



MCAS

Foster Handbook

2018 V1.2 Edition

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Welcome!

Foster Parent,

Welcome to the Montgomery County Animal Shelter (“MCAS” or “Shelter”) Foster Program. My name is Courtney Gawel and I am the Foster Coordinator here at MCAS. We are very grateful and excited to have you as part of our team. I hope together we can save the lives of homeless shelter pets. The support of fosters (“Fosters”) is crucial to our success at MCAS as well as the fulfillment of our mission. We look forward to collaborating with you to find every dog and cat a loving home. Every day at MCAS, formerly homeless cats and dogs make their way into forever homes through the process of adoption. While many pets become adoption-ready soon after their arrival at the shelter, our foster program is crucial for achieving an adoption outcome for cats and dogs in need of an extra bit of care. Many times these fosterable animals are especially vulnerable to illness because of age or weight, or they are in need of care for an existing health issue. In other instances, a fosterable animal may in fact already be adoption-ready yet need foster care in order to attend off-site adoption events or prepare for release to a rescue transport. Supporting all such animals as they make the journey from a foster home to a forever home is the primary purpose of the MCAS foster program.

We would like to thank you for choosing to participate in our program. Foster parents are greatly valued and a big asset to MCAS and the many animals that need a home. This guide is intended to be used as a tool to explain to you our foster program. Included is information regarding our Foster Policies and Procedures as well as general information about MCAS.

Success is contingent on communication. If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are here to assist each other while working toward the same goal – to help homeless pets and reduce the number of pets in need.

Thank you for your interest in giving your time and energy to the animals at MCAS. We hope to have an everlasting relationship that benefits the animals of Montgomery County.

Sincerely,

Courtney Gawel
Foster Coordinator
Montgomery County Animal Shelter

About MCAS!

MCAS is the animal shelter for Montgomery County, Texas (“County”). MCAS accepts animals that comes through its doors regardless if an owner surrender, stray pickup, or rescue, and with no consideration paid to breed, temperament, or health condition. We have a best-in-class team that stewards our mission and core values.

MCAS is dedicated to pet adoption and a live release initiative. In addition to sheltering and providing veterinary care to all animals brought into the shelter, we work diligently to place these animals in new homes. We collaborate and coordinate with our pet rescue groups and through social media networks to cast the widest possible adoption net. We also provide hands-on volunteer training classes and other workshops.

We are committed to promoting responsible pet ownership through spaying/neutering, microchipping, and vaccinations. Campaigns and programs to educate and raise community awareness about these services are ongoing.

Montgomery County is one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. Its unique characteristics create challenging circumstances in regards to animal population and control. For example, in addition to a yearlong breeding season that steadily increases the area’s animal population, our semi-tropical climate serves as an incubator for fleas, ticks, and other harmful parasites and disease.

Our goal is to provide animal control and care services that minimize fear, pain, stress and suffering to animals in our care. We also work to ensure safe and healthy human-animal interactions. We work closely with the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Department and Montgomery County Animal Control to respond to animal cruelty and abuse reports, behavioral complaints, and dog bite cases.

Our Mission

At MCAS we are dedicated to engaging the hearts, hands, and minds of the community to help animals in Montgomery County. As such, we are devoted to the humane, efficient and high quality care of animals in our Shelter.

We will:

- Promote and protect public health and safety.
- Commit to industry best practices as it pertains to animal care, shelter management, pet placement programs, pet ownership education and animal law enforcement.
- Be transparent and build trust within our community.
- Be a humane organization that promotes the inherent value of every animal; practicing and promoting the principle that every life is precious.
- Strive to end shelter killing by collaborating with volunteers, rescue groups, other humane organizations, private entities, and our constituents.

Imperative to our mission are the following priorities:

- Customer Service - We will strive to provide legendary service to the customers at MCAS. We will be the model of excellence in customer care.
- Live Release - Every decision we make will revolve around the desire to see every animal in our care find a loving home. We will endeavor to remove barriers to animal placement and make the adoption, transfer/rescue, and return-to-owner processes as customer friendly as possible.

Our Vision

Our vision is to be the nationally recognized model of excellence in animal care and placement where humane organizations throughout the United States view MCAS as the beacon of best practices dedicated to delivering humane, efficient and high quality service. In addition, we long to see the day when shelter killing no longer exists.

Our Core Values

- Integrity First - Where integrity is defined as "doing what is right even when no one is looking."
- Service Before Self - Placing the needs of our customers and pets above our own needs and ambitions.
- Excellence in Everything We Do - We will seek perfection and find excellence along the way.

Key Information

Address and Contact Information

- Address:
 - 8535 State Highway 242
Conroe, TX 77385
- Phone:
 - 936-442-7738
- Website:
 - www.mcaspets.org
- Hours:



MCAS HOURS

	ANIMAL TURN-IN	Adoptions, Customer Service, Enforcement & Lost Pet	Sick Clinic	Fosters/Adopter Vaccination Clinic
MONDAY	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	9:30 AM—11:30 AM 12:30 PM—2:30 PM
TUESDAY	11:30 AM — 4 PM	11:30 AM — 5 PM	1 PM — 3 PM	CLOSED
WEDNESDAY	11:30 AM — 4 PM	11:30 AM — 5 PM	CLOSED	9:30 AM—11:30 AM 12:30 PM—2:30 PM
THURSDAY	CLOSED	11:30 AM — 5 PM	1 PM — 3 PM	CLOSED
FRIDAY	11:30 AM — 4 PM	11:30 AM — 5 PM	CLOSED	9:30 AM—11:30 AM 12:30 PM—2:30 PM
SATURDAY	11:30 AM — 4 PM	11:30 AM — 5 PM	CLOSED	9 AM — 11 AM (No Rabies Vaccines)
SUNDAY	11:30 AM — 4 PM	11:30 AM — 5 PM	1 PM—3 PM	CLOSED

www.MCASPets.org

Placement of Pets Through Adoptions and Rescue Groups

We make dogs and cats available for adoption at our Shelter and at various off-site adoption events throughout the County. Animals are also transferred to registered rescue groups at no charge!

Current Adoption Fees

General Public Dogs	\$40
General Public Cats	\$20
Veterans (dogs and cats)	\$10
Diamonds and Purrls (pets who have been at the Shelter for over 21 days)	\$10
Any animal on an emergency plea	\$10
Senior-for-Senior (customer must be 55 years old - pet at least 2 years old)	no charge

NOTE: Please check with the front counter for current specials.

