



## What is involved in Fostering for Furkids Rescue

### **About Me:**

I am the founding director of FurKids and I also am a full time primary school teacher. I have a small group of volunteers and rely on donations from the public.

I chose to begin FurKids after starting as a foster carer for the RSPCA. I saw the reality of how much cats and dogs suffer because of humans and knew I had to step up, take on more to help make change. That's when FurKids Rescue was born over 8 yrs now.

### **Supplies:**

When you become a foster carer I will provide the basic such as bed, bowls, litter tray and some food to start you off and then I ask if you can support with food and litter moving forward. If and when I get donations, I look to support you with more food and litter. All Flea and worm treatments are supplied by me and need to be picked up from Officer or Adoption Days in Pakenham.

### **Food:**

Mum's and kittens need to be fed Royal Canin mother baby wet and dry food as we aim to build their nutrition as quick as possible.

Kittens under 12 months must be fed high quality foods. Cats can be fed a mixed diet of food from whiskers up to the higher quality foods such as Advance, Royal Canin, Science Diet, Leaps and Bound (Pet Barn). A mixed diet means they do not get use to just one type of food so when they go to their forever homes the owners can choose what is best but also means they are receiving high quality nutrition as well.

### **Aim:**

The aim of fostering is to be a place to call home. Fostering cases vary from kittens to mum's and bubs, sickies, scared or timid and the list sadly is never ending.

### **Involvement:**

Fostering involves the foster carer providing the animals with all the love, comfort and warmth to make the cat/kitten/s well adjusted, happy animals. I strive to make sure my animals feel apart of a family and home. All cases vary on how much time they need in care. Normally it is kittens 2-8 weeks with some needing to go over. Cats sadly can go for months depending on how domesticated, stray or feral they are.

I ask that once fosters come into your care they stay until adopted so that they are not being bounced back and forth as this can servilely damage their mental state and progress. If you are unable to continue to foster your current fosters, please give me notice and I'll do my best to find a replacement foster carer or space. Please understand that this can rarely be done overnight.

### **Quarantine Period:**

A foster animal needs to be quarantined away from any of your animals for at least 5-7 days. This time frame can increase or decrease depending on when they arrived into FurKids. Foster carers must be able to drive just in case kittens/ cats need to go to the vet. This also helps for upcoming adoption days, desexing.

### **Vet Clinics:**

Vets are located in Hallam (Hallam Veterinary Clinic), Mountain Gate (Mountain Gate Vet), The Kitten Clinic (Bayswater), Meow and Friends Community Vet (Cranbourne) and Pakenham (Our Vet inside PetO Store).

I'm based near Officer. I have accounts with all these vets but they can only be used for FurKids fosters and all vet visits must be approved by me first. These clinics can also be rung for advice if I'm unreachable.

### **Illness:**

If your fosters get sick during this time you must contact me first to determine vet treatment or what steps to take next. I pay for all vet consultations and vet treatment if I am consulted first and approve. If I'm not consulted and you take your FurKids fosters to a vet, the bill will be your responsibility to pay.

Also message on the foster carers facebook page. We are a foster care network with several experienced carers on there that can help you with a lot of issues.

**Emergencies:**

If the illness is an emergency please contact me first. I do understand that I'm some cases I may not be reachable and therefore I understand you need to act. Each life matters and they must come first. Please always leave me a message and reach out for support from another foster carer in the group.

Emergency vets are Casey Pet Emergency (Narre Warren) and AEC (Dandenong) I do however prefer Casey Pet Emergency.

**Holidays:**

If you plan to go away, please give me as much notice as possible, once again I need the time to find a place for them. All movement of fosters must be improved by me and only me.

**Communication:**

Lines of communication need to be open so that I can provide you with support and the kittens / cats are always safe. We also have a Fosters Carers Facebook page where we encourage and support each other. All questions can be asked here. I aim for this space to be a safe and helpful to all.

**Rights:**

All foster care animals are the property of FurKids Rescue and Louise Rezel. Any foster carer only has permission to look after any animal for a temporary timeframe as agreed upon by me (Louise Rezel) . If the foster animal/s are asked to be returned for whatever reason, foster carers must do so within a 48 hours of notice, no exceptions.

**Meet N' Greet / Adoptions:**

I conduct most of meet n greet / adoptions for any cats and kittens for FurKids. I choose to do this because I believe as the director of FurKids these babies are ultimately my responsibility and I believe every client should meet the person conducting and running the rescue and that I meet all perspective owners as at the end of the day, I need to know the right decision is been made. If any foster carers would like to be apart of the Meet N' Greet or Adoption Days, please just ask. You are always welcome as I understand that these too become your babies.

Meet N greet can be conducted from your home if you have been trained and comfortable with holding them from your home. All applications must be approved by me first and come through FB page, pet rescue and word and mouth.

**Adoption Days:**

Adoption Days are held at Best Friends Pakenham. Fosters carers are expected to drop off and pick up their fosters on these days. Help with the running of the day and setting and packing up is optional but any help is always needed.

**Volunteering:**

Along with fostering I hope you can join the team a little further will helping at adoption days, markets and promo events like The Cat Lovers Show and helping with fundraising. This could be leading a fundraising event, promoting, seeking fundraising items and selling.

**Foster Fails:**

If you choose to adopt your foster, the adoption fee is the same as if you were an external client. If we do not do this then we would have everybody asking to foster because they want an animal at a discounted rate.

Please be aware, if you are currently fostering for another rescue, we will not be able to accept your application. This is for the safety of the animals to reduce spread of illnesses through multiple rescues.

If you have anyone interested in adopting your fosters please pass on the FurKids Rescue Facebook details or with my permission, my phone number.

I hope this has answered your questions and that I covered everything.

Thank you for your time. Please don't hesitate to contact me for anything.

Louise