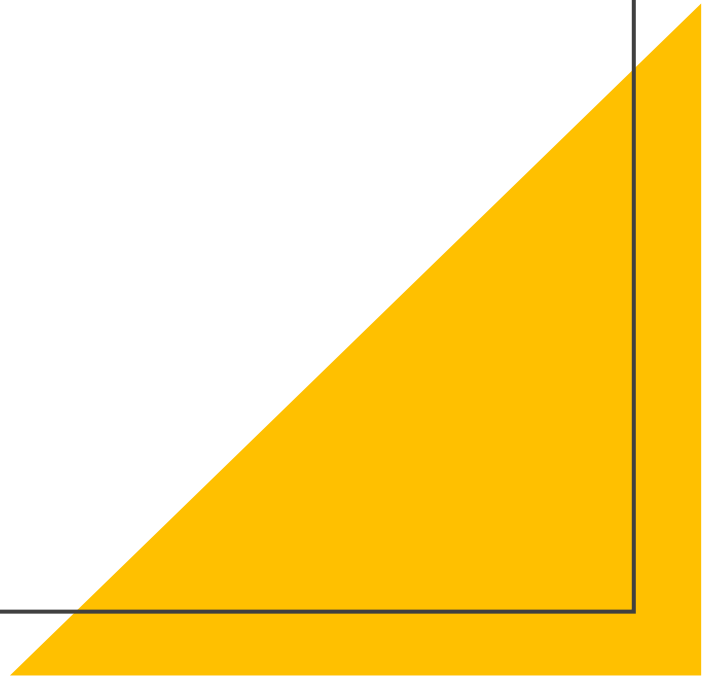




Regional Animal Services of  King County

2.0 FOSTERING AND ADOPTION GUIDE

Updated May 24, 2021



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First and foremost,...

First and foremost, RASKC would like to acknowledge and thank our foster volunteer community.

Whether this is your first time fostering, or perhaps you have had experience by fostering other pets or simply having pets... thank you. Thank you for stepping in and opening your home to provide temporary care for our animals.

We recognize the tremendous number of hours that go into caring for a foster pet. Thank you for your endless compassion and love. Thank you for opening your home. Thank you for warmly welcoming all potential adopters.

Our Philosophy

RASKC's shelter program embraced the Humane Society of the United States' (HSUS) *Adopters Welcome* philosophy in 2017. This program helps animals by removing unnecessary barriers to their adoption, in part, by creating a more welcoming atmosphere. *Adopters Welcome* embraces community members, encourages them to adopt, and helps them and their pets succeed.

This policy effectively applies to all RASKC adoptions (shelter, offsite and foster).

***Adopters Welcome* Philosophy**

- ❖ Relies on research, not gut feelings
- ❖ Embraces community
- ❖ Assumes positive intent
- ❖ Supports people and pets
- ❖ Relies on conversation
- ❖ Recognizes all people deserve pet companionship



Adopters Welcome:

Remove Barriers, Build Trust & Include All People in Your Community to Help Animals

Before fostering, in order to better understand how and why we operate the way we do, we encourage all foster volunteers to watch this video on Adopters Welcome by HSUS.

[Launch Video](#)

