



Becoming a Foster Carer

Give at-risk animals a second chance at life

Background

Every day around Australia, thousands of dogs, cats and other domestic animals are surrendered to animal shelters by their former owners.

This can occur for many reasons including illness in the family, economic hardship and other reason reasons, sometimes outside of the control of the owners.

Due to the sheer number of animals surrendered to these animal shelters every day, these pounds and shelters rely on volunteer organisations like Homeless Hounds Animal Rescue to help house these animals through our networks of foster carers, while a forever family is found to adopt them into a loving home.

If these animals are left in these facilities for too long, they will be euthanised to make room for more animals that are in the same position.

This is where you come in.

As a Homeless Hounds Foster Carer, you're volunteering to open up your home to these dogs, cats or other animals for a short period of time until a permanent home is found for them. The length of stay and care varies, and we can tailor it to your lifestyle and home situation.

Only animals that suit your living arrangements will be offered to you, taking into account situations that include:

1. Having small children
2. Having a small or no backyard
3. Having other animals at home



We'll support you by:

- Providing your foster animal with paid-for vet care including vaccinations, desexing, parasite control and micro-chipping
- Providing you with appropriate pet food for your foster animal
- Providing you with behaviour modification plans and management ideas to ensure your foster experience is enjoyable
- Being there every step of the way to support you while you help save the lives of at-risk animals

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: How long do I have to have a foster animal for?

A: Typically, we find homes for our animals within a month, but it can vary depending on the needs of the animal.

Q: Do I have to pay for any vet bills or other costs like pet food?

A: Generally, no. Homeless Hounds will pay all associated vet bills at one of our approved vets, and will provide appropriate pet food.

Q: What if the foster animal I take in is acting out or not settling in after a number of days?

A: Homeless Hounds will help you address the issues, put in place management strategies and if that fails, we will find an alternate foster carer.

Q: Can I adopt my foster?

A: Yes, and fostering is a great way to see if a pet suits your lifestyle. You will still have to apply to adopt the pet however, but if your home and lifestyle are suitable to have the pet long term you will be offered first preference. Adoption fees apply.

Q: Where do the animals Homeless Hounds take come from?

A: Homeless Hounds takes animals from pounds and shelters, puppy and kitten farms, crisis situations (domestic violence, natural emergencies, homelessness etc) and other scenarios in which the animal is in danger. As we are inundated, we prioritise animals who will die without our help.

Q: Will I have support if I need it?

A: Absolutely. We have an experienced team who can help with whatever you may need.

Q: If I have a foster cat, can it go outside?

A: No. The only exception is if you have a cat cage to keep them safe in.

Q: Can my foster dog be off lead?

A: No. Our insurance will not cover foster dogs who are off-lead and it is Homeless Hound's policy that foster dogs are under effective control at all times.

Ready to Help?

For more information, or to apply to become a Homeless Hounds Foster Carer, head to homelesshounds.com.au/foster or email foster@homelesshounds.com.au

Homeless Hounds Animal Rescue is a not-for-profit, volunteer-driven animal rescue group that rescues animals from local shelters, country pounds, domestic violence, puppy and kittens farms and other dire situations. We give them the veterinary care, love, training and rehabilitation they need and place them into permanent homes with people who will cherish them.

