



Inner City Strays Fostering Program

Inner City Strays (ICS) is an incorporated association and charity comprising of a group of volunteers who rescue street cats and kittens in inner Sydney and then adopt them to loving, forever homes.

As such, we regularly need people to foster, care and socialise these cats and kittens until we can permanently adopt them.

The more foster carers we have, the more kittens can be fostered, socialised and adopted to someone who will love and care for them.

Sometimes cats come in to our care for other reasons, like to recover from illness or an injury.

The majority of times, fostering of kittens is between a few days and 6 weeks. Sometimes with adult cats, fostering can take between 3-6 months, and on rare occasions, longer than that.

Fostering a rescue kitten can be an incredibly rewarding and satisfying experience so if you're interested in being an Inner City Strays Foster Carer, please read our Policy Document and send us your application form.

Inner City Strays Fostering Policy

- All new foster carers, and before any cat is fostered, will have their home inspected by ICS to ensure it complies with animal welfare standards for fostering. Further inspections throughout the year may also be required.
- If the foster carer rents, or resides in a Strata arrangement, proof must be provided that they are allowed to have pets.
- When fostering cats for ICS this is done solely as a volunteer. As such no employment relationship exists between foster carer and ICS, and there can be no remuneration for these volunteer services.
- Any items provided to the foster carer by ICS in relation to caring for the foster kitten/cat will always remain the property of ICS and must be returned if requested.
- Foster carers need to understand that fostering requires a solid time commitment and agree to such. Adequate, quality time needs to be spent with the cat whether it's for play time or for socialisation. Please bear in mind that some cats might need extended periods of interaction time when it comes to socialisation.
- The cat will be provided with a safe, clean, warm, dry home environment with adequate space for it to be comfortable and unstressed.

- Fostered cats are to be kept indoors at all times to avoid injury, spread of disease and prevent the cat from getting lost. Cat flaps are to be locked if the cats are playing in an area with access to the flap. Windows and doors are also to be secure.
- The fostered cat will be kept separate from other foster cats and household pets for a minimum of 14 days.
- The foster carer's existing cats all need to be desexed and have had their current F3 vaccinations. We strongly encourage foster carers to consider vaccinating their cats for FIV. All other pets, irrespective of species must be up to date with parasite and flea control. ICS takes no responsibility if the foster carer's own personal pets contract any illness, disease or parasite infection from the fostered kitten/cat and subsequent medical expenses will be the responsibility of the foster carer.
- Foster carers accept that damage to their property is a possibility and ICS will not be responsible for any costs.
- Foster carers must follow ICS "barrier nursing" guidelines at all times and understand that some feline diseases can be contracted by humans.
- Cats can cause injury to us. Under stress they may bite or scratch. All foster carers must have a current tetanus vaccination and will seek medical attention if injured. Fostering for ICS is done so at your own risk.
- If a fostered kitten/cat become sick or gets injured while in foster care, the carer needs to contact ICS immediately and to then take the kitten/cat for diagnosis and treatment at an ICS approved Vet. In the case of an absolute emergency, and after seeking approval from ICS, the cat may be taken to the carer's Vet or a different Vet.
- Foster carers must be able to administer medications when required. This can include treatments such as flea treatment, worming tablets and eye drops. Training will be provided if required.
- In some cases the cat might not survive if they are already unwell. Some might only become sick and pass away in care due to a silent and prior genetic weakness and an already comprised body.
- ICS believes in, and supports, the G2Z euthanasia initiative; zero euthanasia of all healthy and treatable cats and kittens. Unfortunately, in some cases a cat/kitten is not able to be treated, and if it is suffering immensely, and upon advice by a Vet, the cat/kitten will need to be euthanised. This will be a last resort and will only be considered after all other avenues have been exhausted. It is not a decision that we will make lightly.
- The foster carer is required to provide any relevant information that will assist ICS to find a suitable home for the kitten/cat.
- The foster carer is to provide regular, quality photos of the kitten/cat in for record keeping purposes, and to "promote" the kitten/cat in order for it to find a loving home. If the carer doesn't have a camera, or doesn't feel confident they can take good photos, permission for ICS to visit and take the photos will need to be requested.

- ICS will have sole responsibility for making placement decisions for the cats/kittens. If the foster carer suggests a potential adoptive person, the prospective adoptive person must submit an Adoption Expression of Interest form to ICS and go through the same process as anyone else.
- If the foster carer wishes to adopt the cat, they must first relinquish the cat to ICS and then go through the same adoption process as everyone else.
- Foster carers agree to let go of the kitten/cat when it is time for the cat to go to his or her permanent home. We encourage staying in contact with the new owners for updates but it is in the cat's best interest to cease all physical contact once adopted out, so they can form a strong bond with their new owners.
- On occasion, people interested in adopting the cat will need to contact the foster carer, therefore the contact details of the foster carer will be required and the foster carer authorises ICS to share these details with the potential adopters.
- Interested people in adopting the fostered cat will be required to meet and greet the cat. Foster carers will need to allow for access to their homes for these meetings. ICS will provide reasonable notice of the meeting to the foster carer. The potential adopter must take time to consider the adoption and no kitten is to be adopted at the time of meet and greets.
- ICS prefers all financial transactions to be done via the bank account however, occasionally adopters wish to place a cash deposit to secure the cat. If a cash deposit for a cat is given to the foster carer, it must be deposited into the ICS account within 48 hours.
- Foster carers are to familiarise themselves with the Expressions of Interest Application Form and the Adoption Agreement and be able to assist ICS to screen suitable applicants at the meet and greet and explain the adoption process clearly, especially the security deposit.
- Foster carers agree to not to deliver fostered cats to any other person, unless directed so by ICS.
- The foster carer agrees that any kitten/cat fostered will always be returned to ICS when requested by ICS.
- If a member of the public rescues a street kitten, and applies to foster it via the ICS fostering program, the person agrees that the kitten belongs to ICS and ICS has the sole responsibility for all decision making processes in regards to the kitten.
- If the carer needs to transport the cat they need to be transported safely and in an approved cat carrier that will not allow the cat to escape or injure themselves. The carrier must have the seatbelt strapped through the handle whilst in transit. No cat or kitten is to be held in the arms of a passenger.
- ICS will endeavour to supply food, medication and litter to carers. This will be based on donations received from the public. Any support from the foster carer will be greatly appreciated by ICS.
- The only approved litter to be used for ICS cats is Breeder's Choice paper litter or similar paper product. No clumping litter or crystals are to be used at any time.

- ICS has feeding and parasite control guidelines that foster carers agree to follow. These will be supplied at time of commencing a foster engagement.
- If a foster carer plans to be away or unable to care for a cat/s in care for an extended period of time, ICS must be given a minimum of 14 days notice in order to arrange alternative, suitable arrangements.
- If foster carers are no longer able to foster and care for a kitten/cat, they must let ICS know and return the kitten/cat to ICS. Reasonable notice must be given to allow ICS to arrange alternate care. The foster carer will not sell, or give away the cat/kitten, or allow another person to care for the cat/kitten.
- Foster carers are to agree that they will protect the privacy and confidentiality of any information that they become aware of as a foster carer for ICS. No information will be used or disclosed in any way other than for the purpose for which the information was initially collected.
- Potential foster carers must never have been convicted of any form of animal abuse, or any form of violence.
- All foster carers need to apply to become a volunteer/member of ICS.