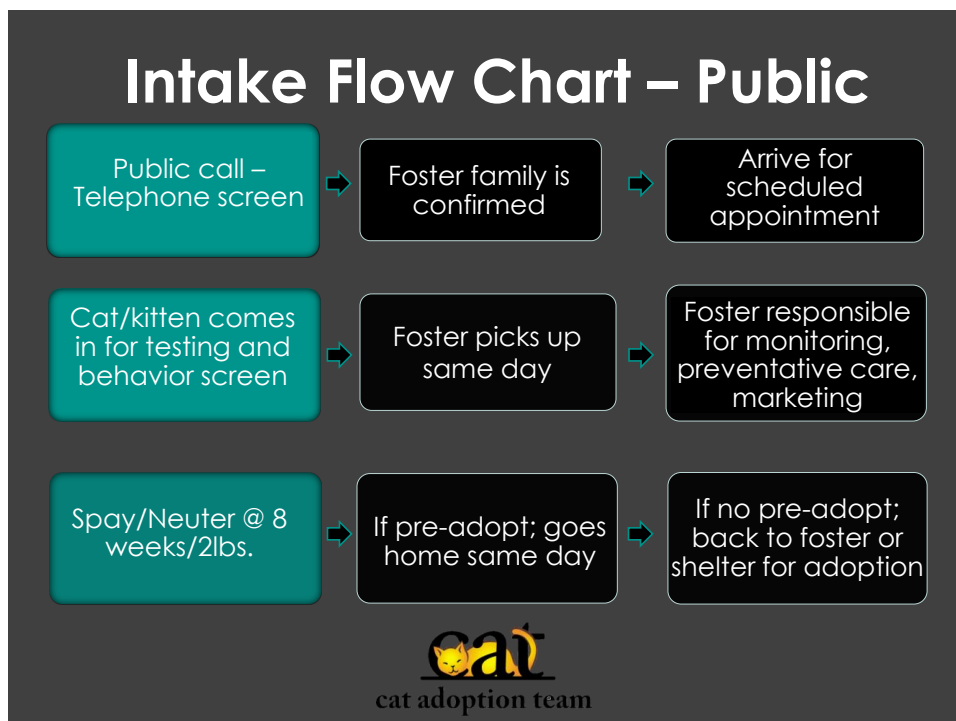
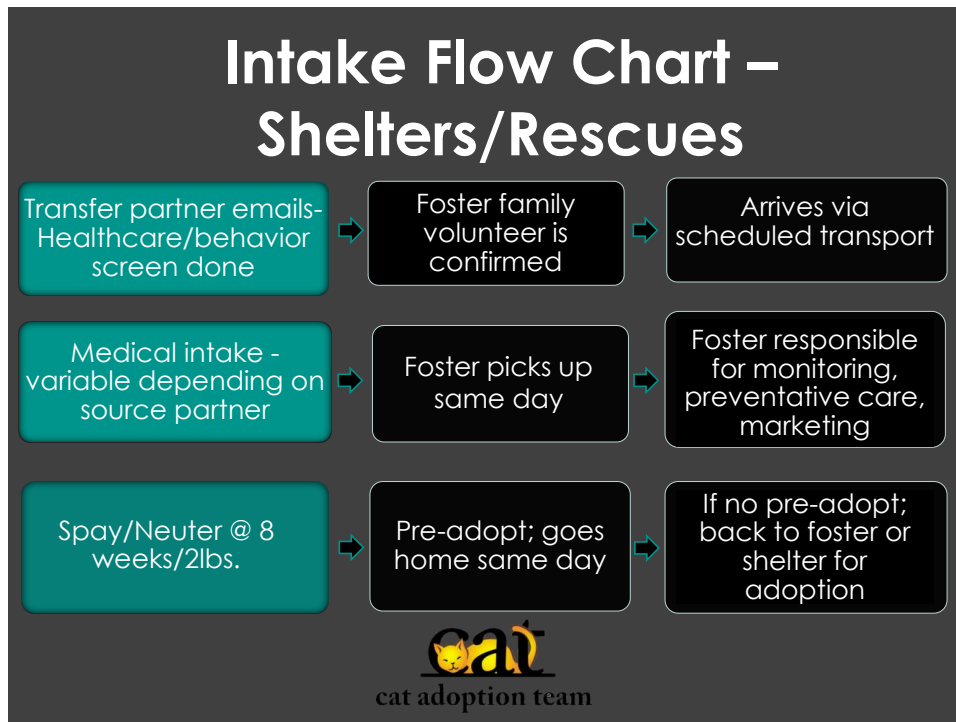
- Gloves
- Karo syrup
- 1ml and 3ml syringes
- Baby shampoo / wash cloths
- Flea comb
- Amoxicillin
- Digital Scale
- Quick Read Thermometer
- Rubbing alcohol / lubricant
- Strongid
- Nursing kit / KMR (4 wks. & under)
- Fecal container
- A&D ointment
- Nail trimmers
- Fortiflora



