

SDCH FOSTER CONTACTS

<u>DOG FOSTER OFFICER</u> Your first contact for dogs - Any foster concerns at all call or SMS	<i>Most days , 8:00am - 4:00pm</i> <i>If no answer, contact Animal Care Team</i> 0418 589 886
<u>CAT FOSTER OFFICER</u> Your first contact for cats and rabbits- Any foster concerns at all call or SMS	<i>Most days , 8:00am - 4:00pm</i> <i>If no answer, contact Animal Care Team</i> 0451 648 551
<u>ANIMAL CARE TEAM</u> If your Foster Officer is not available. Or for information about a foster adoption.	<i>Mon-Sat , 9:00am - 3:30pm</i> <i>& Sun , 9:00am - 3:00pm</i> (02) 9587 9611 / 0450 636 481 info@sdch.org.au
<u>VET TEAM</u> For any medical queries, to order more medications, or for vet appointments.	<i>Mon-Fri , 9:00am - 4:30pm</i> 0427 909 269 vet@sdch.org.au
<u>PHOTOS & VIDEOS</u> Email us photos, videos and animal descriptions.	pics@sdch.org.au

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

- CALL us immediately if you have an emergency.
- If it is an emergency **after hours** (outside Mon-Sun, 9am-3pm) call any after-hours local vet for advice (you can find a list of some clinics at the end of this document). If required, take the animal to your local after-hours vet and show this [letter](#) (also on last page).

FOSTER RULES - Keeping your foster animal safe

(Chat with your Foster Officer for more info)

- Do **not** alter or stop any medications unless approved by a SDCH vet.
- Do **not** give your animal to another person unless approved by SDCH staff.
- Contact your Foster Officer to discuss socialisation **before** introducing your foster dog to other dogs.

Dogs

- No Dog Parks
- No off-leash time when out of the home

Cats

- Not allow outside
- Do not feed cow's milk



Rabbits

- Provide food at all times
- No free rc outside



SYDNEY DOGS & CATS HOME

- No walks for the first 3 days



*Welcome to Foster Caring with Sydney Dogs & Cats Home !!!
Thank you so much for sharing your home & saving a beautiful animal.*

WE'RE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU

As a foster carer, you are joining an animal-loving family where support and guidance are abundant.

Foster resources include:

- This Foster Carer Guide
- The Foster Carer [Tips & Tricks](#) section on our website
- The friendly staff at SDCH and your Foster Officer (contact details above)
- Our awesome Foster Facebook Group – “[SDCH – Foster Carers](#)”
- Some foster carers will also get assigned a Foster Mentor who can provide extra support.

BRINGING A FOSTER ANIMAL HOME

For many animals, changing environments can be scary and overwhelming. So, remember **Less is More** when it comes to foster caring.

Set your home up so it is quiet and calm, with not too much activity.

Avoid having visitors and going on trips for the first week.

PROMOTE YOUR FOSTER ANIMAL

Please help find your foster animal their forever home!

Advertise them wherever you can and tell all your family and friends 😊

**Please also email photos, videos and written descriptions of your foster animal to pics@sdch.org.au*

THE ADOPTION PROCESS

Once an animal has had their vet work completed, the SDCH team will work on making the animal available for adoption.

For more foster info, visit [Foster FAQ's](#) or foster [Tips & Tricks](#) sections on our website.

SYDNEY DOGS & CATS HOME

When we receive an adoption enquiry, the Animal Care Team will check the applicant based on your feedback. We may also ask you to contact the adopter, to relay more in-depth information about your foster animal.

If all goes well, we will then organise an adoption meet & greet at our shelter.

If a foster carer decides they want to adopt, simply let your Foster Officer know **ASAP**. We will then put a note on the animal's file so that the Animal Care Team can get in contact to process your adoption.

RETURNING AN ANIMAL

You must call SDCH before returning an animal. We will need to reserve a kennel or cage for the animal and make sure we have staff available.

AFTER HOURS STICKY SITUATIONS (BEFORE 8:00AM OR AFTER 4:00PM)

In the unlikely situation that it is after hours and you get 'stuck', remember to keep calm and take a minute to process the situation.

"My foster animal got out or is lost"

- Search your entire house including cupboards and small places (cats in particular, can squeeze into very small spaces).
- Call your local vets.
- Knock on your neighbours' doors.
- Go for a search.
- SMS your Foster Care Officer so they find your message first thing in the morning.
- At 9:00am you can also call Sydney Dogs & Cats Home.

"I am not comfortable around my foster animal"

Set up a secure, separate room (eg. spare room, toilet, bathroom, laundry etc) with water and bedding. Keep the animal in that room until the morning, when you can call the Foster Care Officer or SDCH at 8am.

If the animal starts becoming destructive, you can try adding treats or chews and calming music. It may take some time for the animal to relax.