Lost and Found

- We encourage people who have lost pets to look for them at our stray kennels.
- All strays impounded at our Shelter are shown on our website: www.mcaspets.org.
- If MCAS picks up an animal with an ID tag or microchip, MCAS staff will call the owner or contact the microchip registry that issued the microchip in an effort to return the pet to its home.
- We encourage citizens to visit www.petharbor.com and click on "Lost my Pet". From there you will have an option to "register a lost pet". A selection of shelters will be listed based on the zip code you provided. Select the applicable shelters and select search "selected shelters". Then you will have a button on the left that reads "Register your Lost Pet". A form will come up that will allow you to fill out all of your contact information, detailed animal information including tags and microchip, details surrounding your pet and how he or she became lost. Last, but not least, you can upload a picture of your pet.

Rabies Prevention

- Animals that have bitten or scratched someone need to be quarantined for public safety as required by Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 826 relating to rabies.
- You should call 936-442-7738, and select option # 8 to report possible exposure including bites and scratches from animals.

Animal Cruelty

- We encourage citizens to report acts of cruelty and neglect. Under Texas law, certain acts of cruelty and neglect are punishable as crimes.
- The Montgomery County Animal Control investigates reports of animal cruelty or neglect.

Owner Surrender

- Some owners cannot, or choose not to, fulfill the commitment they made when they brought an animal into their home. We try to inform owners of all the alternatives to surrendering their pet so they can make a decision that is best for the animal.
- Owner surrenders are accepted daily at the Shelter from 11:30 am-5 pm except for Mondays and Thursdays.

Average Intake

- 15,000 animals each year

Area Handled

- Montgomery County, Texas which is approximately 1,077 square miles.

Key Staff At MCAS

MCAS Management

Director of MCAS:	Aaron Johnson	Aaron.Johnson@mctx.org
Assistant Director of MCAS:	Mark Wysocki	Mark.Wysocki@mctx.org

Outreach Department

Volunteer Coordinator:	Machael Ita	Machael.Ita@mctx.org
Rescue Coordinator:	Catherine Doyle	Catherine.Doyle@mctx.org
Foster Coordinator:	Courtney Gawel	Courtney.Gawel@mctx.org

Veterinary Department

Chief Veterinarian:	Dr. Jordan Gentry	Jordan.Gentry@mctx.org
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Shelter Operations

Kennel Supervisor:	Michael Barnes	Michael.Barnes@mctx.org
Kennel Supervisor:	Emile Love	Emile.Love@mctx.org

Animal Control Officers

ACO Director:	Joe Guidry	Joe.Guidry@mctx.org
ACO Manager:	Dana Coiner	Dana.Coiner@mctx.org

Fostering At MCAS

The Four Fosterables

At the Montgomery County Animal Shelter there are four main categories of fosterable animals.

1. Animals which are age/weight vulnerable; most frequently immature kittens and puppies.
2. Animals experiencing and/or recovering from a treatable medical condition or surgery.
3. Animals in need of additional socializing, training or respite to remedy basic behavioral issues.
4. Animals identified as candidates for day fosters, weekend fosters or transport fosters.

Each of these categories of fosterable pets can require a particular type of foster care. In addition, there can be further differences in any category depending on the unique needs of cats or dogs. In short, between all of the puppies and kittens, injuries and minor infections, rescues and off-site adoption events, we have a wide range of fostering opportunities at MCAS. We hope one of them will be just the right fit for you!

Basic Foster Options

Just like there are a variety of fosterable animals, there are also a variety of ways the public can provide foster care! Some of the basic foster options are described below.

Age/Weight Fosters

These type of fosters we hope will enjoy caring for animals that are age/weight vulnerable and could include “bottle babies” (nursing puppies and kittens), mush babies (weaned kittens and pups or malnourished animals of any age), weight-gain fosters (kittens under 2 lbs./puppies under 4 lbs.), and certain fosterables currently awaiting surgery.

Medical Fosters

These fosters should be comfortable with animals recovering from treatable medical conditions such as ringworm, mange, coccidia or giardia as well as animals in need of recuperative care from surgeries. Medical fosters support recovery by providing appropriate space and treatment for healing. Some medical fosters develop specialties through personal interest and experience with particular illnesses like demodex mange, or with specific conditions such as recovery from limb amputation. While some fosters in this category have had formal medical training, this is not a requirement.

Behavioral Fosters

Animals in need of additional socializing, training, or respite in order to remedy basic behavioral issues benefit from the nurture, skill and patience of behavioral fosters. A number of our MCAS animals are feral or under-domesticated and fearful of humans. Animals experience behavioral regression due to stress-reaction to a long stay in a shelter. Behavioral fosters are often natural dog or cat people who are able to work effectively with animals that have fearful behavioral habits or “shutdown.”

Foster for a Day/Weekend/Transport

Sometimes animals need increased exposure or a break from the shelter. Other animals may have been identified as candidates for increased adoption visibility via outings to off-site events. This can include cats and dogs which have been with MCAS for over sixty (60) days, or sometimes they are animals whose nature or life-journey has brought them unique quirks of appearance or behavior which could benefit from being highlighted! These fosters volunteer to transport a specific animal off-site for adoption visibility opportunities which typically last between 8 to 48 hours. In order to support attendance at an ongoing event and/or to provide an animal with Shelter respite in conjunction with an adoption visibility opportunity, an approved and active foster may occasionally check out an event foster for overnight in their home for up to 48 hours and take photos and videos

and notes to help the animal get adopted.

Important Considerations

Time: Do you have the time?

One of the greatest gifts of a foster, and one of the greatest needs of a fosterable, is time. Immature kittens and puppies require frequent feeding, sometimes with bottles or specially prepared mush. They need considerable attention for both care and socialization. Sometimes they are also messy! Remember, kitties and pups are usually doing one of four things: eating, sleeping, playing, or going to the restroom. Three of these four will often involve you! Fosterables with medical conditions require special care, including following up with medical appointments and administering medications. Pets with minor behavior issues require consistent attention and training, and even our adoptables awaiting transport benefit greatly from your daily care. Taking into consideration your schedule and availability in relation to your fosterable's potential needs is important. You must also be willing and able to keep in communication with MCAS staff and the foster coordinator.

Space: Can your fosterable be happily housed at your home indoors?

The majority of our fosterables must be housed indoors at all times. For cleanliness, health, and safety reasons, fosterables are generally cared for best in a separate room in your house preferably without carpet. You should make sure to inspect all enclosed areas before allowing the foster off their leash.

