



Kitty At The Office Foster Program



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is cat office fostering so important?

Fostering is at the heart of a shelter's ability to save more lives. Every time a cat leaves a shelter for a foster home or office, it opens up a cage for another homeless cat to be rescued.

Is my office appropriate for a KATO?

First and foremost, it is essential that your KATO cannot flee through office doors and windows. Other things to consider include individual coworker's allergies or intolerance of cat behavior. You should also make sure your landlord allows a KATO.

What are the general responsibilities of a KATO office?

KATO offices provide the same care to foster cats that any responsible cat owner would provide including food and water, a clean litterbox, a comfortable and safe living environment and love. Additionally, KATO offices are responsible for fielding adoption inquiries (with support from a shelter's adoption staff) and receiving potential adopters in the office.

How much time will my KATO require?

It takes just a few minutes a day for you and your coworkers to make sure your KATO is fed and watered and has a clean litter box, but there's no time limit on giving your KATO lots of love.

How much will my KATO cost?

All KATOs require a few essential items including dry and/or wet cat food; food and water bowls; a litterbox, litter and scoop; and dry, warm bedding. Many shelters will supply foster parents with bowls and a litterbox, but these items, together with starter food and litter, can easily be purchased for under \$50. After that, the maintenance cost for cat food and litter is as affordable as \$10 per week. In addition, a "cat condo" - a spacious, two-story cage - may be purchased through many online pet stores for approximately \$150.

Does my KATO really need a cat condo?

Some offices may feel more comfortable starting out with a cat condo as it provides a spacious and secure place for a KATO after business hours. In all likelihood, after settling in and demonstrating she is no longer a flight risk, your KATO will use her cat condo as an occasional haven.

How long will I foster my KATO?

Most fosters last between 2 and 10 weeks, but you should be prepared to foster your KATO for longer periods.

Can I have more than one KATO at a time?

Yes! It's definitely possible to have more than one KATO at a time if you are prepared to accommodate.

What if my KATO turns out to be a bad fit for our office?

Sometimes cats, just like people, don't get along with their neighbors. If you discover your KATO does not mix well with your office culture or set up, the shelter will place her in other foster care and find you a better match if you wish to continue.

What if my KATO gets sick?

Please contact the shelter immediately if your KATO requires medical attention. Shelters generally cover all expenses for cats in foster care, but please check first.

What happens to KATO during weekends and holidays?

Generally speaking cats can be left unattended with ample food and water for up to 24 hours. *It is essential that someone tends to your KATO at least once daily.*

How does my KATO find her forever home?

You'll submit a short bio and photos of your KATO which the shelter will promote online. Prospective adopters will contact you directly, and the shelter may introduce approved adopters to you as well.

How do I know if a potential adopter is appropriate?

All adopters must be approved by the shelter from which they intend to adopt. If someone has inquired about adopting your KATO, check with your shelter's Foster Coordinator to make sure their application has been approved before proceeding. The shelter will then walk you through the adoption process to make sure the paperwork is completed and the proper fee is collected. Then your KATO can be sent to her forever home and make room for your next temporary resident!

What if we want to adopt our KATO?

Do it! Many residential foster parents ultimately adopt their fur babies, and KATO parents are encouraged to do the same. Please remember however, that someone in your office must be the official adopter of your KATO, which means they are now fully responsible for her future welfare.