



ROAR's Foster Care Guide: Opening Homes, Changing Lives

When you foster a pet, you are not just opening your home and heart – you are giving an animal the chance to feel safe, grow, and thrive on their journey to a forever family.

At Ridgefield Operation for Animal Rescue (ROAR), fostering is more than a temporary arrangement – it's a lifeline. From bottle-feeding newborn kittens to helping shy dogs learn to trust, you are creating a sanctuary at the most vulnerable point in their lives and setting them up for a successful future.

ROAR's Impact

Since launching our Foster Care Program in 2007, ROAR has become a trusted resource in our community and beyond. In 2019, ROAR was selected as one of only 100 shelters nationwide to participate in groundbreaking research led by Arizona State University and Virginia Tech, in partnership with Maddie's Fund. This study examined how foster care impacts shelter animals' well-being and adoptability, helping shape best practices across the country.

The benefits extend beyond the animals. Fostering brings the joy of pet companionship without a long-term commitment. It's a great fit for families wanting to teach children compassion, remote workers seeking companionship, retirees looking for purpose, or anyone ready to make an immediate, meaningful impact.

Who Can Foster?

The simple answer: any adult who is 18 or older with love to give and space in your home. There are no special skills that are required – just compassion, patience and a willingness to help. ROAR will completely support you.

Some pets just need a few days of recovery care after surgery, while others benefit from a couple of weeks of extra attention in a calm home. Your availability and lifestyle help us determine the perfect match for both you and the animal.

Whether you are a retiree, remote worker, couple, or family with teenagers, fostering can work with your schedule and living situation. Children are encouraged to be a part of the fostering experience, but a responsible adult (18+) must serve as the primary caregiver.

Animals Who Need You the Most

ROAR's foster families help us care for vulnerable animals, including kittens requiring bottle-feeding or medical attention, growing puppies and senior dogs needing extra socialization, and stressed shelter pets who need quiet environments to decompress. Many animals come to us while recovering from surgery or injuries, and some simply thrive better in homes without other animals.

Every foster placement creates a ripple effect: it saves one life directly while making space for another animal to enter our shelter. Some of our foster families fall in love and adopt, but even if you don't, you will be a crucial bridge to helping our animals find their forever homes.

Your Foster Journey: Step by Step

If you are interested in becoming a foster:

- Complete and submit our online foster application at roar-ridgefield.org/foster-program
- Get matched when the perfect foster opportunity arises
- Welcome your foster with everything provided by ROAR

Support Every Step of the Way

You will never be fostering alone. ROAR handles all logistics so you can focus on what matters most – providing love and care. We cover all veterinary care for your foster animal, and supply food, litter, toys, beds and other necessities. Our team provides expert guidance and training support, plus regular check-ins and advice throughout your foster experience.

Whether you are a first-time foster or experienced volunteer, we are here to make your experience smooth, supported and deeply rewarding.

Preparing for Success

A little preparation makes all the difference. Before your foster animal arrives, create a quiet, safe space for them to decompress. Pet-proof your home by securing cords, medications, and other potential hazards. If you have current pets, let us know so we can ensure a compatible match.

The first 48 hours are especially important. Keep routines calm and predictable, follow our care instructions, and reach out anytime with questions. We love receiving updates and photos, and we are here to address any concerns.

Every moment you provide helps that animal reach their permanent home.

Ready to Make a Difference?

Your foster home could be exactly what a vulnerable animal needs right now. Join our community of compassionate volunteers who are changing lives every day – both for the animals they serve and for themselves.

Are you ready to open your home and change a life? Visit roar-ridgefield.org/foster-program and fill out the online application or contact us directly at adoption@roarshelter.org to begin your fostering journey.