It is important to note that if you need to be away for longer than an average workday you will need to notify the MCAS. Fosterables may NOT be boarded overnight with another person, business, or organization without prior written notification and approval from MCAS. While fosterables benefit from your care their safety and well-being remain the responsibility of the MCAS and staff. Ensuring they are safe, sound, and secure in their off-site living space is crucial.

Personal Pets: Can your personal pets and fosterables safely and healthily share a home?

In order to be a foster, all personal pet vaccinations, monthly heartworm programs and flea prevention must be current. Fosters need to have available a fully separate living space to keep their personal pets away from any fosterables if conditions warrant such. This is important because fosterables often have compromised immune systems and may be susceptible to infection. In addition, your personal pets could be exposed to parasites and/or illnesses introduced by a fosterable. The need to maintain separation can last for up to several weeks in some instances. Finally, for everyone's safety, unless previously instructed by MCAS staff you should discuss how to conduct proper "pet introductions" before bringing a fosterable to stay in your home.

Medical Care: Can you provide medical transportation, learning, and consistency?

All of our fosterables require regular transportation by their foster to the shelter clinic for vaccinations and monthly preventive medications within the specified well-clinic hours. Keeping all scheduled appointments is critical for consistent care of your fosterable's health. Many animals end up as fosterables because they are in need of special medical care. As a foster, your willingness to learn about any conditions and how those conditions must be treated is vital for their healing. Their lives can often depend upon it! Paying attention to the fosterable's well-being and communicating with shelter staff in an effective and timely manner, especially regarding any concerns or questions, is fundamental to responsible fostering. Please understand that while a foster may take a fosterable to their private veterinarian, communication with the Foster Coordinator is strongly encouraged. **It is important to note, MCAS does not reimburse for any medical expenses incurred by a foster at a private facility or veterinary clinic.**

Self-Care: We can't give what we don't have. Do you have what you need to give?

It is true that fostering is extraordinarily rewarding. It is also true that fosters are extraordinarily giving! Most people drawn to fostering are passionate and generous, and willing to give all they can so that Shelter animals have a chance to make it into forever homes. We regularly find fosters will expend considerable amounts of time, energy, love and resources caring for fosterables. At times, a foster's ability to provide some of these resources can run low, potentially jeopardizing their own well-being and that of their household. Potential fosters are advised

to realistically assess their personal situations, including family schedules, home responsibilities, job requirements, health needs, and financial commitments. Fosters should honestly consider if they have the ability to give without depleting themselves or their loved ones of the provisions and care needed by all in their household.

Commitment: Are you willing to invest in the process?

Fostering is a commitment, both to an animal in need as well as to the MCAS. The animals benefit most when we are aligned in our shared commitment to achieving an adoption outcome! Committed fosters understand contracts and outcome plans. This involves taking responsibility for familiarizing yourself with provided materials. It means asking questions and communicating with the Foster Coordinator, the Clinic staff, and any other MCAS staff as necessary. While Fostering is highly rewarding, it is not always easy. Being committed to the process, both as to your fosterable and with your MCAS Foster Program partners, will make all the difference!

Letting Go: Are you someone who can love and then let go?

Of all the gifts fosters give their fosterables, love is at the heart. Loving our fosterables often means becoming attached to them. One of the hardest parts of successful fostering is being able to let your fosterable go. Letting go is crucial to supporting fosterables in achieving an adoption outcome. This is not something that everyone is capable of doing. Before choosing to volunteer as a foster, it is especially important to ask yourself if this is something you are comfortable having to do. Whether we are returning newly adoptable kittens and puppies to the shelter for possible adoption, or bringing a recently healed fosterable to an off-site adoption event, fosters are the people who are emotionally able to love and then let go.

How to Become a Foster at MCAS

1. Application:
To begin the process of becoming a foster at MCAS you must first complete a foster application. This can be done by visiting the Shelter or sending an email to the foster coordinator and requesting an application. You can fill out the application online.
2. Meet with the Foster Coordinator:
Once you have completed the application, you will meet with the Foster Coordinator who can answer additional questions and help determine what your interests are in relation to fosterables.
3. Handbook:
You will be expected to review this handbook thoroughly and become familiar with all sections.
4. Agreement:
Upon completion meeting with the coordinator, sign and submit the MCAS Foster Program Agreement (included in the back of this handbook for your review).
5. Fostering:
Active Fosters are participants in the MCAS Foster Program who have completed steps 1 - 5 above and provided foster care for at least one MCAS animal within the past six (6) months. If more than 6 months have passed following completion of the most recent provision of MCAS foster care, the foster will be considered "inactive" and an interview with the Foster Coordinator will be required to resume active Foster Program participation. Fostering may be limited by MCAS in its sole discretion.

Foster Program Overview

Foster Program Partnership

Participation in the MCAS Foster Program involves an active partnership between Shelter staff, and devoted, qualified volunteers. With positive, purposeful collaboration each partner contributes to the adoption of cats and dogs in need of extra care to become ready and available for forever families. The MCAS Foster Program process is designed to support this life-saving partnership with structures and protocols created to foster animal safety, well-being and adoption-readiness.

Qualifications and Requirements

The following qualifications and requirements must be met and maintained in order for an applicant to be considered eligible for active participation in the MCAS Foster Program.

- Fosters must be at least 18 years of age.
- Fosters must be willing to read all paperwork and go through an interview.
- Fosters must be able to provide proof that their landlord allows companion animals (if applicable).
- Fosters must have prior knowledge, or be willing to learn, about animal needs and behaviors.
- Fosters must be able to provide essential needs including food, shelter, play and exercise time, affection, and overall ensure their health and safety.
- Fosters must be willing to learn and practice techniques which support animal health and well-being.
- Fosters with personal pets must have proof that their pets are spayed/neutered and are current on all vaccinations, heart-worm treatments, and flea prevention.
- Fosters with personal pets must have established independent veterinary care for their own animals.
- Fosters must be willing and able to transport foster animals to the Shelter for medical care during clinic hours.
- Fosters must be able to follow medical instructions and keep track of medical records and appointments.
- Fosters must be able to accept that not all animals will survive.
- Fosters must remain attentive and committed to the specific outcome plan formulated for each foster animal.
- Fosters must have the ability to communicate with MCAS staff regarding foster matters.
- Fosters must respect all MCAS foster policies and keep all MCAS foster agreements relating to their participation in the MCAS Foster Program.

Some applicants may not be eligible to participate as a MCAS Foster. Some examples of why an applicant might be denied are listed below.

