

Why foster for us?

Temporarily caring for a rescued animal and seeing them develop in vitality and confidence is incredibly rewarding. Although changes can be small and gradual, knowing that it is down to your patience, compassion and care is highly motivating and a huge achievement!



However, you must be prepared for the unavoidable mess that comes with any furry critters! For example, baby rabbits take a while to master using a litter tray and rats and mice naturally toilet everywhere! Also, be prepared for smells as mice, and sometimes rats, can be a little whiffy. But it's all part and parcel of animal care!

You also need to be prepared for the occasional heartache. Sadly we don't always have happy endings with our animals due to the horrible circumstances that they are often rescued from. Whilst it is rare, loss does happen and we want you to be aware that being a foster carer can sometimes be tough.



Whilst it can be very hard to let your foster animal move on for rehoming, there is no better feeling than seeing them happy and settled in their new home.

Your contribution to fostering can often be the difference between life and death and you can't put a price on that!

So, what's next?

If you meet our requirements and would like to apply to be a foster carer please get in touch! Call **0161 882 0680 option 4** or email rspcamcr_salford@btconnect.com.

We will ask you to complete a volunteer application form and then one of our team will pop round to meet you in your home and have a chat. If the home visit goes well then you will be supplied with your fostering kit and support information. We will then let you know as soon as we have a suitable animal for you foster!



RSPCA Manchester & Salford Branch

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Find us on Facebook & Twitter!



**RSPCA Manchester
& Salford Branch**

Registered Charity No. 232255

Guide to Fostering Small Animals



What is fostering? Fostering requirements
& our commitment to you

Small animal fostering

We are looking to recruit people who can temporarily care for small animals such as mice, rats, guinea pigs and rabbits in their own home. *We need people who:*

- **Live in South Manchester or Salford.**
- **Have a spare room/space away** from other animals in the home where our small animals can be cared for.
- **Indoor space requirements:** rabbits will need a minimum floor space of 3m x 1m and guinea pig cages will be a minimum of 120cm in length.
- **Outdoor housing** of small animals is possible in warmer months and will require a hutch and permanent run attached.
- **Are contactable during day** and be available for us take animals to vets with prior arrangement.
- **Are flexible** with their availability in the event of a foster animal falling ill.
- **In an emergency transport a foster animal** on an evening or Sunday to the branch's designated vets in Whalley Range. Please note: out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed.
- If living in rented accommodation have **permission to keep animals.**
- **Have free & close by parking** for us to drop off supplies, animals etc.



Why we need foster homes!

Many people are unaware that we don't have our own animal centre so we rely on a dedicated network of wonderful foster carers and two private boarding facilities to house and rehome our animals.



Small animals need foster care for many reasons including:

- Recuperation after operations (eg. neutering). 
- They require ongoing medication/nursing (placed with experienced foster carers only). 
- They are too young for rehoming.
- They need ongoing health/behaviour assessment i.e. underweight, timid, over-grooming.
- They need for a quiet space to grow in confidence.
- Rats/mice need fostering until they are adopted as we don't have a boarding facility for them!



Our commitment to you!

We will help you to provide the best care for your foster animal by providing:

- **Suitably sized accommodation** i.e. indoor pens, cages.
- Litter trays, bedding, newspaper etc.
- **Hay and food** depending on the type of small furry! Foster carers can claim back costs of buying veggies by keeping receipts. 
- **Enrichment** i.e. toys, hidey huts etc.
- Water/food bowls/bottles.
- **Transportation** of your foster animal to and from the vets during office hours.
- We pay for all **veterinary treatment** of your foster animal needs.
- **Support service** available Monday to Saturday during office hours.

