

Title: Cat Foster Carer Volunteer

Responsible to: Cat Foster Carer Coordinator

Location: Your home with occasional visits to Mayhew (Trenmar Gardens, Kensal Green)

Overview

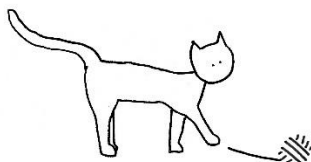
Mayhew is seeking reliable and dedicated volunteers who can offer space in their homes on a temporary basis to cats and kittens until Mayhew finds a suitable permanent home.

If you have previous experience caring for cats or kittens and have space in your home, then this could be the role for you!

Mayhew will provide everything you need to support the foster cat in your home, including food, equipment and veterinary care. We will also support you with basic training to begin with and ongoing support from our expert team.

Still interested? Read on to find out more...

Please note, we are only able to accept applications from those who are over 18 years of age.



Main Duties

- To be responsible for the safe transportation of the animal(s) to and from Mayhew
- Collect supplies as and when needed
- To positively contribute to the care and welfare of the animal on foster
- Be able to keep your foster cat permanently indoors unless you have a suitable enclosed garden
- Administer medications as directed by Mayhew
- To follow Mayhew advice on any behavioural issues and liaise with Mayhew's behaviourist if needed, including possible visits to the home
- To follow Mayhew advice on any dietary/medical issues
- To allow potential adopters to visit the animal(s) in your home and to contact you via approved means of communication (e.g, email, phone)
- Replying promptly to members of the Mayhew team, primarily the Cat Foster Coordinator, via email, phone or WhatsApp and providing any updates as and when required, including weekly updates
- Completing written behavioural assessment within two weeks
- Follow specialised plans (e.g., socialisation, weight tracking)
- Attend vet appointments at Mayhew only, as and when requested, or to attend Finsbury Park for any out-of-hours emergency
- Therefore, access to a car is recommended, whether that is your own or taxi etc. Bus travel is ok if you are not further than 30 minutes bus journey from the centre. Unfortunately, use of the underground is not suitable as your mode of transport.

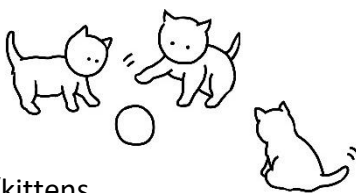


Reasonable Expectations

- As this role requires a large amount of onboarding resources and training, we are only able to accept applications from those who can foster for at least 6 months.
- Our aim is that once a foster animal is placed in your care, they will stay with you until they are adopted, therefore, we need assurance that you will be able to foster for as long as each animal needs you (most animals are adopted within a few weeks to months but in very rare cases could be with you for a lot longer).

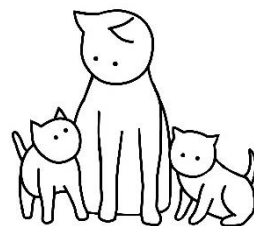
What kind of cat/kitten(s) need a foster home?

- It isn't uncommon for a cat to struggle in a cattery environment, and it's important for us to get these cats into foster homes as soon as possible. This can be for several reasons including proximity to other cats, confinement, and having an anxious temperament. Some of these cats are what we call 'inbetweeners', which are cats that are not well adapted to living a traditional pet cat lifestyle. Cats that are not coping, including inbetweeners, often display avoidant (hiding) and/or repulsion (swiping, hissing) behaviours towards people. These cats need foster homes to reduce their stress, so we are able to accurately assess their suitability to live in a traditional pet cat home.
- Cats with medical conditions (e.g., FIV, Cystitis) need foster care to manage their stress, as this can often exacerbate these conditions. Cats with medical conditions can also be harder to rehome, so we look to place them into foster care to avoid prolonged confinement. These cats need a foster carer who can provide short-term or long-term treatments, such as pills or topical skin treatments.
- Socialisation of kittens aged 2-8 weeks is essential to set them up for a successful future, and without it they can be fearful of people and new environments. Foster carers who are able to expose the kittens to a wide range of people are needed for this reason. Some kittens will come to us with their mothers, and others without, so foster carers who are comfortable taking on hand-rear kittens are also needed.



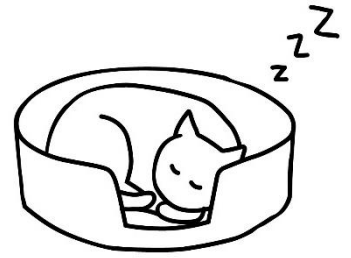
Desirable experience

- Have experience caring for cats/kittens
- Beginners are accepted if they have some prior experience with cats, and are open to training as needed
- Patience and compassion
- Excellent communication skills
- Ability to follow instructions
- A commitment to the work of Mayhew, our policies and ethics
- Basic computer skills desirable
- Access to a camera is desirable



Personal and Professional Development

- Opportunity to meet and learn from new people with similar interests
- Become involved in the community
- Apply personal skills and experiences to help in a positive way
- Volunteers can be provided with a reference at the end of their time with Mayhew



Expenses

Please be aware that we are unable to pay volunteer expenses at this current time.

How to Apply

Please complete an online application form by clicking the link below:

[APPLY HERE](#)

or to request a hard copy application form please email: volunteer@mayhewanimalhome.org