- Inability or unwillingness to fulfill the qualifications and requirements as explained in this handbook.
- Prior MCAS foster history of failing to honor conditions of the present policies, agreements, or contracts.
- Household members unwilling to share the home with animals including for reasons of health or personal preference.
- Refusal to return a fostered animal as requested, or releasing a fostered animal to someone without a contract or with MCAS permission.
- An animal has recently died in the home due to circumstances bearing risk to the health of a foster animal.
- Animal negligence or cruelty including inadequate care up to violent acts.
- Appearing to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol while engaged in an MCAS foster-related activity.
- Abusive or disruptive behavior toward MCAS staff at any time including on MCAS premises, at MCAS-related event, or even online social media.

Policies and Agreements

The following policies outline the requirements and processes participants of the MCAS Foster Program will be expected to read, understand and adhere to.

Program Guidelines

Participants in the MCAS Foster Program are responsible for reading, understanding and abiding by all expectations of care outlined in the MCAS Foster Handbook. Timely communication of any questions regarding these expectations is the responsibility of the participants. Any questions or uncertainties should be discussed and addressed prior to proceeding with a foster-related course of action.

Fosterable Animals

The fosterable status of any MCAS animal will be determined solely by MCAS staff in accordance with the established four fosterable categories. Participants in the MCAS Foster Program agree to provide care for animals designated as fosterable by MCAS staff in accordance with MCAS guidelines.

Foster Contracts

All MCAS foster animals belong to the County until an adoption occurs. MCAS retains authority for all aspects of care for foster animals. No fosterable may be removed from MCAS premises or transferred from the contracted care of a foster to another person or organization without approval from MCAS management. Before any approval will be afforded, a new MCAS contract along with any other appropriate paperwork will be required.

Animal Supervision

Foster care providers are directly responsible for the ongoing supervision of foster animals. When in public areas, foster animals must be leashed or contained in a crate or carrier without exception. When foster dogs are permitted to exercise outdoors at a private residence, all enclosures must be secure and ongoing supervision must be provided. Foster cats must remain indoors at all times.

Home Inspection

MCAS reserves the right to initiate a home inspection of any foster care provider by Montgomery County Animal Control staff or by MCAS staff to determine compliance with stated foster program requirements, policies and agreements. Participants in the MCAS Foster Program agree to permit home inspection as a condition of participation in the MCAS Foster Program.

Lost Animals

Participants in the MCAS Foster Program agree to contact MCAS staff immediately if a Foster animal gets loose or becomes lost in any way.

Animal Bites

If a Foster animal bites a person or another animal and that bite breaks the skin, MCAS staff must be contacted immediately. If a bite occurs which does not result in a break of the skin, the Foster Coordinator should be notified as soon as possible but in no event not later than 7 days after the incident.

Medical Treatment

MCAS reserves the exclusive right to determine the course of medical treatment for all foster animals. Any medical treatment of a foster animal will be in accordance with the established Foster Outcome Plan provided by MCAS veterinary staff. Participants in the MCAS Foster Program agree to strictly follow the medical treatment plan as determined and documented by the Foster Outcome Plan and MCAS veterinary staff. Participants in the MCAS Foster Program further agree to acquire documented approval from MCAS veterinary staff before providing medical treatment of any kind beyond what has been prescribed in the Foster Outcome Plan. This includes any "home remedies" or administration of non-prescribed medicines. Fosters may choose to utilize private veterinary services, however prior communication with the Foster Coordinator is expected and any related

medical records must be submitted to MCAS within 7 days. **Please note, Montgomery County will not reimburse for any outside or private vetting expenses or costs.**

Medical Records

Any private or off-site medical treatment of a Fosterable must be documented and all records pertaining to the MCAS Foster animal must be submitted for inclusion in their medical history. Participants in the MCAS Foster Program agree to acquire and forward all medical records pertaining to the MCAS Foster animal within 7 days of treatment.

Medical Costs

If injury or illness results from interaction between a fosterable and the foster, or between the fosterable and the foster's personal pets, MCAS will only be responsible for the care and expenses related to the foster animal. Fosters will not be reimbursed by the County for medical costs (personal or animal related) resulting from their participation in the MCAS Foster Program. With prior MCAS approval, fosterer may seek outside services for medical treatment for fosterables at their own expense. **Fosters will not be reimbursed by the County for any financial expenditures for any outside vetting medical treatment of a foster animal.**

Health Guarantee

MCAS does not guarantee the health or behavior of any animal. Many times MCAS has limited or no information about the history of the fosterable and therefore might be unaware of underlying health conditions.

Incidents, Accidents and Emergencies

Immediate contact with MCAS staff is required in the case of any unusual circumstance, risk or emergency involving or affecting a MCAS foster animal. This could include:

- the foster pet becoming loose or lost;
- any injury to, or caused by, the foster pet;
- a significant change in the household circumstances affecting the foster pet;
- disturbing developments in behavior or health of the foster pet; and
- exposure of the foster pet to a contaminant or contagious illness.

"Doubling-up" your contact when an incident, accident or emergency occurs provides twice as many avenues for response to urgent issues. For example, you might contact both the Foster Coordinator and the Shelter Clinic. Another option might be to leave a message via voicemail and send an email. Doubling-up contact in urgent situations can help us help you and your Foster pet swiftly and effectively.

Foster Program Specifics

Daily Care Requirements

Freedom from Hunger and Thirst-

For daily care, fosterables should have ready access to fresh water and sufficient food. This means that fosters will care for the animals by purchasing high quality food according to recommended guidelines (see below). We appreciate the fact that the shelter does receive regular donations of supplies, including food, to help support of our foster program. Fosters are encouraged to avail themselves of donations whenever we have them. However, fosters are expected to feed foster animals adequately in terms of both quantity and quality independent of donated supplies.

Dog Feeding Guidelines: <http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/dog-care/dog-nutrition-tips>

Cat Feeding Guidelines: <http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/cat-care/cat-nutrition-tips>

Freedom from Discomfort-

Fosterables should be provided an appropriate environment with shelter and comfortable rest area. All foster animals must reside indoors with access to a climate-controlled environment. While foster dogs may have periods of supervised outside play, cats must remain exclusively inside the home. For nightly sleeping and safe resting while home alone, each foster animal must have an appropriately sized crate or dedicated contained space with well-maintained bedding.

