

Ten Lives Volunteer Position Description

Position title	Volunteer Foster Carer
Description	Foster carers volunteer to care for cats and kittens in their own home until they are ready for adoption, at which point they are returned to the Centre. Foster care benefits all cats, including adult cats who have been in the shelter for more than four weeks, mothers and kittens, unwell kitties, cats that are timid or shy or have behavioural issues, and young feral kittens that can be socialised and rehabilitated.
Reports to	Foster Care Coordinator
Location	Own home
Hours of work	24/7
Time commitment	Kittens: 2-4 weeks minimum Cats: 4 weeks minimum
Responsibilities	<p>It's important that these duties are adhered to, for the wellbeing of our cats and for the smooth operation of the Centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a loving environment for the cat(s) • Contain the cat(s) inside at all times, unless in a fully enclosed cat run • Provide daily care for the cat(s) including food, water, litter, • Attend all appointments made for the cat(s) by Ten Lives • Take photos of and write a personality profile for the cat(s) • Administer medication and medical treatment if required • Contact Ten Lives or AHVEC (if after hours) immediately if the cat is sick, injured or lost • Make regular contact with Ten Lives to provide updates on the cat(s) in foster care • Return the cat(s) unconditionally and in a timely manner when requested. <p>Ten Lives provides foster carers with information, 24-hour support, training, medicines and vet care and all basic items such as food, bowls, litter, trays etc, toys, blankets & beds.</p>
Skills needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to provide a safe, loving, indoor, non-smoking home for a cat (permission from landlord if renting) • Own transport to allow travel to and from Ten Lives on a regular basis • Good interpersonal/communication skills • Reliability • Patience • Commitment to animal welfare
Skills gained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal care and cat handling experience • Knowledge of Ten Lives Cat Centre • Being a part of a not-for-profit organisation making a huge difference to feline welfare in Tasmania
Benefits to Centre	Thousands of cats pass through the centre annually and in kitten season (Oct-March) it's one every 30 minutes during our seven day a week operation. As a result, hundreds of cats require foster care each year. Fostering offers a normal environment to cats or kittens that may otherwise be confined to the Centre for long periods of time, and is often a lifesaving intervention that helps them find their forever home.

Benefits to volunteer	Fostering is a wonderful experience which is extremely rewarding for carers. Caring for a cat or kitten and then seeing them find their forever home brings great joy and reward. Fostering is also a great way to spend time with cats for people who aren't able to make the long-term commitment that adoption requires.
Training	Ten Lives provides comprehensive training to foster carers, as well as information, guide books and 24-hour support.