

Thank you so much for showing interest in fostering cats and/or dogs for our foundation Sgt. Pepper's Friends.

A foster home is a short-term safe place for a rescued dog or cat. By fostering you are giving the animal a wonderful quality of life and preparing him/her for a new home. Fostering is not much different than taking care of your own pets!

Are you interested in fostering? Filling in our foster application is the first step!

General info

How long will a foster stay?

Fosters will stay in their foster homes until they get adopted. How long this takes depends on their age, health, adoptability and finding a transporter to take your foster to his/her new family. It varies from a few weeks to several months (years in extreme cases). Sgt. Pepper's Friends mainly adopts to the U.S., but also to Canada, the Netherlands, Sweden and of course Aruba!

Preparing my house.

Your foster might be scared or unsure about what is happening, so it's important not to overwhelm him or her. Sometimes too much stimulation can cause stress and discomfort. Establish a daily routine, they take comfort in a routine they can count on. Preparing a special area might help your foster to feel more at ease. The area should be large enough, provide shade and shelter and allow access to food, water and toys.

Foster families need to provide:

- A safe and healthy environment.
- Socialization, play and cuddle time to help teach them positive family and pet relations.
- Exercise and positive stimulation.
- Transportation to and from all vet appointments as needed.
- You make sure the animal is loved, taken care of, socialized, goes to the veterinarian etc. Learning them to sit, walk on a leash etc is highly appreciated.
- A soft place to sleep: towels or blankets work well.

We will provide food, toys, food bowls and other necessary supplies. Please inform us a week or so before you run out of food, so we can make sure to get a new bag to you on time!

Interaction with personal pets.

We advise to consult with your veterinarian before letting them interact, to ensure that all of your personal pets are healthy and up-to-date on vaccines and treatments. Rescues could carry or catch different diseases. If for any reason, your personal pet becomes ill while you are fostering, we cannot provide medical care for your personal pet.

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Website: www.sgtpeppersfriends.com

Facebook: Sgt Pepper's Friends

Contacts Aruba (00297): Dayenne 5935525 / Melanie 5678775 / Andrea 6301438

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Instagram: @sgtpeppersfriends

What if fostering isn't working out for me?

You are not required to continue to foster if you feel it's not working out. However, we may not have an immediate alternate foster home ready. We will work on moving your foster out as soon as possible, but ask for your understanding and patience.

How many rescues will I foster?

Puppies and kittens are fostered with their siblings (two, three or more depending on how many you are willing and able to take care of). This is better for their socialization and less stressful. They love playing and interacting with each other and they learn a lot from that.

Fostering two or more is actually easier than fostering one!

If a rescue is found by itself, he/she will be fostered alone.

We do not mix litters, to avoid spreading diseases and other health issues.



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Home.

Introducing your foster to your personal pets.

Introduce your dogs/cats one at a time and supervise the interaction closely. Make sure that items like food, toys and rawhide are put away. Separate them at feeding time.

Keep cats separated in the beginning, you can let them smell each other through the door (not allowing direct contact) and exchanging blankets or towels will help them to get used to each other's smells. Getting them used to each other can take time. Keep dogs on a leash when introducing them face to face to a cat. Do not allow the dog to charge or run up directly up to the cat. Watch them closely and keep the interactions positive, safe and controlled. Don't continue if either of them becomes over-stimulated or aggressive.

Your children and your foster.

Always supervise interactions between your children and your foster. Please teach them to:

- Leave the foster alone when chewing, eating or sleeping.
- Respect the foster; don't take food or toys away.
- Be soft, polite and careful when handling the foster; don't be rough, chase or tease.
- Be calm; don't run quickly or scream.
- Not to approach a barking, growling or scared foster.
- Respect the foster's personal space: don't hug, stare or get too close to his/her face.
- Pick up toys and possessions, so the foster can learn the difference between what is theirs and what is not.

Feeding.

All our dogs should be fed dry dog food, unless specified otherwise. To administer medication, a little (a few spoons of) canned food can be used.

Feed an adult dog twice a day, a cat 2-3 times a day, a puppy/kitten 4 times a day. If they're very skinny or not well, feeding more often is recommended.

Cats can have food available all day, if they don't overeat.

With dogs we advise to take the food away after about 15 minutes and stick to the feeding schedule. A daily routine and regular feedings are important.

Be aware of your foster's appetite and energy level, if they're not eating well or seem more quiet than usual, something may be wrong medically.

Giving them treats and rawhide is allowed.

House and crate training.

Cats are very easy to get house trained. Showing them where the litter box is (by putting them in and digging a bit with your fingers) and making sure it's easy accessible, usually does the trick. If your foster cat is having trouble, confining them to a smaller space might help.

