



**RSPCA Manchester  
& Salford Branch**

Registered Charity No. 232255

## **Working full time & cat fostering**



**Do you work full time? Would you like a cat to care for, but can't commit to adopt one at the present time? Then why not foster for RSPCA Manchester and Salford?**

### **Why we need foster carers:**

Many cats need extra comfort and care in a home environment, especially when we first take them in. Sometimes they need time to recuperate from ill health, neglect or veterinary treatment. Or they may need monitoring to assess their needs and personality so we can find the right adoptive home for them. Some cats just need time in a home environment to recover from their past and learn to trust people again.

### **What you can expect from us:**

- We will supply all the essentials you need to care for your foster cat e.g. litter, litter trays, food and bowls, toys, beds and scratch post. Some of our foster carers supply provisions themselves but there is no expectation to do so.
- We will pay all veterinary bills related to the care of your foster cat.
- Our staff work Monday to Saturday 9.30 to 5.30 to help you with any queries, give advice and deliver supplies etc.
- You will be given a dedicated number for any emergencies or concerns you have outside of office hours. We offer support 7 days a week up to 10pm at night.

### **What we need from you if you work full-time and want to become one of our foster carers:**

- You need to live within a 20 minute drive (or thereabouts) of our branch office: **565 Wilbraham Road, Chorlton, M21 0AE**. Free of charge parking nearby your home is also essential for us to unload supplies and visit.
- If you rent your property you will need to get permission to have animals in the property from your landlord.
- If you already have animals in your home then the RSPCA animal will need to be kept separately and have their own room.

- You need to have the ability to care for a cat inside your home and keep them indoors, no matter how hot it is or how desperately they want to go outside! Our foster cats will have had many 'homes' before coming to us and are vulnerable to being lost if allowed outside. You will need to make sure windows and doors are kept shut so there are no escapes, even in the middle of summer.
- You need to be able to communicate with us during office hours via email, text, phone or What's App.
- You need to be willing to reach an arrangement with us about bringing your foster cat to you, dropping off supplies and taking them to the vet. Please have a think about how this might work for you. This is especially important in the event of veterinary emergency.
  - Most animals are admitted to the branch during office working hours Monday-Friday; so we would need to be able to initially deliver your foster animal before staff finish at 5.30pm. Some foster carers arrange to finish work early, come home at lunchtime, or leave a key for their property with us or a neighbour. There may be occasions when this can be done outside of office hours but we cannot always plan for this.
  - We can arrange for staff to visit on a Saturday morning to take your foster cat to the vets but if you are available at other times on weekdays that would also be helpful, but not essential.
  - There may be occasions when you might be happy to take your foster cat to a routine veterinary appointment. Our Branch's designated vet is in Whalley Range and the latest appointment is 7pm Monday to Friday. Saturday appointments are available but tend to be booked up several weeks in advance. We will endeavour to plan ahead and take our animals ourselves but if you are able and willing to help, please let us know.
  - We will be able to deliver supplies on Saturday day time. Weekdays up to 5.30pm are possible but only if you have somewhere safe and dry we can leave items before you get home. **NB.** *It is important that you let us know in good time when you are running out of supplies because we plan our week out in advance and have limited flexibility.*
- There is a formal process in place to become one of our foster carers which you will need to engage with. This includes having a pre-foster meeting with RSPCA staff (this can be on a Saturday) and signing a fostering agreement that commits you to caring for an RSPCA animal as required.
- If you are able to administer medication, flea treatment etc that would be helpful but we can train you to do this if you are unsure.
- You need to be able to provide photographs and written information via email about the animals you look after as part of the adoption process.

## FAQS

*Do I need to allow prospective adopters to come to my house?*

For some animals it is in their best interests if they do not go into a cattery but not all foster carers want the potential adopters coming to their home. We can place animals with you that can eventually move on to the cattery or find them a new foster home to rehome them from. However, we do pre-vet everyone prior to meeting an animal and never disclose your phone number and address to anyone (we leave you to share this information if setting up a viewing). Ultimately the choice is entirely yours.

*What happens if I find I cannot care for the animal I've been given?*

Please let us know as soon as possible if you cannot care for your foster cat. We can remove them and locate them elsewhere; we would never want anyone to struggle with a situation.

*What if I want to go on holiday?*

That's no trouble at all but please give us a bit of notice (one week or more) to make arrangements to find an alternative space and to collect the animal during our working hours/days.

*What type of animal am I likely to foster?*

Our rescued cats come in all ages, shapes and sizes and with varying rehabilitation needs. We can match them to match your preference the best we can but it will always be an adult cat. To give you a flavour they could be: timid/shy, recuperating from surgery, need monitoring for stress related over-grooming, elderly, injured or simply a straight forward animal that we don't have cattery space for.

### **Is fostering for you? Things you should know before you take the plunge.**

- In most instances a foster animal will have been seen by a vet before coming to you. They usually have had an examination, 1<sup>st</sup> vaccination, treated for fleas and worms, neutered, microchipped and tested for FIV or FeLV. Sometimes they need medication and minor wounds cleaning.
- Despite treatment it is possible that the fleas could still be live (they have to bite the animal to die) or you may find flea dirt in their coat or the worms may still be being excreted. We know this isn't pleasant so want you to know it could happen. Some of the cats need that bit of extra tlc to groom their coats to rid them of the dirt, but this can be a hugely rewarding opportunity to help them on the road to being rehomed.
- Not all cats are litter trained. We will provide you with support and guidance on how to litter train your foster animal but be prepared for some accidents.
- Cats scratch, claw, leap and climb! These are all natural, and in some instances essential, behaviours. If they did this to you or your soft furnishings could you cope?

- We sometimes encounter very talkative cats. In fact we've known cats be relinquished or returned to us because they are so vocal. Would a chatty cat bother you?
- Foster cats cannot be let outside. Will you be able to make sure windows and doors are kept shut so there are no escapes, even in the height of summer?
- Saying goodbye can be heart-breaking. Sometimes the reason you are saying goodbye is not because there has been a happy ending. Sadly the animals we take in have often come from horrible circumstances and we are battling against the odds. When we make the decision to put an animal to sleep it is done in consultation with our vet and after much consideration. It is rare this takes place, but we want you to be aware it can happen.
- Whilst rare, some cats may carry diseases or infections that have not been diagnosed prior to admission. If your foster animal turns out to be carrying something contagious and your own animals are affected then we will pay to treat your animals too and remove the foster animal.

## What Next?

If you would like to help cats in need then please email us on [rpscamcr\\_salford@btconnect.com](mailto:rpscamcr_salford@btconnect.com) Firstly, we will send you an application form to complete and then arrange to come round to meet you in your home on a Saturday (or on a week day if you are available) to have a chat!

We look forward to hearing from you!

RSPCA Manchester & Salford Branch

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[www.rspca-manchesterandsalford.org.uk](http://www.rspca-manchesterandsalford.org.uk)

