



Abbey Cat Adoption Foster Parents' Checklist

Your Abbey Cat Adoption cheat sheet. From welcoming your foster cats to saying goodbye, here's what you need to know!

You've got the call, your foster cats are on their way, what do you do now?!

What to expect when you're expecting foster cats and kittens:

Pick up the necessary supplies:

- ☐ Litter box/s
- ☐ Regular unscented litter for adult cats
- ☐ Non-clumping litter for kittens under 5 months
- ☐ Food (see Julie's contact info below)
- ☐ Dishes for food and water – stainless steel or ceramic (no plastic)

Consider picking up some extras like:

- ☐ Treats – See manual for recommended brands
- ☐ Toys
- ☐ Cat beds
- ☐ Cat tree

Fostering a nursing mom and kittens?

- ☐ Check the manual and reach out to your foster support contact for suggested supplies

Save your receipts! Keep all receipts and ACA will issue a taxable benefit receipt at the end of the year.

Cat proofing

Whether you're fostering kittens or cats, consider how you can best keep your foster cat safe in your home:

- ☐ Keep your window and sliding doors closed and secured at all times. A determined cat can get through window screens or even a slightly cracked open window
- ☐ Review your Foster Parents' Manual and our ACA Trello Board for possible risks and hazards to mitigate. Everything from blinds cords to house plants could be a hazard to your foster cat!
- ☐ Reach out to your foster support person for questions and advice

Your foster cats have arrived, now what?

- Cat health

Keeping an eye on your foster cat's health throughout their stay is important. When your foster cat arrives, assess how they're feeling, ask yourself:

- **Are they eating?**
 - If your foster cat refuses to eat, reach out to your foster support contact
- **Are they having healthy poops?**
 - Soft stool can be normal with the stress of moving, but it can also be a sign of illness, reach out to your foster support contact if you notice your foster cat is experiencing diarrhea
- **Are there signs of injury, respiratory illness, eye infections?**
 - Note these to your foster support contact
- **Is your cat vomiting?**
 - Vomiting can be stress related, but it can also be a sign of illness, reach out to your foster support contact if your foster cat has vomited more than once

Think your foster cat may need to see a vet? Please contact Shelly or Janet immediately, ACA will make arrangements to go to one of ACA's allied clinics if necessary. Name of the vet, diagnoses, medication, and any treatment must be added to the [Feline Health Record](#).

- Deworming

Your foster cat may have been dewormed already, if not your foster support contact will let you know. If your foster cat does require deworming:

Fostering kittens?

- ☐ Expect to administer deworming medication at 6, 8, and 10 weeks old
- ☐ Contact Julie or Camila to coordinate pick up of deworming medication
- ☐ Record the deworming in the [Feline Health Record](#)

Fostering cats?

- ☐ Contact Julie or Camila to coordinate pick up of deworming medication
- ☐ Record the deworming in the [Feline Health Record](#)

- Spay/Neuter

Kittens will be spayed/neutered when they reach 5 months old. Some cats come into our care already spayed/neutered. If not, your foster support contact will reach you to confirm dates at one ACA's allied clinics. If you are able, you will be responsible for:

- ☐ Drop off and pick up at the clinic*
- ☐ Recording the spay/neuter in the Feline Health Record

**If you are not able to drive, we will make arrangements and find a volunteer driver.*

- Birthing

Fostering a pregnant cat?

- ☐ Refer to your Foster Parents' Manual for when you might need to reach out to your foster support contact
- ☐ Reach out to Shelly for support at any time in the process, day or night (no, really, we mean it day or night)

Feeding time! What to feed your foster cat...

ACA has you covered! Our depot has all the food your foster cat's needs, please ensure you:

- Contact Julie or Janet to arrange the pickup of ACA approved food

- Feed kittens under 5 months only wet food

See location and contact information below.

Considering buying your own food?

- Refer to the Trello Board and your [Foster Parents' Manual](#) for ACA approved brands for food

Save your receipts! Keep all receipts and ACA will issue a taxable benefit receipt at the end of the year.