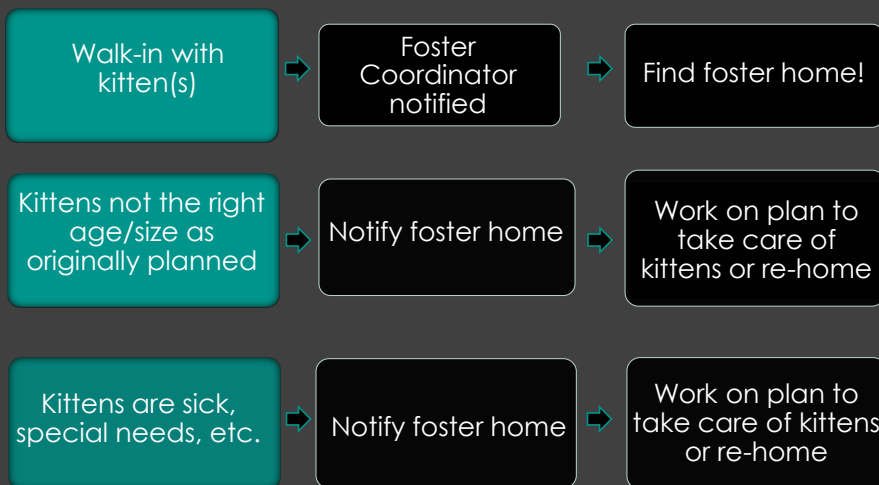
Successful Intake = Successful Foster Parents

- Do you have a foster home that matches the need?
- Don't take in everything unless you have a plan (if possible)
- Be selective





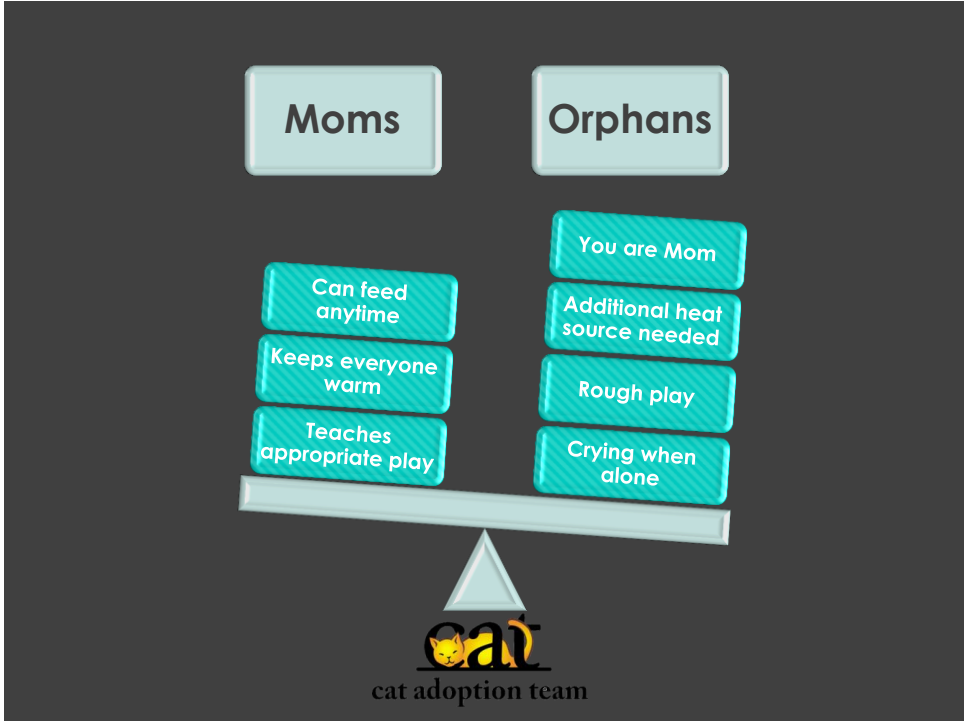
Intake Flow Chart – Surprise!