Dog Crate Guidelines: http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/tips/crate_training.html

Cat Crate Guidelines: <https://pethelpful.com/cats/Caging-Cats-When-and-Why-its-Sometimes-Necessary>

Freedom from Pain, Injury, Disease-

One of the primary benefits shelter animals receive from a foster is the increased awareness of needs and the ability to address if there is an illness or a decline in overall health. A clean living space is essential to combating and preventing illness. Fosters maintain a clean environment in support of animal health, and should respond quickly and pro-actively to any signs of illness or distress by calling the Foster Coordinator and the shelter clinic. Because sick clinic hours are limited, early response is vital. Fosters may choose to utilize private veterinary services, however prior communication with the Foster Coordinator is required and any related medical records must be submitted to MCAS within 7 days. **Please note, Montgomery County will not reimburse for outside/private vetting expenses or costs.**

Freedom to Express Normal Behavior -

Understanding and appropriately supporting your foster pet's animal nature is at the heart of the requirement that they have "Freedom to Express Normal Behavior". Fosterables need sufficient space, proper facilities and to be in the company of other animals, which are their own kind. The purpose of the MCAS Foster Program is to support animal well-being. Fosters create and maintain animal-friendly spaces which support their fosterable's need for exercise, socialization and play. In addition, as a foster you might considering learning about the developmental stages of kittens and puppies, how to read canine body language, or what are the typical feline exercise needs in an effort to help create an environment conducive to overall animal well-being and household harmony.

Freedom from Fear and Distress -

Finally, foster care is a means by which animals previously denied loving companionship and safe environments are able to recover not only physically, but also from other less visible trauma. "Freedom from Fear and Distress" includes the foster's commitment to consider an animal's need for safety, stability and affection as among primary

requirements for their health and wellness.

Home Preparation and Personal Animal Readiness

Before you bring your fosterable home there are few things you will need to consider. For example, do you have the ability to isolate the fosterable in an area for up three (3) weeks? Are you able to schedule and attend appointments during clinic hours? Do you have ready transportation and are you able to provide necessary vet care following appointments such as after spaying/neutering of animals? Do you have the ability to provide ample supplies (food, toys, crates, bedding, ect.), space for fosterables to go to the restroom, as well as appropriate spaces to eat, play, and sleep? These are only a few of the items that should be contemplated.

Choosing a Foster Animal

You can begin by exploring the range of MCAS “Fosterable” opportunities:

- **ONLINE** via the MCAS website
- **SOCIAL MEDIA** via the MCAS Facebook pages. Pets in Need page (PIN Page). MCASaves Page
- **ON-SITE** via “Fosterable!” kennel tags
- Requests from MCAS staff

Read the Kennel Card:

Once you find an animal you may be interested in fostering, note their *A#* (the 6-digit number preceded by “A” which is associated with every animal in our system) to access information from their Kennel Card including estimated age, weight, and notes regarding special circumstances or conditions.

Many of the indicators that an animal could be a good fosterable candidate can be found right on the Kennel Card. Please make sure to review the “Four Fosterables” discussed at the beginning of this handbook in helping identify potential contenders.

Contact the Foster Coordinator:

Potential fosters may call, email, text or drop by to connect with the Foster Coordinator to express your interest in a potential fosterable. Communication with the Foster Coordinator enables you to receive additional information regarding availability, or specific health conditions of the fosterable, as well as allow you to evaluate if you will make a good foster fit.

If it is determined you and the fosterable make a good fit, you will then be required to complete an Outcome Plan with the Foster Coordinator. These plans generally last for ninety (90) days and outline a blueprint for foster care for that specific fosterable. Once an Outcome Plan is complete, the Foster Contract can be signed and you will then be deemed an active MCAS Foster!

Foster Support Resources

Common Conditions Information

One express function of MCAS is to provide care for homeless animals. The majority of these animals have been abandoned by persons unable or unwilling to provide adequately for their health and well-being. Many animals come into MCAS with common illnesses and conditions requiring medical treatment. Fortunately, a good number of these ailments are easily treatable! Even more encouraging is the reality that animals treated for such conditions while in the care of a foster, generally recover more quickly and have greater overall health. It is for reasons like this that having fosters who are willing and able to care for animals with these frequent, but treatable illnesses can make all the difference in achieving adoption readiness.

Some common conditions encountered at MCAS include those listed below.

Upper Respiratory Infection: “URI” for Felines or “ITB” for Canines

This upper respiratory infection is caused by a virus which produces symptoms in cats and dogs which are similar to those which humans experience with a common cold: coughing, sneezing, runny nose, eye irritation. Though the symptoms are similar, these infections of the nose, throat, and trachea (or “upper respiratory”) are not actually contagious across species. That said, URIs and ITB can spread rapidly from cat-to-cat and dog-to-dog, as well as make animals more susceptible to other infections. Therefore, swift treatment is crucial to containment and prevention of outbreaks of further illness. Respiratory Infection in both cats and dogs is primarily treated with oral medications.

Worms (Hookworms, Roundworms, Tapeworms)

Found in both dogs and cats, worms are common intestinal parasites which can be especially prevalent in puppies and kittens. Roundworms “swim” in the intestine, while Hookworms attach themselves or “hook” onto the lining of the intestinal wall. Along with a flea treatment, all animals coming into the shelter receive treatment for these types of worms immediately upon intake. Tapeworms, which are rice like in appearance, are transmitted via fleas and are treated at the shelter on a case-by-case basis. Effective deworming treatments for all of these types of worms can also be purchased at many major pet or feed stores.

Coccidia and Giardia

Though not worms, the microscopic coccidia and giardia parasites also live in the intestinal tract and, like worms, commonly cause diarrhea. Neither the coccidia nor the giardia parasites can be effectively treated with a dewormer. Both giardia and coccidia are diagnosed with a fecal test and can be generally treated with prescription medication.

Mange (Demodex and Sarcoptic)

A condition caused by mites which burrow underneath the skin, mange in animals manifests in two forms: the non-contagious demodex and the highly contagious sarcoptic. Both infections cause itching, skin flaking and hair loss. Animals and humans with suppressed immune systems are particularly vulnerable to mange or scabies. It is important to note that the type of scabies contracted by animals is different from human scabies. While a human can become infected by sarcoptic mange (the animal scabies) and experience irritating symptoms, over time these would resolve without medical intervention since sarcoptic mange cannot survive on a human host. Both the demodex and sarcoptic are highly treatable conditions. Sarcoptic however would require ongoing quarantine of the animal until resolution of the condition. Treatment for Mange generally involves topical and oral, as well as occasional injectable medications.

