

Mildcats Fostering Guidelines and Agreement

The Home Environment

- Provide a quiet, clean and healthy indoor environment for cats and kittens. Be certain to thoroughly secure any doors, windows, dog doors, etc. so that they cannot escape.
- Isolate the cat for 5-7 days before exposing him/her to any cats you might have. If at all possible, foster animals should be socialized with other animals in the household. Be certain your own animals are up-to-date on their vaccinations such that they are protected from diseases.
- Litter boxes are to be kept in a sanitary condition. This encourages use of the box by the cat and reduces the risk of disease. Cats are usually fastidious, but if a problem occurs in this area, call your Mildcats Contact Person ("MCP") for advice.
- Watch an uncaged cat for signs of carpet, furniture, or drapery clawing. If this occurs, keep the cat isolated in a room where such damage is eliminated. Part of a foster family's responsibilities is to use behavior modification for such problems. Water spraying, verbal praise, and discipline are approved means of behavioral modification. Striking the animal is NOT approved. It should go without saying that an animal should NEVER be struck. Our cats and kittens have often been traumatized and are mistrustful of people--striking them would only exacerbate the problem. If the problem cannot be solved, the cat is to be immediately isolated and the foster family is to call the MCP for discussing viable alternatives. We are not responsible for any damage that may occur as a result of the fostered cat.
- Cats kept in crates or cages (e.g., a nursing mother and kittens) are to be let out and allowed to exercise for at least twice a day for at least 30 minutes if at all possible.

Medical Issues

- Follow the MCP's advice and procedures for the care of the foster kitten(s)/cat(s) and administer medication to ill kittens or cats when prescribed.
- Contact your MCP at the first sign of illness, or at any changes in the health or behavior of the foster kitten(s)/cat(s).
- Follow the due dates for shots or medication. Call the MCP if necessary and schedule an appointment with Alma School Animal Clinic.
- If a foster animal becomes ill and infects your pet(s), you are responsible for the veterinary care of your own pet. Mildcats at ASU will take responsibility for the veterinary care of the foster animal (situation-dependent). Be certain to keep the foster cat separated from your own pets if medically warranted.
- Prior to entering your home the MCP will ensure that the cat:
 - has been altered (if age-appropriate),
 - has been tested for the Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) and the Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV),
 - has had its first round of shots, including a rabies shot by a licensed veterinarian and a standard 3-in-1 or 4-in-1 shot (the MCP will provide you with the details on the shots received and whether any more shots are necessary).
 - has been examined for fleas, earmites, and worms.
- You must contact the MCP if other veterinary services are needed. The MCP will contact the organization's veterinarian (Alma School Animal Clinic) to arrange an appointment.

- If you choose to take the cat to another veterinarian for non-emergency care, you will be reimbursed in accordance with the rates paid at the Alma School Animal Clinic. The MCP can provide you with the Alma School Animal Clinic rates
- Emergency Care: Not all traumas require emergency care. Prior to taking the animal to the emergency veterinarian, please make every attempt to contact your MCP first. However, in the event that your foster animal needs emergency care for a LIFE-THREATENING situation, please contact **First Regional Animal Hospital (480) 732-0018** or **Mesa Veterinary Hospital at (480) 833-7330** or both of which are open 24 hours. Please talk to the emergency veterinarian on the phone prior to driving to their office, as they may be able to counsel you over the phone. Mildcats will reimburse the foster parent the full amount for the emergency treatment of a life-threatening condition. Once the cat is stabilized, any further treatment plans should be worked out with the MCP.

Adopting out the Cat

- While in foster care, the cats continue to be the "property" of the Mildcats at ASU organization. As such, the cats are to be surrendered to Mildcats at ASU at any time at the request of the MCP. The foster home is expected to return the cat to the Mildcats at ASU organization if any problems occur.
- No foster person is to adopt out a cat himself or herself without going through the proper application procedures and an interview process to ensure that the cat has a good home. If there are any questions about the adoption procedure, please contact your MCP. Above all, trust your instincts--if a potential adoptee does not "feel" right to you, you are under **no** obligation whatsoever to adopt the cat out to them.
- All donation funds received from adoptions should be transferred to the treasurer for deposit in the Mildcats account.
- All foster homes will be asked to provide a description of their foster pet, including photos, information on training, temperament, personality, housebreaking, etc. to help match the cat with prospective adopters.
- All adoptable animals will be advertised on www.petfinder.org and on the organizational websites (www.mildcatsatasu.org; www.asu.edu/clubs/mildcats).

Other Responsibilities

- Keep your MCP informed about vacation plans or of any emergency situation that might preclude you from fostering. It is important for the MCP to know exactly how many foster volunteers are available on a day by day basis

I fully understand and agree to abide by the terms of the fostering agreement, as enumerated above:

Signature Date

Printed name E-mail Address

Street Address Phone Number