

MEDICAL:

Emergencies (surgery complications, extreme lethargy, allergic reactions, distemper): In the event of a medical emergency please visit 2700 Evella 8am-5pm, no appointment needed

Medical emergencies include fading kitten syndrome, bloody stool, excessive vomiting/diarrhea, or seizures. Please see the Under Age Pets Section for more details.

Foster Medical Checklist:

Make sure your pet gets each of these before adoption!

Schedule curbside foster clinic appointments: <https://barchouston.as.me/FosterClinic>

2nd DA2PP or FVRCP booster three weeks after their first vaccine at BARC
Pick up monthly heartworm (dog) & flea prevention (dogs and cats) through BARC's foster clinic by appointment (pet does not have to come to BARC for this service)
Schedule spay/neuter surgery through BARCFoster@houstontx.gov or https://barchouston.as.me/foster

Additional Medical Information:

If your pet shows changes in food interest, energy, bowels, coughing/sneezing for longer than 24 hours, please set up an appointment for evaluation and medication. BARC cannot pay for outside vet costs.

If your foster pet dies in your care, please notify BARCFoster@houstontx.gov as soon as possible. You may bring the pet's body to BARC 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily. 😞

Common Medical Issues & Services BARC Provides:

It is important that fosters be able to interpret changes in an animal's appearance, bodily functions, and behavior to detect signs of illness. If you have questions about an animal's health, call, or email BARC medical (BARCMedical@houstontx.gov, 832.395.9053) to describe the animal's condition. Home care instructions can often be given, or an appointment made to have the pet visit our clinic.



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If any of the below symptoms occur in an underage kitten or puppy for longer than 12 hours, please seek medical attention at BARC immediately during 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Possible symptoms of illness that need an appointment

Eyes

- Yellow or green discharge
- Uneven pupil dilation – concussion, seek immediate attention
- Swollen conjunctivitis, including 3rd eyelid
- White film or cloudiness over eye
- Red or blinking eyes

Ears

- Dark, flaky debris, especially in cats
- Dark, waxy discharge with yeasty smell
- Animal exhibits pain when ear is rubbed or cleaned
- Frequent scratching at ear

Nose

- Yellow or green discharge
- Scabs or skin loss
- Bleeding from nose
- Excessive sneezing
- Nose can be wet or dry. This is not necessarily an indication of illness.

Mouth

- Loss of appetite – in adult animals for more than a few days, in juvenile animals for more than one day
- Increased appetite for over a week
- Vomiting, usually more than three times
- Trouble eating or chewing, painful gums or teeth
- Bright red gums
- Pale gums
- Ulcers or lacerations on gums or lips
- Excessive salivation, especially a change in the amount of salivation
- Labored breathing during rest, coughing
- Panting, with red skin and/or gums – animal is too hot. Cool by taking indoors or to shady area and giving slightly salted water or electrolyte solution.

Skin

- Fleas: though adult pets are treated with flea prevention when they arrive at BARC, many pets may have fleas when you pick them up. A bath with dawn dish soap (if the pet was not recently spayed/neutered) and maintaining monthly flea prevention will reduce them significantly.
 - **Fleas can kill underage pets.** Fosters MUST bathe kittens/puppies or use a flea comb once the pets are warm at home to avoid anemia. Aim for baths lasting less than 2 minutes to maintain body temperatures. Flea combs can





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be used if the pet is too vulnerable (<3 weeks old). Usually, 2 baths over several days will get rid of fleas.

- Chronic or significant fleas can be treated at BARC with capstar (oral medication) several times if necessary
- Redness
- Lacerations
- Lumps
- Hair loss
- Scabs
- Frequent scratching
- Dehydration - a dangerous condition for an animal to develop, and it will need immediate attention. Dehydration is indicated by dry skin, lack of skin elasticity, dry mucus membranes or darker, yellow-colored urine. To detect dehydration, use the following steps:
 - Gently grasp the loose skin above the animal's shoulders or along its rib cage, lift the skin and let it drop back into place. If the skin drops back slowly or remains bunched up, the animal may be dehydrated. (Not always accurate in infant animals.)
 - Check gums. Dry, sticky and/or pale gums could indicate dehydration.

Anal/Genital Area

- Bloody diarrhea, liquid diarrhea - seek immediate medical attention. Diarrhea is a common ailment among young/underage animals. Young animals are more severely affected by diarrhea than adults. They should be closely observed because their condition could quickly become life threatening. Diarrhea left unchecked can kill a young animal very quickly. Watch your young fosters carefully. Check for recurrent bouts of diarrhea, blood or mucus in the feces, foreign material in the feces and frequency of defecation.
- No bowel movement for more than 48 hours
- No urination for more than 24 hours, especially in male cats
- Discoloration/changes in feces
- Tapeworms are very common in foster pets. If your pet has tapeworms (small, rice-like segments in poop), please schedule a clinic appointment

Gait

- Sudden lameness/limping that doesn't improve with rest within 24 hours.
- Animal experiences pain upon walking or handling.
- Decreased activity, limpness, and crying for more than 15 minutes can be signs of hypothermia or hypoglycemia.

Behavior

- Lethargic
- Poor appetite





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- Increased appetite with weight loss
- Excessive drinking
- Increased urination or accidents in the house
- Straining to urinate or defecate
- Frequent scratching at ears or skin
- Crying, whining, growling
- Head shaking
- Seizure or convulsions, seek immediate medical care

Most Commonly Seen Medical Issues in Foster Animals

- Internal parasites, such as roundworms, tapeworms, giardia, coccidia
- External parasites, such as fleas/ticks, sarcoptic or demodex mange
- Ringworm (seen mostly in underage pets)
- Upper Respiratory Infection (sneezing, ocular and nasal discharge)
- Parvovirus (in dogs only – diarrhea, lethargy, dehydration)
- Canine Distemper (in dogs only – lethargy, dehydration, seizures)
- Feline panleukopenia (in cats only – diarrhea, lethargy, dehydration)
- *Heartworms are NOT contagious to other pets. A heartworm positive dog does not pose a risk to your pets. It is a mosquito-borne disease

Medications

When you give medicine, symptoms should lessen within a few days of starting medication. If the symptoms persist, schedule a foster wellness appointment. It is extremely important to administer all medications and finish the entire prescription.

Free BARC Medical Services with appointment

- DA2PP and FVRCP boosters
- Heartworm test
- FeLV test
- Parvo test
- Generic heartworm prevention
- Topical and oral flea prevention (please ask for oral if fleas noted)
- Anti-diarrhea medications
- Dewormer
- IV fluids, vitamin B, penicillin
- Spay/neuter
- Nail trim