Adoption prep: how your foster cats get adopted

Your foster cats are settling in, now it's time to start looking for their forever home. ACA will take care of posting your foster cats to our website and social media sites, here is what we need from you:

- Pictures, pictures, pictures! Capture your favorite moments of your foster cats
- Get to know them, the best part of fostering is spending time with your foster cat. Understand their temperament, what their needs are for their future home and their quirks
- Fill out the [Google form](#) with the information you collected above

Fostering kittens? ACA will post your foster kittens on the site at 7 weeks old

Fostering a cat? The sooner we get your foster cat on the website, the sooner they reach their forever home.

Get your bios and pictures ASAP to give your foster cats the best chance of finding their forever home!

Don't be afraid to refresh you foster cat's bio and pictures. Maybe your foster kitten has outgrown their photos', or their personality has changed now that they've settled in. Edit and add to your foster cat's bio via Google Form. Not all fields need to be filled in, just the ones you need to change!

So you fell in love with your foster cat (hey we can't blame you)

Also known as **foster fail**, our loving term dubbed to those who want to adopt their foster cats. Our general rule, as soon as you know you want to adopt your foster cat, let a foster

support person know right away. You will still need to fill out an application for your foster cat and you must apply for them before any other potential adopters have applied.

Your foster cat has a potential adopter, HURRAY!

An adoption coordinator will contact you once ACA has screened a potential adopter for your foster cats. Make sure you:

- Help your coordinator schedule a Zoom meeting that works in your schedule and your foster cat's schedule
- Attend the Zoom meeting – a virtual meeting for your foster cat and their adopter. Show off your foster cat's personality, their favourite toys and what makes your foster cat special
- Speak up! – we know you know your foster cat best, don't be afraid to speak up in the Zoom call! Raise concerns or note why this may be great match or a poor fit for your foster cat

All goes well and your foster cat has a new home...

Our priority is keeping everyone safe, here's what you need to do in the new normal:

- ☐ Schedule a low contact pick-up with your foster cat's adopter
- ☐ The adopter will bring cat carriers to your residence and wait outside while you place the foster cats in their respective carriers
- ☐ Once the cats are in their carriers, bring them back out to the waiting adopter
- ☐ Hand off the Feline Health Records to the adopter! This is an EXTREMELY important step!

The Feline Health Record should be up to date with any interventions that occurred during the duration of their foster stay.

Parting is such sweet sorrow

You've said goodbye to your foster cats, now what? Saying goodbye to your foster cat may hurt, the best way to fill your empty nest is to jump back into fostering!

- Contact your foster support contact to foster another cat in need and continue helping and supporting ACA. Foster homes are what makes Abbey Cats, Abbey Cats. We really cannot do this amazing work without you!

We thank you from our paws to our ears.

ACA Main Contacts

Abbey Cats is a small grassroots organization run entirely by volunteers and as such, we rely on multiple people within the organization to provide support and information.

If you try one of the people on the list and you cannot reach that person, please contact one of the other volunteers listed here. Any of us will be happy to help you with your needs.

Contacts:

Jan Boylan - 905-891-6101

janet.boylan@gmail.com

(foster support, also food and carriers depot)

Shelly Hawley-Yan - 519-939-9725

shellyhawleyyan@gmail.com

(foster support)

Camila Goncalves - 647-282-9036

camilagon.abbey@gmail.com

(foster support, some medications)

Julie Dimond - 416-931-5915

julie_dimond@yahoo.com

(food, some medication, carriers)

Useful Links

Essential Forms

- **Health Record Tracking Form** - <https://forms.gle/e69dNzfidpmcH1Wr5>
- **Adoption Application** - <https://forms.gle/rw6pvEUYqmH95RzZA>
- **Foster Application** - <https://forms.gle/SKNGNkbGxqNMXvES7>
- **Adoption Contract** -  Adoption_Contract_Rev_Dec_24_2024.docx
- **New Cat Biography Form** - <https://forms.gle/9c3NefE167dLP5Qf8> (all fields required)
- **Update Existing Cat Biography** - <https://forms.gle/NqoGobwFSgPIhWHZ9>
- **Foster Parents' Manual** -  Foster_Parent_Manual_May_2025

Resources

- **ACA Website** - <https://wordpress.abbeycats.org/>
- **Pet Food Reviews** - <https://www.pawdiet.com/review>
- **ACA Facebook Page** - <https://www.facebook.com/AbbeyCatAdoptions>