



Animal Rescue Foundation – IL Temporary Care Home Program

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Thank you for considering opening your heart and home to one of our abandoned animals.

Reasons to provide a temporary care home

This is a wonderful experience for you and your family - you can feel good knowing you have helped save an animal's life. Even better, you've created space to accommodate other homeless animals. These animals provide companionship and purpose.

Animals needing temporary care homes

- Puppies or kittens too young and/or immature to be adopted.
- Puppies/Kittens and young dogs that require more socialization than available at the shelter.
- Older or senior dogs and cats that will be more comfortable in a home environment.
- Injured dogs and cats and/or those recovering from surgery.
- Neglected or abused dogs and cats that need tender loving care.
- Dogs and Cats suffering from "shelter stress" in need of a calming home environment.
- Dogs, Cats, Puppies and Kittens with colds or with special medical needs.
- Abandoned mothers with litters of puppies or kittens.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How long are animals in the homes?

It completely depends on the animal and the situation. The average stay in a temporary care home is about 2 to 4 weeks. However, most puppies, kittens and some dogs with great photos and stories on the web may stay only a few days. Others, recovering from an injury, certain breeds and senior dogs, may stay much longer. Cats will be moved to our facility inside PetSmart in Wheaton as soon as a spot opens up.

2. Can I adopt the animal?

In general it is ARF's policy to not allow the temporary care home to adopt the first animal they help. This is to aid the home in getting used to having to let the animal go. Exceptions certainly may be made by ARF management.

3. How are these animals promoted?

Photos and stories of all adoptable animals in temporary care homes are posted on our website, Petfinder.com and several other pet search sites. These animals are also promoted at special events throughout the year. Volunteer parents may also help promote their animal to their family, friends, colleagues and the general public through a variety of means including flyers and emails.



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4. What is the process for adopting the animal?

- Potential adopters are required to submit an adoption application for review before they can physically meet an ARF dog.
- Suitable applicants may be contacted for additional screening.
- Once approved, meet and greets with the animal will be scheduled qualified applicants.
- After the meet and greet (and if the applicant is still interested in the dog), volunteer parents will make a recommendation to ARF management regarding the adoption. The animal stays with the volunteer parent until they hear from the ARF management.
- Adoption is approved or rejected by ARF management. Final approval of all adoptions is at the sole discretion of ARF management with input from the volunteer parents.
- Once approved, the adopter pays adoption fees to ARF and the contract and other material in the adoption package is reviewed with the adopter. They must sign the contract.

Temporary Care Home parents do not have to be involved in the adoption process; it is their decision on how involved they want to be. You may simply care for and love the animal and then allow other volunteers to perform the adoptions at our events or at another ARF volunteer home or you, as the volunteer parent, can learn how to perform adoptions and do them yourself. In all cases ARF management is involved and is available to assist.

5. I live in a condo, townhome, or apartment, may I still help?

Yes, you can still care for a dog living in a small environment. Many of our dogs need one-on-one socialization, so a small space can be beneficial. However it's important that you select an appropriate dog for your lifestyle and are willing to commit to providing your animal dog with the needed physical and mental stimulation. And of course, you still need landlord approval and must abide by any weight or breed restrictions. Cats and kittens may be a better alternative in this situation.

6. What if I have children?

Saving an animal is a wonderful family experience and can build a foundation of philanthropy in your children. It's important to select an animal that is "age" appropriate with your children, and as a general rule, children under 16 years old should NOT be left alone and unsupervised with any dog. You must also be diligent about providing guidance, instructions and rules to your children about caring for any animal.

7. I don't have a yard, or it's not fenced, may I still provide a home to dogs?

Yes! A yard is a nice-to-have for those early morning, or late night potty breaks and for a game of ball, but is not a requirement. Moreover, ARF animals are not allowed to be left unattended in a yard. The reality is that dogs don't exercise themselves when left outside. Unfortunately many of the dogs we see at the shelter were "yard-dogs" and developed behavior issues like fence running, barking, or digging because they were left alone in a backyard. Dogs need focused physical activity, mental stimulation and socialization and the best way to do this is by walking or running your dog on leash.



8. If I have my own animals, may I still provide a temporary care home?

Yes, but keep in mind that it's always a health risk to expose your animal to other animals whether it's walking at parks, vet waiting rooms or other common animal areas. The health risk is minimal if your animals are current on their vaccinations, maintains a healthy diet and lifestyle, and are not elderly or very young. If you or someone in your household is immune-compromised, consult your doctor before volunteering. Proper hygiene, preventative measures and an understanding of these illnesses can reduce the risk of disease.

9. What supplies are needed when providing a temporary care home?

Volunteer parents provide space, love and basic training for the animal. ARF will provide you with all the other supplies and equipment needed throughout your volunteer experience. The Temporary Care Home Program receives donated items regularly, and the money from adoption fees help fund the remaining care and medical expenses.

