What are the goals of the foster guardian program?

1. **Provide a temporary home for companion animals who:**

   Have special needs e.g., nursing moms, orphaned puppies and kittens, cats with a "kitty cold," dogs with kennel cough or who are undergoing treatment for heart worms, and cats and dogs with minor injuries;

   Need socialization;

   Are under the age of 8 weeks;

   Do not show well in a kennel, but are otherwise highly adoptable;

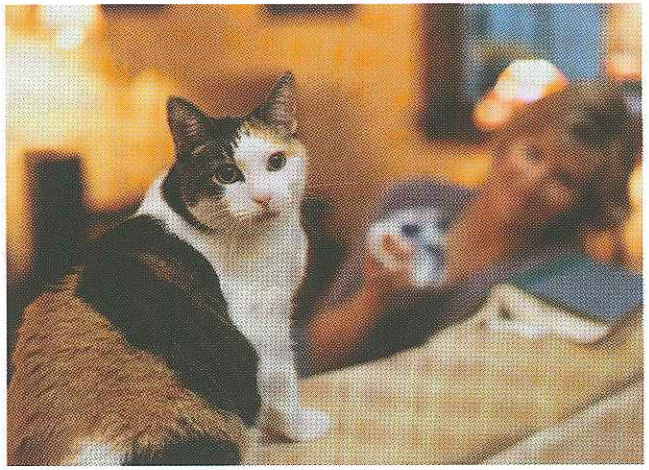
   Are awaiting transport to another shelter or placement in breed rescue;

   Are in need of additional training to improve their chances of finding a lifelong home.

2. **Increase adoptions and decrease euthanasia.**

3. **Enhance the image of the shelter and shelter companion animals.**

4. **Alleviate space issues, which are critical in a shelter handling more than 5,200 companion animals each year.**



What do you need to provide?

A loving environment with quality food, fresh water, reasonable shelter, exercise and attention;

Basic training using positive methods;

Participation in off-site adoption events;

Arrangements to meet with potential adopters;

Regular contact with the Shelter on the status of your foster animal(s).

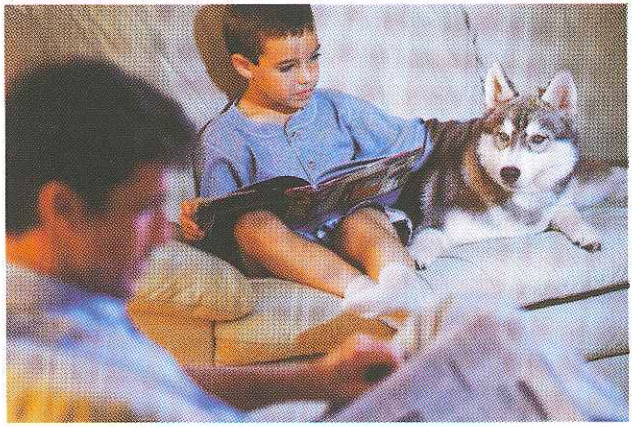
How do you become a foster guardian?

Complete an application available at the Shelter or on the Animal Control page of the City of Bloomington 's website:

www.bloomington.in.gov/animalshelter

Provide evidence of quality care of your own companion animals (vaccinations up-to-date and proof of sterilization).

Once your application is approved, you will be added to our foster guardian team and will begin receiving e-mail alerts about animals in need. You can choose which animals and how often you would like to foster.



Each year the City of Bloomington Animal Shelter receives more than 5,200 stray, abandoned and unwanted companion animals. Many of them have suffered loneliness and neglect. Many of them have passed through multiple homes. All of them yearn for a lifelong, loving home. But some need a little extra help before they are ready to be adopted – help that you can provide as a foster parent.

The foster guardian program has attracted a number of dedicated participants who say the experience has enhanced their lives immeasurably. Here are the kinds of things they say about their experience:

"Fostering is the easy way to help alleviate over-crowding at the Shelter. When the companion animal is adopted, it is so rewarding to see your work come to fruition."

"I love dogs and cats but my current life situation doesn't allow me to make a lifelong commitment. However, I can take in companion animals on a temporary basis. It allows me to help the critters I love so much and feels good to know I have saved a life."

"People ask how I can give up my foster critters. I tell them that I consider myself a medium for finding them a lifelong home. It is so rewarding and it is helping my daughter understand the importance of compassion and community service."

"Fostering makes me feel good! Helping animals that have found themselves in difficult circumstances is rewarding. I enjoy watching the positive transformation in the dogs as they respond to the individual care I provide."

With your help, we can give a second or third chance for a lifelong home to a deserving companion animal.

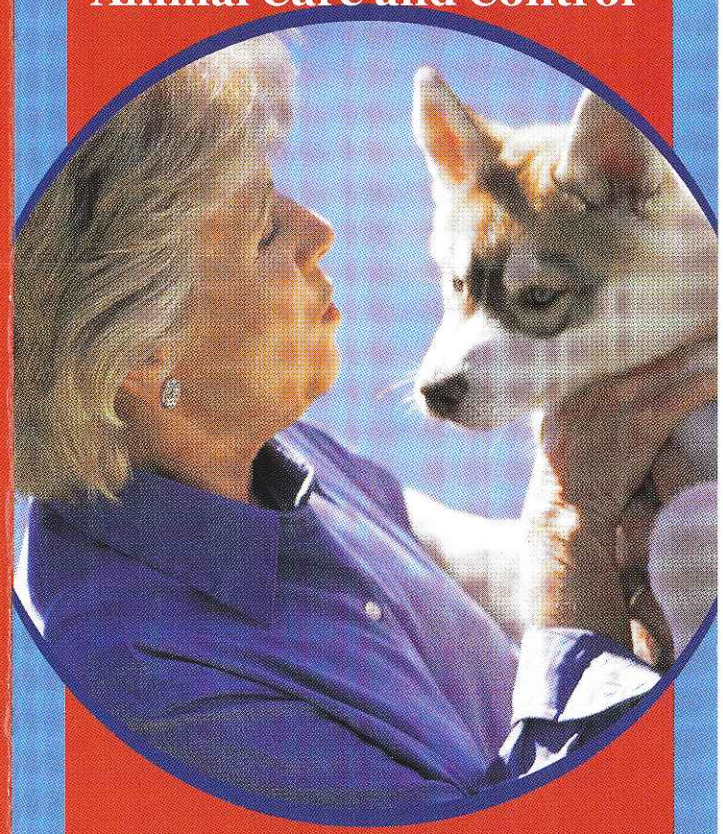
Foster a critter and save a life!

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
animal shelter

Dr. Jo Liska
Foster Guardian Program Coordinator
Phone: 812-349-3873
eMail: liskaj@bloomington.in.gov

Visit the Shelter at:
3410 S. Walnut
Bloomington, IN 47401

City of Bloomington Animal Care and Control



Foster Program

Open Your Heart and Home.
Become a Foster Guardian.