Ringworm

Ringworm is actually not caused by worms but instead by a common fungal skin infection. Ringworm is highly

contagious across species (including humans). Ringworm lesions are frequently crusty, circular spots of hair loss which most often appear on the head, belly and tail. Because this condition spreads rapidly, immediate and thorough treatment is necessary. There are a number of effective topical remedies, including lye dips and medicated shampoos, as well as certain over-the-counter treatments for athlete's foot and jock itch. A definitive diagnosis is normally made via a skin scrape sample. Unfortunately, the test can take up to 10 days to confirm so isolation of the animal is sometimes required.

More Serious Diseases and Conditions

It is a painful reality that at times animals come into the shelter with very serious illnesses or conditions. The following is a list of some of the more serious diseases and conditions we may encounter at MCAS:

Canine Distemper

This highly contagious illness primarily affects puppies and is frequently fatal. Unusual head bobbing, fever, lethargy, vomiting and diarrhea, along with coughing and sneezing, are among the symptoms. For those pups which survive distemper, severe neurological damage often remains. These survivors of distemper can have improvements with regard to neurological problems over an extended period of time. If treated early pups diagnosed with distemper do have a chance at survival.

Canine Parvovirus "Parvo"

This is another highly contagious illness primarily affecting puppies. It is also generally fatal for the animal infected. Bloody stool, lethargy and vomiting are among the primary symptoms. Parvo can be treated with medications and if treatment begins early there are chances of survival.

Canine Streptococcus Zooepidemicus "Strep Zoo" – "Other Respiratory Infection"

This rare but devastating disease has been known to be fatal to dogs within 24 hours of contracting infection. Sudden onset fever, rapid shallow breathing, reluctance to eat, and bloody discharge from nose or mouth are among the symptoms. Early signs are similar to "ITB", however, dogs infected with Strep Zoo quickly show very severe signs, becoming seriously ill within hours. Though outbreaks are isolated, Strep Zoo tends to occur in places like shelters, where dogs mix in large groups.

Feline Panleukopenia "Panleuk"

This highly-contagious illness primarily affects kittens and quickly becomes fatal. Similar to the Canine Parvovirus in pups, Panleuk symptoms for kittens include bloody stool, lethargy and vomiting.

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus "FIV"

FIV, or Feline immunodeficiency virus, is a disease of cats that is quite similar to the human HIV/AIDS. Like a person with HIV, a cat can be infected with FIV and enjoy a good quality of life for quite some time before developing the disease. There is no cure for FIV and cats with this disease are vulnerable to a number of secondary infections because of a suppressed immune system. Fortunately, this disease cannot be spread to humans.

Rabies

Rabies is a deadly virus spread to people from the saliva of infected animals. The rabies virus is usually transmitted through a bite.

Extreme Anxiety/Destruction Compulsion

An animal with extreme chronic anxiety suffers greatly while frequently causing significant destruction to its environment in an attempt to relieve inner tension. Rather than soothing anxiety, destructive behaviors generally necessitate more restrictive environments, which often increase rather than diminish anxiety. As the anxiety fails to resolve, the suffering and destruction escalate resulting in both inner and outer damage.

Extreme Prey-Drive/High Aggression

Similarly, animals with an inherently strong or deeply conditioned aggression response frequently suffer the stress of unrelieved tension. If such animals are unable to develop a measure of impulse control sufficient for safe, functional interactions with other animals and/or humans, they create an ongoing risk of harm for themselves and others.

Humane Euthanasia

Heartbreakingly, in some of these instances it may be necessary to perform humane euthanasia in order to relieve an animal's suffering or to ensure the safety and well-being of other animals and people. Humane euthanasia is not a choice considered lightly in any instance, and a strong base of Medical Fosters can provide one of the strongest supports for alternative options for some troublesome conditions.

Animal Care

It is expected that MCAS fosters will treat all animals in the Shelter's care with compassion and gentleness.

Handling of Animals

All Shelter animals must be handled and trained in the same manner. Only positive reinforcement training may be used on the animals. Yelling, hitting, rough handling, choke chains/prong collar, yanking of leashes or other similar treatment is prohibited.

Dog Guidelines

Shelter dogs are not the same as household dogs. A household dog knows his/her surroundings and is familiar with his/her owner's personality and expectations. Dogs in the Shelter are many times in a confused and stressed state. They are in an unfamiliar setting, surrounded by other equally stressed dogs, and are being handled by strangers, sometimes multiple times in a single day. It will take some time for them to become comfortable in their foster home.

Fosters should always use caution when dealing with dogs and be alert to their surroundings. The dog's body language should always be closely observed. If there are signs that a dog is nervous or fearful, the animal should be removed from the situation immediately.

It is easy to misinterpret what dogs are communicating. Fosters can learn more about dog body language and training by speaking with the Foster Coordinator. Remember, the role of the fosters is to keep the Shelter animals as stress-free as possible and to avoid situations that promote inappropriate behavior.

Dog Handling Requirements:

- Maintain control of the dog at all times.
- The leash should be examined prior to use to ensure it is in good repair.
- Always approach the dogs calmly. If possible, wait for them to sit before opening the kennel. This will help train them to sit when a potential adopter approaches.
- Do not allow dogs to jump up or "play nip". When a dog jumps, it is jumping for attention. Remove the attention by turning and ignoring the dog until all four paws are on the floor. Then reward the dog with attention. Never hit a dog, hold a dog on the ground, yell at the dog, or push on them to get a desired behavior. The goal is for them to learn good habits, feel safe and build a trusting relationship with humans.

Bites/Play Nips

Preventing bites and "play nips" is not only important to the Foster's health and well-being, but also to the dog's as well. The Shelter assesses every bite. Many adopters and rescue groups will not consider a dog with a "bite history," so bite prevention is very important. It is critical that fosters learn basic dog behavior and not take unnecessary risks when working with dogs.

Fosters must immediately report animal bites to staff. Wounds must be washed thoroughly for a full five minutes with antibacterial soap. The fosters must complete an incident report that describes the circumstances under which the bite occurred. As provided by state law, the dog will be quarantined for ten days and then have their behavior assessed. Most animals on the adoption floor will have already been fully vaccinated. This may be confirmed by reviewing the animal's kennel card.

Cat Guidelines

Cats are very different than dogs. They respond to stimuli and display their stress and happiness in different ways. Domestic cats form bonds with their owners as well as with other animals in their home. The Shelter

environment is very different from a home environment, and any animal that has lost its family will need help to adjust. When cats first arrive at the Shelter, they are often stressed. They are in an unfamiliar, frightening environment. Fosters can help reassure the cats and put them at ease by speaking in a soft and even voice, petting them gently, and moving slowly around them. Cats that have recently arrived or that seem stressed should be handled carefully, but firmly and with confidence.