RASKC Adoption Policy



WE WELCOME ADOPTERS
WHO LIVE WITH PEOPLE
AND PETS OF ALL AGES



WE WELCOME ADOPTERS
OF ALL LIFESTYLES AND
BACKGROUNDS, INCLUDING
THOSE WHO RENT



WE WELCOME THE GIVING
OF PETS AS GIFTS



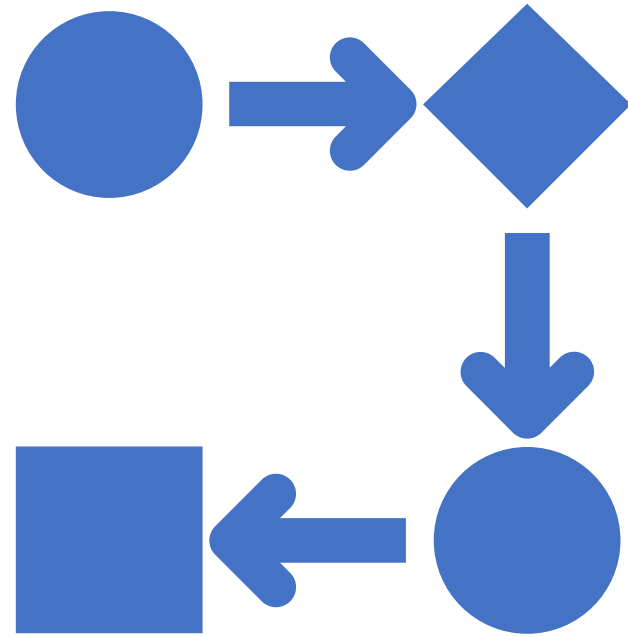
WE STAND BY OUR
ADOPTION GUARANTEE



ADOPTERS MUST BE 18
YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER
AND BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A
PHOTO ID

Fostering and the adoption process

Step-by-step guide





Step 1: Sign up to foster a pet

As a public entity, in order to be transparent and ensure all foster volunteers have a chance to care for a pet, we are using an online waitlist management tool.

Interested foster volunteers can sign up for one or all the various categories of foster pets. Upon signing up, the volunteer will receive a confirmation email with a link to regularly check on their status.

[Jump to FAQ section in this deck](#)



Step 2: Caring for a RASKC foster pet

The foster coordinator will reach out to the foster volunteer when they are next in line. The coordinator will provide details of the pet's needs, include resources (pet food, collar, leash, carrier, formula, medicine, etc...).

For emergency or non-emergency questions, please note the final slide in this deck that offers contact information.

Feedback/Updates: Any feedback on how the foster pet is doing is always welcome! Whether it is cute stories, or updates on health, or behavioral progress, email lori.mason@kingcounty.gov (Subject Line: Progress Update for Animal #). We will store these messages into our Chameleon notes for any future inquiries from potential adopters.

[Jump to FAQ section in this deck](#)



Step 3: Adopting out a RASKC foster pet

1. Coordinator will notify volunteer when foster pet is ready for adoption. Their photo will be made available on the RASKC adoptions webpage.
2. Interested adopters will submit a *Foster Interest eform* via the RASKC adoption webpage.
3. Shelter staff will pre-screen adopters on a first come, first served basis. Successful applicants will be forwarded on to the foster volunteer.
4. If pre-screened adopter wishes to adopt, they are to proceed with the foster administration process online at www.kingcounty.gov/adoptapet.
5. Foster and Adopter can set up time/date/location for pet pick-up. The shelter can also be scheduled as a location for adoption drop off/pick up, simply contact the foster coordinator.

[Jump to FAQ section in this deck](#)



Tools to help promote your RASKC foster pet

A walkthrough of available tools
and resources for foster pet
parents



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

RASKC website

www.kingcounty.gov/AdoptaPet

How do I update pet's profile picture?

- Email a picture to raspic@kingcounty.gov with attached photo.
- Subject line requires *only* the Animal ID
- Body of email needs to be text free.
- Send!

