



Medical Fostering

Welcome!

Thank you for showing interest and choosing to become a medical foster! In order for APA! to continue to save cats and dogs that have medical issues (one of our highest hanging fruits!) we need to have skilled foster homes available to move them into right away. Many times an open foster home is our only hang up so THANK YOU for helping us save lives!

There are a handful of medical issues that are most commonly seen:

- Respiratory infections
- Wound care
- Fractures
- Hyperthyroid
- Diabetes
- Incontinence

And of course there are cases that are very rare and impossible to predict! We would like our medical fosters to be to do the following:

- Communicate regularly (and even daily) with the clinic via email and phone
- Identify possible emergencies, react to them, and alert the clinic
- Administer SQ fluids
- Force feed
- Medicate (liquid and pills) and be resourceful if needed!
- Give injections (SQ)
- Use a feeding tube (surgically placed)
- Express a bladder (easier than it sounds!)

Wound Care

Caring for a cat with wounds can vary greatly depending on the location of the wound and the severity. The vets will need to determine what type of bandage will need to be placed. Some of the most common bandages are:

- Honey bandages – uses regular honey to help heal the wound!
- Wet to dry – replaced often
- Dry
- SSD bandage (silver sulfadiazine)

Most wounds can take several weeks to heal but our goal is to teach you how to change bandages at home. Animal wound care is much like human wound care. Here are a few tips:

- Don't wrap too tight. You want it snug but not taught
- If the bandage is soaked through or has a bad smell it needs to be changed
- The wound should be clean and not dirty before it's wrapped

Fractures

While some fractures must be splinted or be corrected surgically many times the animals just need crate rest and minimal activity. Fracture care is normally minimal and one of our easier medical conditions to manage. Check ups are about every 2-4 weeks.

Hyperthyroid

Hyperthyroidism is fairly common in our senior cats. Hyperthyroid cats frequently experience reduced quality of life through weight loss, muscle deterioration, chronic vomiting or chronic diarrhea. (VetPartner)

If we suspect hyperthyroid we may run blood work before starting medication but if it's highly suspected medication may just be started. Hyperthyroid is treated by a 1-2 time daily medication methimazole. We may need updates weekly to start then maybe twice a month after stabilization.

Diabetes

Diabetic cats normally need to be seen often in the beginning while their insulin amounts are being fine tuned but after that can go to checkups about every 3 months and need insulin administered 1-2 times a day. We normally need to do about 3-5 glucose curves where they need to be dropped off at the clinic for all day observation and blood draws.

It is extremely important that the correct dose of insulin is given. The vets require a medical consult before fostering a diabetic cat.

Incontinence

Cats can be urinary incontinent, fecal incontinent, or both. While cats that are fecally incontinent can be difficult to care for urinary incontinent cats are fairly low maintenance. These cats typically need their bladders expressed twice daily (once in the morning and once in the evening) and we can show you how!