When working with a cat that is exhibiting strange, defensive, or aggressive behavior, the cat should be left alone. The cat may just need some time to calm down. Once a cat has been at the foster home and has had time to adjust, they often seek attention. Time spent by fosters grooming and petting cats is encouraged and beneficial.

While spending time with the cats in the foster home the foster should do the following:

- Reinforce good behavior in response to bad behavior by discontinuing petting and walking away. This training helps a cat be more adoptable and reduces the chances they may be returned.
- Maintain low voice levels and a calm tone.
- Always pay attention to the cat's body language.
- Take health precautions. Wash hands often, and do not touch your eyes or put hands in your mouth.
- Report behavior or health concerns to the Foster Coordinator immediately.
- Brush cats to eliminate shedding fur and mats. You should request assistance if a cat is excessively matted. Always wash brushes thoroughly between cats to avoid the transfer of contagious disease.

Foster Program Paperwork

Paperwork for Participation in the MCAS Foster Program

As outlined in the “Signing Up” section, active participation in the MCAS Foster Program requires familiarity with the content of this handbook, an interview with the Foster Coordinator, the completion and submission of 2 documents:

1. Application: MCAS Foster Program Application.
2. Agreement: MCAS Foster Program Agreement.

Paperwork for Checking Out a MCAS Foster Program

Once the requirements for active participation in the MCAS Foster Program have been met, Fosters are then eligible to choose and check out a MCAS Foster animal according to the process outlined in this handbook. Checking out a MCAS Fosterable also requires completion with the assistance of the Foster Coordinator and submission of the following document:

1. Outcome Plan: MCAS Foster Outcome Plan.

Paperwork for Conducting an OffSite Adoption of a MCAS Foster Program

With successful achievement of a fosterable’s adoption-readiness, active fosters are able to facilitate offsite adoptions of their MCAS foster pet by completing (with the prospective adopter) the following 3 documents and submitting the application and the checklist to the MCAS and giving the adopter the receipt:

1. Application: MCAS Adoption Application.
2. Receipt: Payment Received for MCAS Adoption.
3. Checklist: MCAS Adoption Packet Checklist.

In addition to the adoption documents which must be completed and exchanged, the foster will use the checklist to provide the adopter with informational paperwork including handouts regarding MCAS clinic hours, reading material concerning potential health issues, and the newly adopted animal’s medical history and rabies certificate. The adoption packet checklist is then initialed by both the foster and the adopter, and submitted to the MCAS along with the application and payment.

Foster Parent Application



Foster Parent Application



Thank you for your interest in fostering for the Montgomery County Animal Shelter hereafter referred to as "MCAS." The MCAS foster program is designed to save the lives of the most vulnerable animals in our care. Foster parents help us in that endeavor by providing temporary care for animals that are not yet ready for adoption for a variety of reasons. These could include underage puppies and kittens, sick or injured animals, and animals that are not thriving in the kennel environment. MCAS is dependent on our committed fosters to saving these pets in need.

Foster Parent

Name: _____ Date _____

Phone #: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

DL/ID #: _____ Issuing Agency: _____ DOB: _____

Email: _____

Why are you interested in fostering? _____

Have you or anyone in your household previously applied to adopt or foster from MCAS? Yes No

Do you: Own Rent House Condo Apartment Mobile Home Townhouse

If **not** a property owner, complete the following:

Name of Landlord/Company/Apartment Complex & Phone #: _____

Animals allowed? Yes No **Deposit Required?** Yes No **Deposit Amount:** _____ **Deposit Paid?** Yes No

Types of animals you own: Dog(s) Cat(s) Other: _____

Please list all animals currently living in your household:

Name	Breed	Age	M/F	Spayed/Neutered

Do you have children in your household?: Yes No Ages: _____

What type of fostering can you provide?

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bottle-Fed Kittens | <input type="checkbox"/> Cats with Respiratory Infections | <input type="checkbox"/> Cats with Injuries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant Cats or Cats with Kittens | <input type="checkbox"/> Bottle-Fed Puppies | <input type="checkbox"/> Dogs with Kennel Cough |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dogs with Injuries | <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant Dogs or Dog with Puppies | <input type="checkbox"/> Shy/Timid/Behavior |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | | |

How many hours will your fostered animal spend outside each day? _____ Hours

My fostered animal(s) needs to be able to be alone (per day): 4 Hours or less 4-8 Hours 8-12 Hours

When I'm not home, my fostered animal(s) will spend time: In the garage In a crate In the yard
 Loose in the house Confined to one room in the house Other _____

Disclosure:

Thank you again for your interest in fostering with MCAS. If approved, you will need to come in for a one-on-one meeting with the Foster Coordinator and/or Office Manager to further learn of our foster program expectations. You will also need to complete a Foster Parent Agreement and orientation.

Signing below, I certify that the information I have given is true and I recognize that any misrepresentation of facts may result in my losing the privilege of fostering a pet and nullification of any contract in the future. I understand that MCAS has the right to deny my request to foster an animal, and I authorize investigation of all statements on this application.

Signature of person submitting application: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Return Application & supporting documents to: mcassist@mctx.org or to 8535 SH 242, Conroe, TX 77385

MCAS Representative: _____ Approved Denied Date: _____

Foster Parent Acknowledgement



Foster Parent Acknowledgement

Montgomery County Animal Shelter
8535 Highway 242
Conroe, TX 77385



I, _____ (Print name) acknowledge receiving a copy of the Montgomery County Animal Shelter ("MCAS") Foster Handbook. I understand that it is my responsibility to familiarize myself with these policies and follow them accordingly. I acknowledge that as a participant in the Foster Program, I am a foster and no compensation or remuneration shall be forthcoming from the MCAS or the County. I acknowledge and understand that I will not receive any salary or reimbursement, nor am I entitled to any County benefits.

I confirm that I have received, read and understand the Foster policies. By signing this acknowledgement, I agree to abide by and to conduct my activities in accordance with MCAS foster policies and procedures and understand that breach of these standards may result in my suspension or termination in the Foster program.

(Signature) Name (Printed) Person Id Date

MCAS Coordinator (Signature) Name (Printed) Date

Foster Parent Liability Waiver and Release



Foster Parent Liability Waiver and Release

Montgomery County Animal Shelter
8535 Highway 242
Conroe, TX 77385



I, _____ (print name) wish to provide foster services for the Montgomery County Animal Shelter ("MCAS"). I recognize that in handling animals and performing other foster and volunteer tasks a risk of physical injury exists including, but not limited to, severe injury including disease or death, that could be caused by the animals. I certify that I am in good physical health and do not have any health or medical conditions that would preclude me from fostering for the MCAS nor have I been advised to avoid fostering for the MCAS by a qualified medical professional.

