



## POLICY

Title of Policy	Fosters
Policy Number	3.3
Category	Animal Welfare
Approval Body	Board of Directors
Approval/Effective Date	December 2024
Proposed Date of Review	December 2025

### CONTEXT AND PURPOSE

This policy outlines the rights and obligations of fosters for Meant 2B Loved Pet Rescue Society.

### SCOPE

These guidelines and procedures apply to all fosters, volunteers, employees, and board members of Meant 2B Loved Pet Rescue Society involved with the fostering of animals.

### POLICY STATEMENTS

#### 1. Foster Home Requirements

These requirements/policies are enforced to ensure the happiness and well-being of the animals in our care

- 1.1 All other household pets must be spayed/neutered and up to date on vaccinations including Bordetella
- 1.2 Household limit of 6 pets maximum including the foster animal.
- 1.3 Animals must not be left unattended for any long periods of time (never longer than 9 hours)
- 1.4 Animals must have access to food and fresh water throughout the day
- 1.5 Animals must be provided with a safe place to relax/retreat such as a crate.

- 1.6 Fosters will allow Meant 2B Loved to conduct a home check to confirm that we are placing animals in appropriate homes.
- 1.7 The foster will ideally be at home for a good portion of the day (i.e.: homebodies, retirees, people who work from home...) The reason for this is that some of our animals may have health/medical/anxiety issues and it benefits them to have companionship in their new space.
- 1.8 The foster will ensure they comply with having a secure, fully fenced yard and other times a condo or suite will be just what we need. It's always dependent on the needs of the animal

## **2. Foster Responsibilities**

- 2.1 The Foster Coordinator has full authority to make decisions about the well-being and medical care of our animals. This is the foster's first point of contact. If a Foster Coordinator is not in place, the Animal Welfare Operations Coordinator will be your first point of contact.
- 2.2 If the foster animal becomes ill and needs medical attention the foster must contact the Foster Coordinator (or Animal Welfare Operations Coordinator) to arrange for a vet visit.
- 2.3 In an **emergency** we ask the foster to contact the Foster Coordinator or Animal Welfare Operations Coordinator. If they are not able to reach the Foster Coordinator or Animal Welfare Operations Coordinator, the Foster is authorized to take the animal to our approved clinics.
- 2.4 Fosters may be asked to bring their foster animal(s) to adoption events or to meet and greets with potential adopters.
- 2.5 The foster will do everything in their power to keep the foster animal in their possession until the foster is adopted.
- 2.6 Foster is required to be available to correspond with the Foster Coordinator and potential adopters.
- 2.7 If M2BL is requesting the return of the animal, arrangements must be made within 24 hours with the rescue.
- 2.8 We follow all bylaws on pet limits in households with a maximum of 3 dogs and 3 cats at any one time. Before placing a foster animal in a home with resident animals, the resident animals must be social, calm and well-balanced to ensure the safety of all animals
- 2.9 Regular Check-ins: Foster homes (by phone or email) will receive bi-weekly check-ins to identify any issues early and provide support.
- 2.10 Fosters may be called on to transport their foster animals to vet, grooming and other appointments as needed.

## **3. Behavioral Support for Fosters:**

- 3.1 M2BL will ensure that foster homes receive ongoing behavioral support to manage difficult animals before they are placed for adoption.

- 3.2 M2BL will offer ongoing education and resources for foster caregivers, particularly around managing behavioral issues like inappropriate urination or anxiety.
- 3.3 For any behavioural concerns requiring the use of a trainer, M2BL will cover the expense while animal is in foster care.

#### **4. Vacation Coverage**

Foster caregivers are essential to the rescue, and their well-being must be prioritized to ensure they do not become overwhelmed or burned out. Additionally, plans must be in place for when foster caregivers need breaks or vacations.

##### **4.1 Vacation and Break Coverage:**

**4.2.1 Temporary Foster Arrangements:** When foster caregivers need to take a break, advance notice is required so animals can be transitioned smoothly to another home.

**4.2.2 Foster-to-Foster Transitions:** Detailed information about the animal (medical history, behavioral traits, daily routine) should be shared with the new foster caregiver to ensure continuity of care.

**4.2.3 Emergency Placement:** In urgent cases, Meant 2B Loved will have a system in place for immediately moving animals to temporary boarding or foster homes.

#### **5. Additional Meant 2B Loved Responsibilities**

- 5.1 Meant 2B Loved will remain responsible for all animals in foster care and will, therefore, cover the cost of food, supplies, accessories, toys, medical care, medication, or any other expenses related to the animal.