

## FOSTER CARER AGREEMENT

- Without 100% confinement a cat has no security.
- Without security a dependent cat has no food.
- Without security a cat can die on the street in about 5 weeks.
- Without security a cat can get fatty liver disease from no food in 4 days.
- Without security a kitten will die in about a week on the street.

It is cruel to lose a cat. There is no such thing as a 'stray' only a cat that a human has lost or mismanaged.

FOSTER CARERS ARE NEVER PERMITTED TO ALLOW THE CAT OUTDOORS UNLESS WLPA INSTALLS A SECURE NETTED ENCLOSURE TO THE HOME THAT DOES NOT PERMIT ESCAPE. SIMILARLY, ADOPTERS MUST SECURE ALL NEW PETS FOR A MIN OF 3 MONTHS WHEN THEY ADOPT.

THIS IS OUR KEY REQUIREMENT AND THANK YOU FOR KINDLY BEING WILLING TO HELP WLPA ANIMALS.

Coordinator: Jonine 0409 741 414 (7 days)  
President: Halina 0407 456 683 (7 days)  
Vet: Donna 0414 372 281 (mobile – 7 days)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DOB:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mobile:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

# WLPA FOSTER CARER AGREEMENT: CATS

Thank you for offering your time, care and home to foster for WLPA: 9817 4892

Do you live in a:  House with garden  Townhouse  Apartment  Bedsit

How many people live there?  Adults  Teenagers <18  Children < 5

Is your home a share house?  Yes, how many adults? \_\_\_\_\_  No

What pets, if any do you have? .....

## Please first read the core requirements of fostering

**❶ Foster kittens under 6 months should always be housed entirely separately to your own pets to prevent risk of ringworm and disease to your own pets and to protect the foster kittens. They may see your pet cats or dogs through glass.**

*WLPA will not pay for vet care of your own pet, should your pet get sick from mixing with a foster cat. Kittens have no immunity to your pets and must grow immunity over time as they are vaccinated and as they develop. Also, reliable blood screening for FIV/Felv cannot be done until 6 months of age. Kittens can carry parvo virus without our knowing and must be observed for this for the first 23 days. Parvo virus can kill your cat if your cat is not vaccinated.*

I agree .....

**❷ Your home inside must be 100% secure (windows / doors) for the duration of fostering with cat flaps de-operationalised. Ideally windows have mesh or net for ventilation, or your home will have air conditioning for the summer.**

*The reason is safety of the foster cat so they do not go missing or get ring worm from the garden. Also, cats who are allowed to go to the garden young are harder to adopt out as indoor cats and get spoiled and may want to roam once adopted.*

I agree .....

**❸ Foster (ADULT) cats should be housed in rooms separately to your pet cats for at least two weeks until flea treated, flu vaccinated and blood screened.**

*WLPA believes it is best to separate pets from fosters. WLPA will not pay for vet care of your own pet, should you pet get sick from mixing with a foster cat.*

I agree .....

**④ Foster cats are not allowed outside to the street or the garden or to un-netted balconies. Only a secure netted or purpose-designed enclosure is permitted for outdoor living for your foster cat.**

I agree .....

**⑤ Foster carers must inform WLPA immediately if they believe the foster cat has gone missing.**

*It can be hard to find a kitten or an unsocialised cat in your home because they hide. Please seek assistance immediately. A trap may be needed to re-secure the cat.*

I agree .....

**⑥ Foster carers must inform WLPA if the cat in their care is not eating within a day of not eating, and immediately, if the cat is lethargic, is coughing, (especially after surgery), is breathing through the mouth, has runny poo, is vomiting, cannot walk, is limping, has lost weight, has a smelly mouth, or has other signs of illness.**

*Please seek assistance immediately by phoning 0409 741 414 (Coordinator) or the 0407 456 683 (President) or support person ..... you were provided.*

I agree .....

**⑦ Foster carers must keep kitten foods stable to avoid runny poo and follow the feeding instructions of WLPA in the care of their animal. No raw chicken, or necks nor cooked bones are to be given ever. Vegetarian carers must be able to serve tinned and fresh meat and cooked chicken to cats.**

*WLPA will not pay the vet fees to remove chicken bones from an injured throat. Please seek assistance or reimbursement for the costs of foods and keep receipts.*

I agree .....