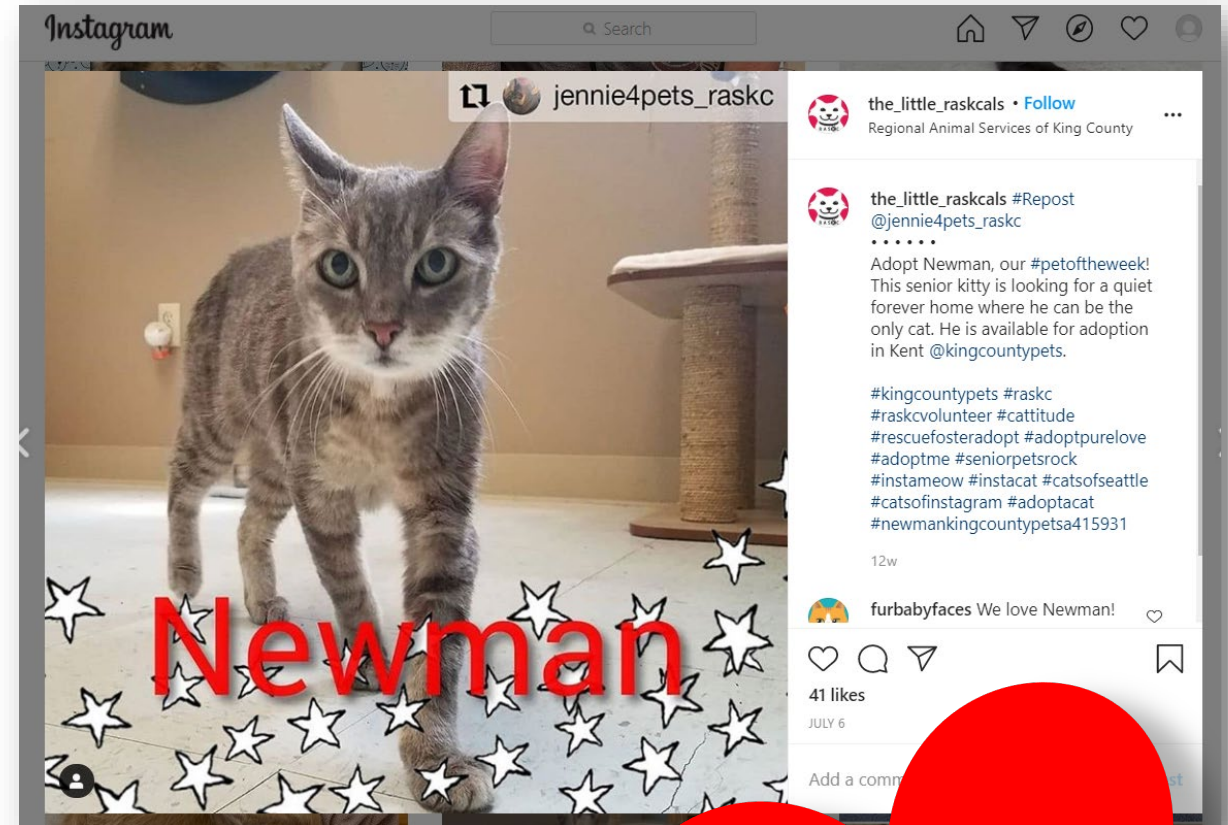
How do I update foster pet's bio?

- Email cute, loving and genuine description of your foster pet to raswebmemo@kingcounty.gov
- Subject line requires *only* the Animal ID
- Send!

Instagram

Whether you are savvy in social media, or simply want to learn new tools, this is a great way to help promote your RASKC foster pet. Here's how:

- Set up your Instagram account
- Take lots of cute pictures and videos (less than 1 min)
- Create a hashtag for your pet following this RASKC-Instagram-rule: #Name + Kingcountypets + A[number]
 - Example: #FluffyKingcountypetsA123456
- Add these hashtags to your post: #RASKC, #kingcountypets, #RASKCfoster

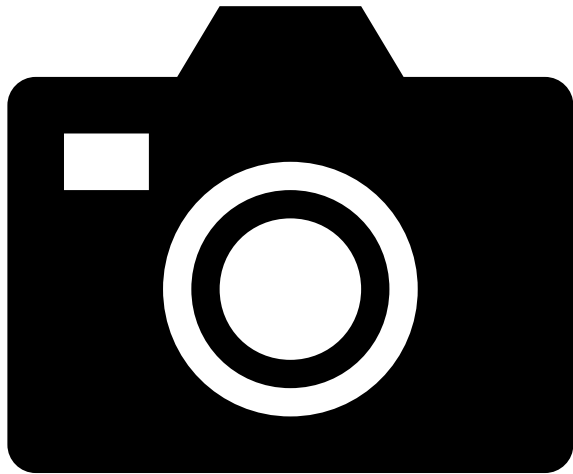


HeartSpeak.org
has free tools to
make your
photos pop!

Writing a winner pet description

- Introduce the pet (for consistency, start with: “Meet [name], a/an [age]-year-old [breed/color] who...”
- Choose a winning trait to complete the intro sentence
- Allow pet’s personality to shine through
 - **Example for a dog:** Meet Ray, a 3-year-old Greyhound whose favorite way to greet you is to lay his head in your lap. Ray loves to play fetch outside with other dogs and is great on a leash. Ray also loves to snuggle up by your side.
 - **Example for a cat:** Meet Penny, a 6-year-old tuxedo kitty who is a master at hunting laser pointer dots. Penny is incredibly intelligent and loves treats. Penny not only loves her laser pointer but loves to chase balls and string.

