

BARC's Expectations of You

- You can foster a pet for as long as 6 months. While the typical foster stay is less than 2 months, each pet's needs vary based on factors like health, age, and behavior. We also understand that fosters need flexibility!
- Aim to find a forever home for your foster pet. Market your foster within your circle and social network, attend BARC foster networking or adoption events, respond to adoption inquiries we send you. The more you share your adoptable pet with friends, family, and on social media, the quicker they'll find their forever home!
- You must care for your foster pet as if it's your own, ensuring they are kept in a climate-controlled environment and provided with fresh food and water daily. Your care is essential to their well-being while they await adoption!
- Ensure that all personal animals are current on vaccines. **BARC cannot cover the cost of treating your own animals if they become ill.**
- Cats/kittens are indoor-only fosters. Adult dogs may go outside for recreation but must remain inside temperature-controlled environments otherwise.
- You must be willing to answer adopter emails within 48 hours and set up virtual or in-person meet-and-greets.
- Report any new personal pet additions. As the City of Houston Municipal shelter, the BARC Foster program is required to follow CoH ordinance regardless of your personal address (Ordinance number 2022-44, Section 6-76). You can only have a maximum 3 dogs and/or 3 cats in the household to be able to remain a BARC Foster for the respective categories of Dogs and Cats.
- Litters will count as one, but Fosters may not foster more than 1 litter at a time for health and safety.
- For adult pets, foster parent must wait 2 weeks before requesting to foster another pet, if still within city ordinance and can safely isolate for recommended time.
- You must have reliable transportation to get to BARC for foster medical appointments and adopter meet-and-greets.
- Foster dogs must receive monthly heartworm and flea prevention through BARC (free), or proof must be emailed in of prevention given at home.
- In the event, we do not have the specific supplies you need, you may purchase on your own. BARC would not be able to reimburse outside expenses. We do our best to help with supplies with our donation-based Foster Pantry.
- Adhere to BARC Open Adoptions. We ask that you treat everyone fairly to give your foster pet the best chance of being adopted.
- Foster failing is allowed! 😊 If you fall in love with your foster and meet the adoption qualifications, you're welcome to adopt them!

Pets may not be kept or given away. All transfers of ownership must go through BARC. Please contact BARCFoster@houstontx.gov.