**IF YOU AGREE TO THE ABOVE, WE WELCOME YOU TO COMMENCE FOSTERING**

**NOW, WHAT KIND OF RESCUED CAT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO FOSTER?**

### **Critical care (for experienced carers only)**

One or more kittens on the day of rescue: this involves assessing the animals for their proximity to weaning: (their weight/age, ability to feed from syringe, to lap, to eat kitten wet

meat food); it involves bathing to assess them for flea infestation; it involves keeping them warm; and it involves liaising closely with a WLPA rescue support person by phone daily to report the kittens' progress. Training is provided.

## **Pre-weaned kittens with or without a mother cat**

Infant kitten/s (birth to 6 wks) or mum+kittens – commitment of up to 8wks. You must be willing to have the vet come to the home if needed (once authorised by WLPA as being needed). This role requires short, intensive care, then ideally, passing the animal on to another foster carer until adopted. This is a commitment of approximately 1-2 weeks. These carers should ideally be at home for some of the day, or work from home, or be able to check on the kittens during the working day. Kittens can be raised by you or be passed on.

## **Special needs (no experience needed)**

- One or two deaf kittens or a deaf or blind kitten or cat
- A cat who has had a surgery after an injury
- A cat who has FIV (these are monitored monthly)

## **Usual care (no experience needed)**

- Older kitten to socialise, aged 4-6 months-commitment of 2 months
- Socialised juvenile, aged 7-12 months- commitment of 2 months
- Adoptable socialised adult cat- commitment of 3 months
- Older cat (7 yrs and over) – commitment of up to 1 year or longer
- An unsocialised or semi-socialised cat who is not suitable for adoption– commitment of up to 1 year or longer. (Support to worm, care for available).

## **Holiday care or weekend break for another carer**

- Duration may be as short as a weekend.

## IMPORTANT: WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY WARNING

WLPA is a no-kill charity and as such, WLPA sometimes has animals to care for that other agencies would routinely kill. These include:

- some unsocialised and semisocialised cats and kittens
- animals who are distressed, sick or maltreated at the point of rescue.
- WLPA also has mother cats who are naturally defensive of their kittens.

**All these animals, indeed any animal, may scratch or bite!  
An animal bite can mean serious infection, the loss of function in a hand or the loss of a hand. DON'T RISK IT!**

### Do

1. Prevent scratches and bites (see tips below)
2. If bitten or scratched, wash area thoroughly with soap and water and dry
3. See a GP for antibiotics after any cat bite
4. See a GP for antibiotics if scratches are inflamed/infected as soon as possible.
5. Report the bite to Halina (0407 456683) or Jonine (0409 741414)

### Don't

1. Pick up/touch animals you don't yet know. Get permission (from the cat)
2. Surprise the cat by touching from behind or without speaking to the cat
3. Never hold on to a cat who is biting, let go!
4. Do not handle an unsocialised animal. It is seldom necessary.
5. Don't allow your partner/family/visitors to pick up/pet a cat he/she doesn't know

Foster carers should avoid visitors, partners and children in the home playing with adult cats unless it is made clear that the animal can be played with and that such touching and play is appropriate for that specific animal.

Foster carers approved by WLPA are **the primary carer of the animal**. He or she must provide a warning to others at home as to whether or not the animal is socialised to humans. The household is not the carer, only the approved foster carer.

## OTHER REQUIREMENTS OF FOSTER CARING

### Lawful ownership

**Foster cats belong to, that is, are the lawful responsibility of WLPA and must not be given away to any other charity, to any other authority, nor to any relative or friend or third party. Similarly, foster cats cannot become the lawful responsibility of the foster carer for life, without a formal adoption process.**

**This involves the Change of Ownership Form, Adoption Agreement and payment of the cat's health care plan which has been paid for by WLPA.**

I agree .....

**Vet choice**

**You should not consult a vet for kittens or cats unless authorised by WLPA by phoning the President on 0407 456683 or the Coordinator on 0409 741414.**

*The reason is that very quickly high unauthorised costs flow to WLPA.*

I agree .....

**Only PetCure PTY LTD is to be used as the vet on 0414 372 281 unless another vet is allocated to your situation. No house-visit nor clinical cost will be invoiced to the foster carer for an authorized visit. Note deliveries of any food or medicine incurs a \$30 fee if delivered by the vet. This should be avoided. Most supplies are at the Adoption Centre. An unauthorised visit may be charged to the foster carer.....**

I agree .....