Short and Sweet descriptions are always the best. However, if have more to say about your foster love-bug, simply note that the limit on web bios is 2,496 characters.



Photography Tips

- Center the pet in the photo
- Take photos with the light behind you (like a window) to eliminate shadows. Turn on lights, open blinds, and AVOID using your camera's flash. Natural light is best.
- Make the eyes your focal point. They convey emotion and show off a pet's personality.
- Make sure the shot is in focus.
- Eliminate clutter in the background.
- Take multiple shots.
- Have Fun!

Get your own pet publicist

Need personalized help promoting your extra special pet? Let us match you with a Pet Publicist team who can help you with photography tips, bio writing and social media marketing. Simply email raskcpetpublicist@kingcounty.gov and provide the following information:

- Animal ID
- Description of personality
- Cute photos and video that highlight their uniqueness!
- The team will make the RASKC foster pet shine both on RASKC's website, as well as on Instagram!

May 24, 2021



Meet & Greets

Suggested ways to connect with pre-screened adopters while maintaining social distance

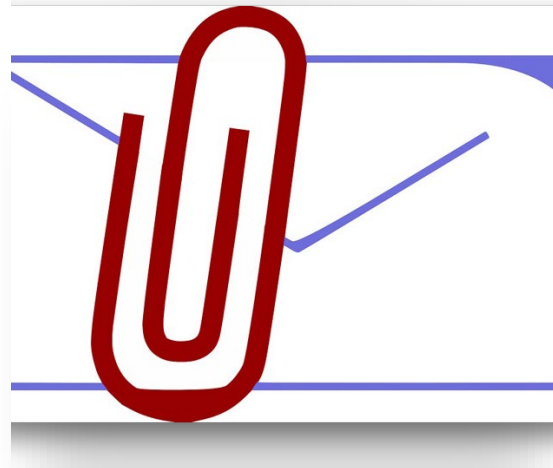


Staying safe

Please be sure to follow these guidelines provided by King County Public Health:

- Use of cloth face coverings in public
- Continue to practice physical distancing of 6 feet or more
- Clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand-sanitizer or wash them with soap and water
- Avoid group gatherings and poorly ventilated spaces

For more info: www.kingcounty.gov/covid



The Digital Experience

When connecting with the pre-screened adopter, we encourage you both to use these digital tools during social distancing:

- FaceTime
- Zoom
- Email
- Don't forget to send them to your pet's Instagram hashtag account if you have one!



Yard Social Distancing Meetups

Various options for yard meeting ups:

- **Meet at a Park** (assuming park is available/open during COVID)
- **Reserve space at RASKC:** Schedule a time at the shelter to reserve a space at RASKC (play yard or room) for your meet and greet. Call us at 206-296-3936 or email us at adoptapet@kingcounty.gov



FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions



Q: How does the waitlist application work?

A: Once foster volunteers sign up to the online wait list portal, they can sign up to foster for any of following types of animal needs: Adult cats, bottle fed kittens, kittens, adult dog, puppy, rabbits, and/or small mammals.

The wait list portal will notify volunteers, via email, as they are moved up through the system.

When there is an available foster pet, the foster coordinator will contact, via email, the next volunteer on the needs list.

Q: Are there any expectations around response time or picking up of pets?

A: Yes. Please see table below.

Type of Care Needed:	Normal household pet care	Pets require specialized treatment or handling	Other
KITTENS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eating on own Uncomplicated URI URI with medication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bottle babies Syringe feeding Feral taming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post surgical or medical recovery
CATS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pregnant Queen with nursing kittens Shelter vacation Uncomplicated URI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not eating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospice Post surgical
PUPPIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eating on own 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bottle babies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post surgical or medial recovery
DOGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pregnant Mother with nursing pups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Behavior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post surgical or medial recovery
EXPECTATIONS:	Pickup within 24 hours (30-minute response time)	Same day pickup required (30-minute response time)	Will depend on type of care needed.
<p>Note: If the foster coordinator is unable to connect with the next foster volunteer on the waitlist program, the coordinator will send an email blast to all the foster volunteers.</p>			

Q: What if I am next in line to get a foster pet, but I miss the call or am unable to take the foster pet at that moment, does this mean I am placed to the bottom of the list?