Calling All Foster Parents

- Group e-mail
- 1 hour phone list
- Fosters in waiting
- Proper placement





Foster Parent Partners



Bottle families connected to regular foster families for the hand-off once they are weaning or are weaned.



Slurry – Yum!



- Small scoop of KMR
- Heaping teaspoon of chicken baby food (no onion or garlic)
- ¼ can Hill's A/D
- Hot water
- Mix until smooth



Foster Mentors

- Knows your program well
- Good with cats and people
- Medically trained
- Trustworthy



Foster Mentor Supplies

- Everything from the baby bag
- Hand sanitizer
- Different canned foods
- Small vaccine cooler
- Note pad and paper
- 1 bag of LRS (fluids)
- Sharpie to mark the sub-q bag
- Scalp vein sets 23G/19G
- 50 ml syringe
- 18G needles
- Gauze pads
- Little Noses saline & decongestant
- Old plastic peanut butter jars for sharps
- Long cotton swabs

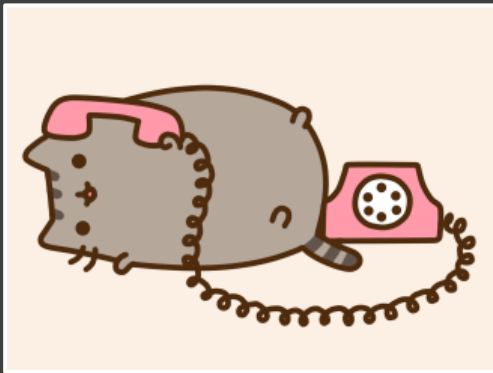


Foster Mentors— Responsibilities/Training

- Phone calls and emails
- Available after-hours
- Recognize illness
- Give vaccines
- Sub-q fluids



On-Call Lead Mentors



- One week at a time
- 24/7 support to mentors
- Have Manager's on-call list
- Extra training required
- Stipend for staff

Staff Support and Knowledge



- Get the team on board
- Need medical protocols
- Train as many staff as possible
- Trust the people and program



Expenses

- Intake expenses
- Baby Bags
- Spay/Neuter
- Make a budget
- Increased shelter expenses
- Track what you spend
- Fundraise to offset expense



Get Them Seen!



- Website
- Petfinder/Adopt-a-pet
- Social media
- Large adoption events



Adoption Events



Pre-adoption



- Must meet kitten
- Adoption counseling done
- Adoption fee paid
- Ownership transfers after S/N surgery
- This is not a hold!
- Saves two lives



Spay/Neuter

- 8 weeks / 2 lbs.
- Increase surgery capacity
- Personality Profiles filled out
- Space at the shelter
- Going back to foster / offsite



www.catadoptionteam.org/fostering4rockstars



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Foster Coordinator information

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Find everything your organization's foster coordinator will need to make his/her job easier. Below are links to documents that provide a way to track your foster parents, prepare baby bag tags, and includes detailed job descriptions for staff and volunteers.

About the documents in this section:

- **Baby Bag documents** - to provide your volunteers with the tools they will need to make a difference
- **Budget worksheet** - this is a tool to help you estimate what the program might cost your shelter
- **Data Tracking Sheet** - for analysis of your program year after year
- **Foster Parents Tracking** - helps you keep track of your foster homes, what they like and don't like to foster, what part of town they are in, and when they are ready to foster again...
- **Sample Kitten List** - a marketing tool to let the public know where your kittens are and when they can be seen for pre-adoption; this will allow you to track all aspects of your program, including how many foster parents, groups, deaths, and from which intake sources. This is helpful even if you use Shelter Buddy or other software
- **Temporary Foster homes** - the pros and cons for why to use temporary foster parents. Remember to give them the same training and have the same expectations of them as your regular volunteers
- **Manuals** - details to provide to your volunteers about fostering or mentoring
- **Training and retaining** volunteers

Baby Bag

- [Baby Bag protocol \(docx\)](#)
- [Baby Bag tag \(doc\)](#)
- [Baby Bag tag \(docx\)](#)

Questions?

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