**You should not consult a vet for kittens under 6 weeks of age unless authorised by WLPA. The WLPA vet, PetCure will be allocated. Foster Carer support volunteers, including the Coordinator and President or the volunteer provided to you are experienced carers. These carers consult with the vet daily and are often able to initiate treatments, deliveries or processes (grooming, deflea and deworm, taking temperatures, administering help for sniffles and managing diarrhea without incurring costs to WLPA. Kittens are FULLY appraised by a Vet at 6 weeks at which time they will be vaccinated, microchipped and vet checked:**

*Specialist after-hours vets can incur bills to WLPA in the thousands of dollars for simple matters such as assessment and hydration.*

*As a kitten approaches 6 to 8 weeks, minor health issues surface to do with diet, worming and weaning. Most issues can be solved with the WLPA foster carer support person allocated to you until the vet sees the kitten routinely at 8 weeks of age. As of 2017, kittens are seen by 6 weeks to prevent Parvo virus.*

*Serious diseases or evidence of birth defects in kittens will surface by 8 or 9 weeks and sadly, some kittens will not be healthy for adoption. At 6-8 weeks kittens are*

*routinely assessed by the vet for suitability for adoption (from 8 weeks, but ideally from 10 weeks of age). At 6 weeks they are microchipped and vaccinated. They are seen by the same vet again at 4 weekly intervals then again for desexing at 4-6 months.*

I agree .....

**Foster carers are not to a) write on; b) put their own name on; c) put their address nor phone number on; and d) are not to hold on to the original paperwork the vet or WLPA has created on the identity of the cat (called, Permanent ID form).**

**If the vet completes microchipping or vaccinating at your home, you are to please post all copies of the Permanent ID form, AND the vaccination certificate, and any other paperwork (eg Desexing Certificate) to “Adoption Desk”, PO Box 211 Gladesville NSW 2111 immediately. If we do not have those papers we are in breach of the law. We also CANNOT adopt out the animal.**

**For your purposes, you may only NAME THE CAT if no name is already allocated. You may also take a photo of paperwork on your phone to show adopters that the animal is indeed vaccinated and microchipped and named. This will help you know when the next vaccine or procedure is due.**

I agree .....

*Only the name and address of WLPA is to appear, with the name of the animal and the identifying information of the cat and the President’s (0407456683) and Coordinator’s (0409 741414) mobile phone numbers. DO NOT ALLOW THE VET TO TAKE THE PAPERWORK.*

I agree .....

## **GETTING YOUR FOSTER CAT ADOPTED**

**Foster carers are asked to provide photographs of the kittens or cats who are ready for adoption (by 7 weeks of age for adoption by 10 weeks of age) by emailing the photos to [admin@wlpa.org](mailto:admin@wlpa.org) AND texting them to 0409 741414.**

I agree .....

**Foster carers must cooperate with arrangements to adopt out cats and kittens in as efficient and smooth manner as possible that is in the interest of the kittens or cats, and in a way that minimises stress on the animal and stress on WLPA:**

*Because WLPA is 'no kill' it has significant care burden and significant financial risk in keeping animals longer than is needed to home them. The emphasis is on **early, rapid and appropriate adoption**, either through vets at 7 weeks of age (indirect adoption) or private 'direct' adoption through WLPA (our more common form of adoptions). Kittens can be allocated to an adopter from 6 weeks, but delivered between 8 and 10 weeks or when it is mutually agreed that the kitten is ready. Our preference is to let them go to new homes at 10 weeks. A 12 week old is often not wanted by adopters!!*

I agree .....

**Foster carers will consent to keeping close liaison with the WLPA Coordinator when the animal in their care is deemed ready for adoption. This allows the animal/s to attend Adoption Open House events at other centres, pet food stores, other foster carer homes and special events. The Carer may also show people cats at the foster home for adoption: YOU MUST ANSWER THE PHONE!**

*Adopters usually want kittens in school holidays, long weekends and weekends. They have little time and once they decide on a kitten or cat, they usually want one **on the day they phone or visit**. They will go elsewhere if there is not **easy contact points to view the animals**. If foster carers do not answer the phone, the adopter will go elsewhere. If the foster carer does not have a car, other volunteers will transport an animal to an adoption event, the Friday night prior or may transport the animal to the new home. Foster carers must answer the phone since once an ad is responded too, an appointment needs to be made on the same day or they select a kitten or cat elsewhere.*

I agree .....