Dogs need to be taken out multiple times a day. Take a puppy out after eating, sleeping and playing. Watch out for signs as sniffing the ground or walking in small circles. Don't discipline or punish a puppy when it has an accident. If you see it happening, pick him/her up and put him/her down where you want it to go. Rewarding your foster plays a big part in getting them housebroken.

Crating your puppy during the night (take them out every few hours, depending on their age), can be an effective component of house training.

A crate can be a safe place, if learned in a proper way. Teach your foster dog to go in the crate with treats, provide toys and make it a fun place to be in. Crate training can take days

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to weeks, be patient and encouraging. A crate should never be used for an extended period of time or as punishment.

Walking.

We are huge supporters of daily walks. However, due to the fact that Aruba often has Parvo outbreaks, we advise you not to take unvaccinated adult dogs or puppies - who had less than three vaccines - anywhere, except for the vet.

Practicing walking on a leash in your house or yard, playing, training, hiding treats etc. are ways to drain energy and to mentally stimulate your foster.

When taking a dog on a walk, please keep him/her on a leash. In off-leash dog areas make sure that your dog trusts you, listens and is under control, to ensure his/her safety at all times.

Dogs cannot ride in an open truck, please keep them inside the vehicle.

Cleaning.

Fostering (especially puppies) requires a lot of cleaning. Make sure to pick up your foster's feces on a daily basis. This is very important in order to prevent spreading diseases and parasites.

Clean with disinfectant/bleach and wash blankets, towels etc. regularly.

Veterinary care.

Our rescues will need regular vet checks. How often depends on the foster, the age and health.

The foster family makes the appointments (either at 'Veterinaire Klinieken' Noord or Wayaca) and takes them to the vet. Please check in with us prior to going to the vet and after, to inform us about the visit.

We will hand you a 'medical card', where you fill in the medication the rescue has been given (vaccine, deworming etc) and other medical information. This way the medical history is transparent, detailed and structured.

Keep puppies of the floor, preferably on your lap, while in the waiting room at the vet. Avoid contact with other dogs (mainly puppies) and other people who have puppies with them (Parvo is a virus that spreads easily).

General first vet visit:

- CBC blood test (to test for tick disease, also called Ehrlichia).
- Deworming.
- If the rescue is old/healthy enough first vaccine.
- Adult dogs will be tested for heartworm, adult cats for FeLV and FIV.
- A lot of our rescues need antibiotics, if their blood is really low, they will need five days of injections at the vet. After that, or if their blood could be better, they will continue with the oral medication called Doxycycline.

We will provide Baycox (oral medication, we use it to prevent Coccidiosis). This needs to be administered (1ml per 2kg) on the fourth day at the foster home (if allowed health wise) and again a week later.

You will also receive Panacur (a three day deworming medication, that also works against Giardia). Please administer it in the second week on some wet food and make sure the rescue eats it all. Panacur is given three days in a row.

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We prefer Nexguard as a flea-tick treatment, especially for the first treatment. It can be used on puppies and dogs older than 8 weeks in good enough health (ask the vet). We use spot-on treatment for cats, as well on dogs (4 weeks after the first treatment with Nexguard). Flea/tick treatment is applied/given on a monthly basis. Small puppies can be bathed with a gentle shampoo and wrapped in a towel sprayed with Frontline spray/Petcor (read the directions) or a similar product.

Adult dogs and cats also need monthly treatment with Hearzguard, even when they're indoors.

We try to make sure our rescues got their first vaccination before they're traveling (not closer than 4 days before they travel!). If the HCT value of their blood is 32% or higher, they're healthy and old enough and the veterinarian approves, we allow them to be vaccinated.

The first few days the change in environment, of food, stress, medication etc could cause some diarrhea. Adding a teaspoon of canned pumpkin often helps.

Please inform us as soon as possible if a foster shows any sign of health issues, like vomiting, diarrhea, fever, hair loss, if the rescue isn't eating well, the rescue has fleas/ticks etc. Vomiting and severe diarrhea in puppies could indicate Parvo, so be cautious and contact us if those symptoms arise. In emergency situations contact the vet first.

Puppies need four vaccines in total (mostly not all while in our care), kittens, adult dogs and cats need two vaccines. They can get a little sick from the vaccine. Because of this we do not vaccinate them less than four days before they have to travel. Do not bathe them after being vaccinated.

Adults will be spayed/neutered before adoption. Rescues older than 16 weeks traveling to the U.S. need their rabies vaccines, for Canada it's at 12 weeks, as well as for the Netherlands/Sweden (Puppies/adult dogs need their rabies and chip at 12 weeks and are allowed to travel three weeks later, so at 15 weeks of age. Cats older than 12 weeks need their rabies vaccine too, but not necessarily three weeks before traveling).