In consideration of the permission granted to me by the MCAS to participate in this foster work, on behalf of myself, my heirs, personal representatives, and executors:

I ASSUME ALL RESPONSIBILITY AND RISK OF INJURY AND/OR DISEASE THAT MIGHT OCCUR TO ME OR MY PROPERTY AND AGREE TO WAIVE, INDEMNIFY, HOLD HARMLESS, RELEASE, AND DEFEND THE MCAS AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ITS OFFICERS, AGENTS, SERVANTS, AND EMPLOYEES, FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS, SUITS OR ACTIONS, FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE OR LOSS, OR PERSONAL INJURY, INCLUDING DEATH, SUSTAINED BY ME IN CONNECTION WITH MY FOSTER SERVICES, WHETHER OR NOT DAMAGES OR INJURIES ARE CAUSED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY BY MY NEGLIGENT OR GROSSLY NEGLIGENT ACTIONS OR OMISSIONS OR THE NEGLIGENT OR GROSSLY NEGLIGENT ACTIONS OR OMISSIONS OF OFFICERS, AGENTS, SERVANTS, FOSTERS OR EMPLOYEES OF THE MCAS OR MONTGOMERY COUNTY. FURTHERMORE, I HEREBY ASSUME ALL RESPONSIBILITY AND AGREE TO WAIVE, INDEMNIFY, HOLD HARMLESS, AND DEFEND MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ITS OFFICERS, AGENTS, SERVANTS, AND EMPLOYEES, FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS, SUITS OR ACTIONS, FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE OR LOSS, OR PERSONAL INJURY, INCLUDING DEATH, SUSTAINED BY OTHERS RESULTING FROM MY NEGLIGENT OR GROSSLY NEGLIGENT ACTIONS OR OMISSIONS WHILE PERFORMING FOSTER SERVICES.

I further understand and agree that as a foster, I am not an officer, agent, or employee of Montgomery County, and that my service as a foster shall not be construed or interpreted as that of an officer, agent, or employee of Montgomery County, and that the doctrine of respondeat superior shall not apply between the MCAS or Montgomery County and me.

NOTICE: I acknowledge my participation with the animal shelter involves animals whose actions are unpredictable. I understand I should use good judgment in handling animals only that I have been instructed or trained to work with. It is my responsibility to seek assistance from MCAS staff should I have any questions or concerns about a particular animal. I hereby accept the limits of liability and inherent risks associated with working with any animals associated with the MCAS.

(Signature)

Name (Printed) Person Id

Date

MCAS Coordinator (Signature)

Name (Printed)

Date

Foster Outcome Plan



Foster Outcome Plan

Montgomery County Animal Shelter
 8535 Highway 242
 Conroe, TX 77385



Animal ID #		Person ID #		Date:	
Animal Name:		Foster Name:		Review Date:	

Foster Designation

- AGE/WEIGHT – Age/weight vulnerable:
- MEDICAL – Experiencing and/or recovering from medical condition/surgery:
- BEHAVIORAL – In need of additional socializing/training:
- VISIBILITY – Identified for increased adoption visibility outing/off-site event:
- OTHER – Other need as determined by staff:

Outcome Plan Specifics – Note Details & Dates

- Age/Weight –
- Medical –
- Behavioral –
- Visibility –
- Other –

TimeLine Commitments

Within 1 week email clear photo and/or videos

Date: _____ Commitment: _____

Date: _____ Commitment: _____

Date: _____ Commitment: _____

Date: _____ Commitment: _____

Foster Signature: _____ Date: _____

Outcome Plan Guidelines

AGE/WEIGHT: KITTENS

1. achieve 2 lbs./ 7 weeks AND
2. achieve minimum of 2 sets vaccinations AND
3. achieve spay/neuter THEN
4. return to MCAS adoption floor within 1 week of completion of #1 - 3 "Adoption-Ready" OR
5. achieve adoption via Foster within 4 weeks of completion of #1 - 3 "Adoption-Ready"

AGE/WEIGHT: PUPPIES

1. achieve 4 lbs./ 7 weeks AND
2. achieve minimum of 2 sets vaccinations AND
3. achieve spay/neuter THEN
4. return to MCAS adoption floor within 1 week of completion of #1 - 3 "Adoption-Ready" OR
5. achieve adoption via Foster within 4 weeks of completion of #1 - 3 "Adoption-Ready"

AGE/WEIGHT: Other

1. achieve healthy weight as designated by MCAS veterinarian AND
2. achieve up-to-date vaccinations AND
3. achieve health stability via necessary care/medications AND
4. achieve spay/neuter as applicable if recommended by MCAS veterinarian THEN
5. transition to MCAS-recognized Rescue Group OR
6. achieve adoption via Foster within 12 weeks of completion of #1 - 4 "Adoption-Ready"

MEDICAL

1. achieve medical resolution/recovery as directed and confirmed by MCAS veterinarian AND
2. achieve up-to-date vaccinations AND
3. achieve spay/neuter as applicable if recommended by MCAS veterinarian THEN
4. return to MCAS adoption floor within 1 week of completion of #1 - 3 "Adoption-Ready" OR
5. transition to MCAS-recognized Rescue Group OR
6. achieve adoption via Foster within 6 weeks of completion of #1 - 3 "Adoption-Ready"

BEHAVIORAL

1. achieve behavioral resolution as directed and confirmed by appropriate MCAS staff OR
2. achieve weekday respite from 60+ day kennel stays AND
3. achieve up-to-date vaccinations AND
4. achieve spay/neuter as applicable if recommended by MCAS veterinarian THEN
5. return to MCAS adoption floor within 1 week of completion of #1 - 3 "Adoption-Ready" OR
6. transition to MCAS-recognized Rescue Group within 1 week of completion of #1 - 3 OR
7. achieve adoption via Foster within 4 weeks of completion of #1 - 3 "Adoption-Ready"

VISIBILITY: Foster for a Day

1. achieve increased adoption visibility via MCAS-recognized off-site event AND
2. achieve same-day off-site adoption via Foster and/or event organization OR
3. return to MCAS adoption floor within the same day during MCAS operating hours OR
4. return to MCAS adoption floor within 48 hours with full adherence to MCAS contract