**Foster carers are invited to be as active as possible in and to be full partners in the rehoming team of WLPA. This includes that they may advertise the kitten on social media, make and post up posters and network with the community in ways that enables the animal to find a home. The requirement is to use WLPA logo on the poster, and to promote the animal positively as a pet, not as a rescue victim, an impaired animal, nor as a desperate situation or case.**

*Adoptions are agreed mutually between 2 people: WLPA (either Jonine or her nominee, being selected experienced volunteers, or Halina or a Committee Member) **and the foster carer**. The foster carer may, with case by case approval of WLPA, deliver the kitten or cat to their new home, once it is agreed that the adoptive parents are suitable. If the WLPA foster carer has concerns at the point of delivering the cat, the adoption can be revoked by WLPA and the kitten should not be left there. The home visit 'seals the deal' so to speak and confirms all paperwork.*



## **Lawful requirement of an advertising number**

We need foster carers to help advertise the animal they foster. It became law in 2019 for microchip numbers to go in each advertisement aimed at getting a home for companion animals. This is cumbersome because foster carers don't have scanners, nor knowledge of the chip number. Instead, WLPA by law, must use a generic Rehoming Number for all advertisements of animals. As a Clause 16D exempt rehoming charity under the Companion Animals Act, WLPA has been granted the use of this Rehoming Number. It is the law to use this number whenever any WLPA animal is specifically individually being marketed. This includes in print media, newspaper ads, social media and on Gumtree, PetSpot, our Website, other websites and PetRescue. The number is R25100089.

### **Mandatory caging: juveniles & adults**

If WLPA has already taken over the care and custody of cat or kitten from a rescuer or foster carer and has placed the animal with another carer or housed the animal at the Adoption Centre, there is not an automatic right of the past carer to visit the animal once adopted. Adoption Centre volunteers will have formed a bond and current knowledge of the animal and have needs to say farewell and to see the home is appropriate. Usually Adoption Centre volunteers and/or the Post Adoption Services Manager goes to the home visit. We must make ourselves supportive but not intrusive to the new family taking over care. Verbal and written advice and information is an obligation at law when adopting out animals. This needs to be streamlined and from one representative of WLPA only (to avoid wrong diet, care and containment advice being given).

*A cage or a tent must be supplied to each new adoptive home. Kittens usually go in a tent or a canvas 'pod'. Adults MUST be caged for the first week inside the home. Check with the Adoption Centre for borrowing these from the Centre. If you are doing the home visit, take a nice sheet or cover to make the cage attractive in the home for that week so the animal is covered and safe. Loans of equipment can be for a one month period.*

*It is the role of the Post Adoption Services Manager to ensure supportive phone calls are made to the adopted cat. It is vital that this is done in the first few days for a kitten and the home visit must be within 10 days of adoption.*

## ***FIV+ and special needs cats***

Special cats for adoption include 1) deaf cats; 2) white cats; 3) old cats >7; 4) amputees and 5) those with FIV+ status. The President, Coordinator or a Committee Member may elect to deliver the cat and do the education for these adoptive parents or nominate a person who knows the cat best. FIV cats, deaf cats and amputees should be 100% secure, ideally housed with an outdoor enclosure that is secure and stimulating. White cats should be inside cats, or have an enclosure with ample shade.

*A special Adoption Agreement applies to FIV+ cats. An Adoption Centre volunteer or a foster carer with past experience with FIV is allocated for ongoing support around FIV. Health care may also be sponsored by WLPA for such cats.*

I agree .....

### **WHEN ARE YOU READY TO FOSTER?**

Now if the foster cat is suitable

In the next three months

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### **ARE YOU FOSTERING WITH A VIEW TO ADOPT?**

Yes  No  Don't Know

For your information, approved Foster Carers have the first choice when considering an animal for adoption. If you are not ready to adopt, the cat must be promoted for adoption.

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Do you have a car and license?  Yes  No

**Foster Carer applicant, please send to our mobile phone, some photos of your garden, windows, doors, balconies, internal stair wells and fireplaces.**

**DATE APPROVED FOR FOSTERING: \_\_\_\_\_ (thankyou!)**

**WLPA Officer \_\_\_\_\_**