A: If we are unable to connect with a foster volunteer, the foster coordinator will jump to the next foster volunteer in line. The foster volunteer who was unable to foster will remain next in line.



Q: I am happy to care for a couple of kittens or puppies, but I do not have the space or capacity to care for a full litter. Will this be an issue?

A: If we have a litter come in, the foster coordinator will ask the foster volunteer how many animals they can take. Typically, we aim to keep 2 to 3 together for socialization purposes.

The foster coordinator will then go to the next foster volunteer in line to find temporary homes for the other fur babies.

Q: What if I
am
interested in
adopting my
foster pet?

A: RASKC recognizes the tremendous work that foster volunteers provide to our animals. That is why foster volunteers will be given an opportunity to adopt their foster pet(s)*.

Financial assistance is available for foster volunteers who are unable to pay the adoption fee. A summary of the financial hardship will be required. This will be reviewed and approved by RASKC's Change Team (a combination of Equity & Social Justice and LEAN staff leaders).

Please email the foster coordinator.

**Finders will always have priority on adoption. If a finder does not step forward, then fosters will be given the option of adopting (max 2 pets) prior to placing the pet in public adoption.*

Q: Can I adopt out a foster pet to a friend or family member?

A: We ask that you refer any interested adopters to the RASKC pet adoption webpage and have them fill out the *Foster Interest eForm*. Interested adopters will be pre-screened by staff by order received and passed along to foster volunteer.

Please note: All foster pets are to be adopted out through the RASKC public foster adoption process. Except for the following:

- *Puppies are required to come back to the shelter and be adopted out through the shelter adoption process. This means that residents in line to visit the shelter in-person and check out dogs are first in line to adopt a puppy.*
- *Foster volunteers who care for foster kittens can opt to adopt them out to their community. If a foster volunteer chooses to promote on RASKC's adoption webpage, then the RASKC public adoption process applies.*

Q: How can I confirm that an adoption payment took place before giving the adopter their new pet?

A: Adopters will receive a receipt via email once payment has been completed. Fosters can ask to view receipt.

Key Contacts

For Emergent and Non-Emergent issues.	If you have any concerns over your foster pet's health, you can call our vet clinic at 206-263-1321 (7 days a week/ 7am-6pm). We will either schedule you in for a visit or arrange for alternate assistance.
After-hours assistance for emergency only:	For emergency issues during after-house (6pm-7am), you can call us at 206-403-8027. If there is no answer, foster volunteers are authorized to go directly to Blue Pearl for assistance. Invoicing will be sent to RASKC.
Main contact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lori Mason, <i>foster coordinator</i>. lori.mason@kingcounty.gov 206-403-8027
Vet clinic contact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Amanda Murdock, <i>clinic manager</i>, amanda.murdock@kingcounty.gov• Dr. Heidi Hendrickson, <i>veterinarian</i>, hhendrickson@kingcounty.gov• phone: 206-263-1321
Shelter contacts:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disa Emerson, <i>shelter administrator</i>, demerson@kingcounty.gov• Kate Hipol, <i>shelter administrator</i>, katherine.cataldo@kingcounty.gov• phone: 206-263-1314
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tim Anderson, Lead Sergeant<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ tim.anderson@kingcounty.gov m: 206-245-9040• Lluvia Ellison-Morales, <i>Community Engagement Administrator</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ lluvia.ellison-morales@kingcounty.gov m: 206-734-9997• Dr. Gene Mueller, <i>RASKC Manager</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ gene.mueller@kingcounty.gov d: 206-263-5961

Thank you!



Regional Animal Services of King County (RASKC)

21615 64th Ave. South

Kent, WA 98032

Tel: 206-296-7387

www.kingcounty.gov/pets

We're social! Follow us @kingcountypets





Launch the RASKC Foster Waitlist

May 24, 2021