



Fostering Cats & Kittens at Gables Farm

Every year we see the numbers of unwanted and abandoned kittens and pregnant cats increase. We are so full of kittens and pregnant cats that stay in our care for months that it becomes extremely difficult to take in cats from our waiting list due to lack of space.

We therefore look for experienced temporary foster homes to care for some of our kittens, mums and kittens and long term cats or older cats needing some TLC until they are old enough or well/happy enough to find new permanent homes. This enables us to take in and rehome more cats in need as they can come in and go out quickly once neutered, vaccinated, microchipped and vet checked. We also love to see some of our long term cats benefiting from time in a home instead of living in a cat pen for too long. It gives us a better idea of what they are like in a home environment as some long term cats do not cope very well in pens and don't show off their personalities! This helps with their rehoming prospects.

Everyone has different experience with cats and can help with different age groups dependant on their home set up.

What does fostering involve?

You must be realistic about your facilities and circumstances. If you have your own dogs or cats, they must be well socialised and fully vaccinated. If you are going to foster kittens you will need to have a spare room that is not currently being used to keep that cat/s in so they have their own safe space. Adult cats will need to stay in one room for the first few weeks so they can adjust to your home but after that they can have access to the whole house but must not be let outside.

Children must be of an age where you can be sure that you can manage newcomers that may be anxious or need space and time to settle and adapt safely – for all concerned. You will also need to ensure that the fostered cat/kittens will not be let outside by your children and or visitors.

You need to consider how much extra time caring for cats, especially kittens is needed, as they do make a mess! You will need to regularly feed them, change and clean their litter trays often and keep the room clean and tidy as well. If you take on a mum and kittens you will need 2 spare rooms or 1 for the kittens and then just let the mum have access to the rest of the house so you can successfully wean her from her kittens. Kittens are very playful and will jump on and in everything. They also like to climb up curtains and do use their claws to help them climb so you need to remove anything from the room that you won't want damaged. You also need to consider that some kittens/cat may not be house trained so may go to the toilet where they are not supposed to until they learn where they are allowed to go.

We will provide all the things you will need such as toys, food, litter trays, litter, blankets, food bowls, flea and worm control etc. but you will need to come to Gables Farm to collect them.

You will need to be able to drive the cats/kittens to our vets in Ivybridge for emergency treatment 24 hours a day or to Gables Farm for routine treatment by appointment. Appointments are on Mondays and Thursdays.



There are 3 main categories of cats that need fostering and we will work with you to establish what you will be able to cope with.

Kittens that have already be weaned onto solid food and just need caring for until they have they are old enough for rehoming. Generally they have their first vaccination at 9 weeks old. At this point they will come back in for vaccination and then neutering and rehoming.

Young kittens and their mother. Kittens can start to be weaned from 4 weeks old. In this case the mum has to be separated from her kittens gradually so you will need 2 spare rooms, or be able to give the mother cat access to the whole house if only one spare room, to be able to do this. Kittens are normally fully weaned by 9 weeks old. This is when we will take the mother cat and kittens back in as above.

Old or nervous adult cats that need TLC and socialising.

Don't worry you won't be left alone! Our staff will keep in touch and make sure you have all the support and supplies you need. They will give you feeding, weaning and medication charts with dates and times so you can be confident in what you are doing. They will also contact you to arrange appointments for all treatments and vaccinations, and also when to bring them in for rehoming.

You must be committed as once an animal is in a foster home we do not always have a ready alternative, although we will of course always endeavour to remove an animal/s as soon as possible if things are not working out. Generally you will need to commit to at least 9 weeks to care for a litter of kittens or longer if it is an adult long term cat.

All kittens/cats are rehomed via Gables Farm as we have waiting lists of people looking for kittens or specific adult cats. You may find that your friends and family come over and become attached or want one of the kittens. They will in this instance need to come in to Gables Farm to register and we will rehome at our discretion.

If you would like to become a foster carer please email Claire Wadsworth, General Manager on info@gablesfarm.org.uk and she will send you a fosterer carer application form.

Upon receipt of your form we will be in contact in due course to arrange to visit you in your home and discuss it with you further.

Thank you for your interest.