

Supplies you will need:

Cardboard Box or Plastic Carrier: You can use the carrier in which you took the animal home, if big enough. It will provide a familiar smelling, dark, quiet home. A bigger box may be desirable to allow you to see in, as well as to provide plenty of room if you have a mother and a litter of Kittens or Puppies. Carrier must be returned when fosters are returned as we have a limited supply of carriers.

Two Food Bowls: One is for the eat-at-will dry cat food, the other for canned food. You can use TV dinner trays, paper plates, or whatever you have -- any shallow bowl or saucer will do. The larger the litter, the larger the plate should be, so that no one in the litter gets crowded out. Some cats have allergies to plastic, try to avoid plastic dishes.

Water Bowls: Provide access to water at all times. Remember, young animals can drown, so make sure the bowls is very shallow.

Food: Kittens need a mix of dry and canned food specifically for kittens. We will tell you if an animal you are fostering needs any other special food. Please do not use food with red dyes in it or food that is fish flavored because this will cause diarrhea and discomfort to the foster animal. Check to ensure food was not previously recalled.

Litter Box: Cats will instinctively use a litter box, and if the kittens are being fostered with a mom, she will begin teaching her kittens how to use a litter box. You should get a shallow litter box, or use an old cake pan.

Heating Pad or Hot Water Bottle: Depending on how warm your room is, there extras will ensure that everyone is comfy and cozy. If you use any of these items, be sure that there is space for the animals to move away from the heat in case they are too hot, and always place heating pads on the lowest setting.

Toys: Go crazy if you want! Mice and buzz balls make kittens happy and can be reused as long as animals do not have any contagious diseases and can be washed. Kittens can amuse themselves with empty rolls of toilet paper. Empty cardboard 12- pack soda boxes are good for a number of different games. Clean tennis balls, old socks stuffed with nylons, caps of liter soda bottles, and paper bags make great toys as well.

4lb. Kitchen Scale: Although not critical to success, a food or postal scale is very helpful for monitoring small kittens' growth, which averages 4 ounces a week. Kittens should be at least 2 lbs. before returning to the shelter. Puppies should be at least 6 – 8 weeks before returning to the shelter.

Other Considerations: Bottle of cleanser/deodorizer for accidents, rope or carpet scratching post, and baby gates to help keep foster animals safely contained in their room/area and out of inappropriate areas.