Phone number Veterinaire Kliniek Noord: 5870911
Phone number Veterinaire Kliniek Wayaca: 5821720
Emergency contact number: 5930603

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Time to leave.

At the vet.

Your foster needs to go to the vet for a health certificate several days to a week before traveling.

The health certificate for the U.S. should state:

- The name of our foundation: Sgt. Pepper's Friends.
- The name and address of the new owner. (We will provide the information.)
- The rabies vaccine (when older than 16 weeks) or 'too young for rabies'.

The health certificate for Canada should state:

- The name and address of the transporter. (We will provide the information.)
- The rabies vaccine (when older than 12 weeks) or 'too young for rabies'.

The health certificate for the Netherlands/Sweden should state:

- The name of our foundation: Sgt. Pepper's Friends.
- The name and address of the new owner. (We will provide the information.)
- The rabies vaccine (when older than 16 weeks) or 'too young for rabies'.
- 'Formulier gezelschapsdieren', filled in and with a stamp from the 'Veterinaire Dienst'.

The pet's passport has to be filled in (vaccines, deworming, anti-flea/tick medication, take the medical card so they can write the info in the passport when needed).

We need three copies when traveling in cabin, four when traveling as cargo of:

- The health certificate
- The passport
- The vet states
- The medical card
- The 'Formulier gezelschapsdieren' when traveling to Europe.

If you have a way to make the copies yourself, please do.

Preparing my foster for his/her travel day.

If necessary wash your foster 3-5 days before traveling. Since washing removes the natural oils in your dog's skin (they often travel by plane and to a colder area) and it's often stressful, we advise to not bathe them too close before traveling.

Try to avoid any stress in the days before traveling.

Rescues traveling in the morning or early afternoon shouldn't be fed on the day they travel. If they travel in the late afternoon or evening, feed them a small portion early in the morning.

Make sure your foster looks nice and clean (clean the ears, cut or file the nails if necessary, brush etc). Make really sure they don't have any ticks or fleas.

The crates and carriers.

We will make sure the crates and carriers are prepared. This is what has to be done:

Crate:

- Peepad with a towel/blanket/crate mat on top.
- Two bowls, attached extra with tyraps.

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- Sample bag of food ('U.S. made' readable) taped on top of the crate.
- Flight info / personal info of the adopter and sticker with feeding instructions on top of the crate.
- A copy of the health certificate, vet states and passport in a clear plastic folder, taped on top of the crate.
- Live animal sticker and several arrows taped on the sides.
- Toy and rawhide inside.

Transporter receives a bag with:

- Procedures for traveling with an adult dog.
- Four written envelopes:
 - o One with the original health certificate.
 - o One for the check-in: copy health certificate, copy vet states and copy passport.
 - o One for customs: copy health certificate, copy vet states and copy passport.
 - o One for the owner: copy health certificate, copy medical card, vet states and original passport. The envelope for the owner has the personal information of the adopter (name, address, phone number) and the information of our foundation (name, email address, phone numbers of Dayenne and Melanie) written on the back.
- Extra peepad(s), paper towels (4), wet wipes (several, in ziplock bag or something similar) and four tyraps.
- Leash.
- The dog/cat is wearing a collar with a writable name tag with his/her name, flight info, date, name and phone number adopter on it.

Carrier:

- Peepad attached to the bottom of the carrier.
- Toy and rawhide inside.

Transporter receives a bag with:

- Procedures for traveling with a puppy/cat.
- Four written envelopes:
 - o One with the original health certificate.
 - o One for the check-in: copy health certificate, copy vet states and copy passport.
 - o One for customs: copy health certificate, copy vet states and copy passport.
 - o One for the owner: copy health certificate, copy medical card, vet states and original passport. The envelope for the owner has the personal information of the adopter (name, address, phone number) and the information of our foundation (name, email address, phone numbers of Dayenne and Melanie) written on the back.
- Two extra peepads, paper towels (4) and wipes (several, in ziplock bag or something similar).
- Leash.
- The dog/cat is wearing a collar with a writable name tag with his/her name, flight info, date, name and phone number adopter on it.
- Small bowl for water

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The airport.

We will provide the travel carrier or crate, the envelopes for the paperwork, leash/collar and something to chew on. Bringing their favorite toy (no squeaker) is appreciated. Don't forget the paperwork provided by the vet, the passport and your rescue. One of volunteers will meet you and the transporter at the airport, in front of the US departure hall.

Saying goodbye is the least part of the process, but you're saving a life and getting pictures and updates from their new families, is the best reward there is!



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