10. Do I have to crate-train my temporary care animal?

No, but it is one of the most efficient and effective ways to house train a puppy or re-train an adult dog. Some dogs do not like crates, and most dogs need to be transitioned or "trained" to use a crate, so it's up to the volunteer parent to decide whether to crate or not. Putting the dog in a crate while you are gone will give you peace of mind knowing that they are in a safe place, away from harm, and not doing any damage to your belongings or themselves. For many dogs, a crate can also represent a safe and comfortable place to call their own and provides them with a sense of security. Dogs actually like having a "den" to cuddle up in. Crating should never be used as punishment.

11. Do I need to have prior medical knowledge or expertise?

No, but you may be asked to dispense medicine to your ARF animal so you will have to be comfortable following veterinarian's instructions if caring for a sick or injured animal.

12. What if the animal becomes sick?

All veterinary costs are paid by ARF. If an ARF animal becomes sick, volunteer parents must contact ARF management before taking the animal to one of our vets. If you feel it's a life or death situation, you can and should take the animal to one of our vets immediately and advise ARF management immediately.

13. How much time each day is needed for this Program?

Commitment and responsibilities depend on the individual situation. It's essential that volunteer parents understand that ARF animals may be stressed due to transporting the animal from the previous location to the vet and then to your home. Volunteer parents must be willing to be patient and commit to the animal because our goal is to keep them in a stable and consistent environment. Many of the animals are "adolescent" dogs between the age of 6 months and 2 years. They typically have a lot of energy and



require vigorous daily exercise. This means at least a 30-45 minute brisk walk/run in the morning and again in the afternoon, with plenty of play time in between. Older dogs may only need a morning and evening stroll.

14. May I take my animal to an off-leash dog park for exercise and socialization?

No. You are not allowed to take any ARF dog to an off-leash dog park. While these parks can be fun for some dogs, there are far too many unknowns for it to be a safe and healthy experience for an ARF dog. Diseases are easily transmitted and the temperaments of visiting dogs are unknown, thus creating a huge liability for ARF and possibly you. Also, taking a leashed dog to a dog park can create barrier frustration and aggression in dogs.

15. How can I help my animal become more adoptable?

There are two ways to make your ARF animal more adoptable. First and foremost is marketing. If no one knows about your ARF animal, or how wonderful it is, then it will be next to impossible to find them a forever home. In addition to supplying great photos and a bio and updating these regularly, giving an animal additional exposure by telling friends and family about them will help create a “network effect” and will speed up the process of finding a forever home. Simple steps like taking the dog on walks in local parks, outdoor shopping areas and other high traffic areas will help find potential adopters. Secondly, our dogs benefit greatly from the exercise (with the exception of those with some medical conditions), basic training, special love and attention you give them. While marketing provides you with applicants, it’s **always** the dog that “closes the deal.” Providing the dog with basic training and manners will increase their adoptability. Shy dogs will benefit from your patience, routine and slowly exposing them to new people to build their confidence. Rambunctious adolescents who learn good manners will help show off their trainability and long term potential. And while puppies are adorable, they need a lot of love, attention and hand-holding from humans to develop properly and feel secure.

Our wonderful cats and kittens receive much exposure by being at PetSmart on a daily basis.

16. Am I responsible for finding my animal its forever home?

No, but we do need your help. Once a qualified applicant is identified, you may be asked to schedule a meet and greet with your ARF animal and the potential adopter. Your quick response and then final input on the potential adopter is critical to finding a great match. Many times a volunteer parent will find a perfect match through their own network of friends, family and colleagues. ARF greatly welcomes these referrals! If you think you have found a perfect forever home for your ARF animal, remember they still must go through the application process and be approved.

17. May I return my animal to ARF if I am unable to volunteer any longer?



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We prefer that volunteer parents continue to care for the ARF animal until we find a permanent home for the animal. It's extremely stressful for an animal to be moved from home to home.

However, we understand that situations change and it may become necessary to discontinue volunteering. We request that a volunteer parent provides as much notice as possible (minimum 2 weeks) so that we can find an alternative home to transfer the animal to. Of course, in an emergency we will do our best to accommodate the move as quickly as possible.

18. What if I go on vacation or have a business trip?

If given enough notice, we can usually find volunteers that can assist for short durations.

19. Are temporary care home animals ever euthanized?

Much energy, love, time and vet care is devoted to our animals, and ARF is committed to finding homes for ALL the adoptable animals within its care. Some animals are in temporary care homes because they're seriously ill or injured. If, after medical attention, these animals are too young or too weak to heal and are suffering, then we will humanely euthanize these animals. If an animal appears threatening to people, it will be temperament tested and in some cases may have to be euthanized. Your safety is our #1 priority. You must always inform ARF if your ARF animal exhibits any aggressive behavior.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL TEMPORARY CARE HOME PARENTS

In order to become a temporary care home parent, you will need to complete an application and meet with a member of ARF to discuss the program.

IMPORTANT RULES AND REMINDERS REGARDING YOUR DOG

- No off-leash park visits.
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