

<p>What do I do in case of a medical emergency with my foster animal?</p>	<p>Please refer to the medical emergency FAQs.</p>
<p>My foster cat/kitten isn't eating?</p>	<p>Offer your foster cat/kitten a different kind of wet food. Something smelly like canned whiskers cat food or canned tuna. Try to mix a bit of the Hills wet food into it to maintain consistency. If they still do not eat contact the Foster Care Network Coordinator.</p> <p>Any out of pocket costs will be reimbursed (retain receipts).</p>
<p>My foster cat/kitten isn't using its litter tray?</p>	<p>When you arrive home, confine your cat/kitten to a small area of the house away from other pets. Ensure the litter tray is in a quiet area with food and beds kept well away.</p> <p>If your cat/kitten has been raised in a household before, it may use the litter tray instinctively. If not, you will need to undergo some basic training. Take your cat/kitten to the litter tray after each meal, sleeping and play time. Restrict your cat/kitten's freedom around the house to encourage correct use of the litter tray. Only after your cat/kitten is relaxed, eating well, and reliably using the litter tray should you slowly start integrating them into the wider household area. Be patient while your cat/kitten is settling in. With perseverance, your cat/kitten will learn to use the litter tray.</p>
<p>How much medication does my foster cat/kitten need?</p>	<p>If your foster cat/kitten requires medication, there will be instructions on the label, as to how much needs to be administered and how frequently. Please contact the Foster Care Network Coordinator if you have any questions in relation to medication.</p>
<p>My foster cat/kitten has been aggressive towards me, what can I do?</p>	<p>It is important not to punish the animal or try and handle the aggressive cat/kitten on your own. Punishment can often make the problem worse, particularly if the aggression is motivated by fear. One of our animal behaviourists can help you reduce aggressive behaviours by identifying the cause and in some situations, increasing outlets for the aggression such as increased play time with toys. If you require assistance please contact your Foster Care Network Coordinator and they can organise for you to speak with the behaviour team.</p>

<p>My foster cat/kitten won't go into the cat carrier.</p>	<p>Ensure the carrier is a comfortable and secure place for your cat/kitten. Keep the carrier open in the house and leave it open several days before your appointment. Regularly feed your cat/kitten treats or meals in the carrier. Praise your cat/kitten for entering the carrier using a phrase or word that the cat/kitten can associate with entering the carrier. Feliway (a synthetic pheromone analog) is commercially available and may be helpful if you spray it in the carrier 5-10 minutes before you want the cat/kitten to go inside the carrier. Please talk to the Foster Care Network Coordinator about this option if you feel it would be beneficial.</p>
<p>How often should I weigh my foster cat/kitten?</p>	<p>You should weigh an adult cat (over four months old) once a week. Kittens need to be weighed every day until eight weeks of age. You can use your own scales at home if you have them or RSPCA Victoria will provide you with some. Please record the weights and bring them with you when you bring your foster animal in for any appointments.</p>
<p>My foster cat/kitten keeps scratching the furniture, how do I stop this?</p>	<p>You can set up scratching posts in your cat/kitten's play area and put one close to the sleeping quarters. The posts should be tall and sturdy and the surface should be made of loosely woven material (such as carpet) that allows the claws to hook on while the cat/kitten is scratching. RSPCA Victoria will supply scratching posts if required.</p>
<p>Should I groom my foster cat/kitten?</p>	<p>Almost all cat/kittens require grooming assistance. Grooming time can be an enjoyable bonding time with your cat/kitten and is something that you should start when they first arrive home. Short haired cats are able to groom themselves adequately, except at moulting time when assistance by brushing may be necessary. This usually means weekly grooming to remove excess hair, which would normally litter the house or could contribute to fur balls/hairballs. Long haired cats require daily grooming. This can be time-consuming, but a routine should be established as soon as the cat/kitten comes home. By maintaining a good grooming schedule you will have a happier cat/kitten and will not need veterinary assistance with matted or tangled fur. RSPCA Victoria will provide brushes and combs if required for your foster animal.</p>

<p>What sort of veterinary treatments has my foster cat/kitten been given?</p>	<p>Your foster animal will have been given a vaccination against Feline Calicivirus, Feline Herpes Virus and Feline Panleukopaenia. It will also have received flea and worming treatment; along with a full veterinary health check. Just like in humans, vaccinations don't cover all strains of infection. Please notify the Foster Care Network Coordinator if you notice any of these symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watery eyes - Runny nose - Breathing difficulties (including noisy breathing) - Hair loss or skin problems - Diarrhoea - Changes in weight or appetite - Behavioural changes - Lethargy - Limping - Coughing - Vomiting - Straining to urinate or defecate
<p>My foster cat/kitten is really unwell and its outside of business hours or I can't get in touch with the Foster Care Network Coordinator?</p>	<p>Please refer to the medical emergency FAQs.</p>