

Our Expectations for You

Please note pets remain BARC property while in foster care, and they cannot be handed off to adopters without a completed adoption.

- You may foster for up to 6 months or for a short period of time. **Our typical foster length of stay is less than 2 months**, but each pet has different needs (e.g. health, age, behavior, etc.), and we understand that fosters need flexibility too! The more you share your adoptable pet with friends/family/social media, the faster they will find their adoptive home!
- If you need to return your pet for a non-emergency reason, please book a foster return appointment: <https://barchouston.as.me/Intake>
- The foster family must live within our foster boundaries. Please visit the link to see if you qualify: http://www.houston.tx.gov/barc/foster_a_pet.html)
- You must care for the foster pet as if it's your own, keeping it in a climate-controlled area and providing fresh food and water daily
- Everyone's health and safety are top priorities: you must be able to safely house the foster pet indoors and completely separate from other pets in the house (e.g. an extra room, a crate) for the first 2 weeks and when unsupervised. Sick fosters must be kept separated from resident pets until symptoms resolve
 - Please note: not all pets will welcome new animals – don't feel obligated to introduce fosters to existing pets; they are short-term guests
- Ensure that all personal animals are current on vaccines. BARC cannot cover the cost of treating your own animals if they become ill
- Cats/kittens are indoor-only fosters
- You must be willing to answer adopter emails within 48 hours and set up virtual or in-person meet-and-greets with potential adopter
- You must have reliable transportation to get to BARC for foster medical appointments and adopter meet-and-greets
- Medical care at BARC for your foster pet is free, but we cannot pay for outside vet expenses. See MEDICAL for a list of services BARC provides
- Foster dogs must receive monthly heartworm prevention through BARC (free) or proof must be emailed in of prevention given at home
- Once a pet is healthy and old enough to be spayed/neutered, it is the foster's responsibility to schedule that surgery: <https://barchouston.as.me/foster> Click here to schedule an appointment.
- We do our best to help with food, training, & marketing to adopters, but part of being a foster is being able to promote the pet(s) to your social network and ensure the pet is well-cared for and ready for its forever home!
- We practice the Adopters Welcome process. Please visit page 21 for more information.



BARC animals are not to be given away or kept. If a pet is in foster care for longer than 6 months, please contact BARCFoster@houstontx.gov to discuss how we can help you with finding it a forever home. **Any adoption or transfer of a foster animal must go through BARC.**

- As a foster if you fall in love and qualify to adopt, you may! Please notify the BARC foster office immediately. **Pets may not be kept or given away. All transfers of ownership must go through BARC.**
- **If a pet bites or scratches, please report the incident immediately** to 3-1-1 to report the bite to Animal Enforcement and email your BARC foster coordinator (BARCFoster@houstontx.gov)
- **All owned pets should be spayed/neutered before you bring a foster pet to your home.**
- **Foster dogs cannot go to dog parks**, but they may meet other dogs on leash or in a yard
- **Foster pets may not be kept with unfixed animals of the opposite sex.** Breeding of foster pets is strictly prohibited.
- **Puppies must have at least two rounds of shots** (three weeks apart) before going on walks
- If the pet is available for adoption, foster families must respond within 48 hours to potential adopter requests to set up a time to meet. The meeting location is at your discretion.
- We strongly recommend keeping your current pets separate from your foster pet for up to fourteen (14) days to limit risk of disease spread. BARC is not responsible for other pet(s) becoming ill due to exposure to a BARC foster pet, and BARC cannot reimburse vet expenses.
- The foster coordinator makes final decision on who qualifies for foster care. Please note that highly adoptable pets do not qualify to enter our foster program.
- Please note to qualify as a foster for BARC, the candidate must live within the foster boundaries. Pet owners are limited to three dogs and three cats in one household and applies regardless of jurisdiction. Pets under four months will count as one litter. For example, if you have three dogs in your household, your foster application will be denied if you are looking to foster an additional dog, making it four pets in the home. This process applies to cats as well.
- **Returning or Re-Fostering Your Foster Pet:** Unless it is an emergency, fosters must schedule a return to BARC here: <https://barchouston.as.me/Intake>
 - Pets may be re-fostered within the BARC network with prior approval. Use our Facebook group to request a re-foster so your pet doesn't have to return! If your pet is not a bite risk and healthy, boarding and pet sitters are OK with prior notice

