

# RSPCA Victoria Foster Carer

## Foster Care

<b>Supervisor</b>	Kris Jones - Foster Care Network Supervisor
<b>Location</b>	Burwood, Pearcedale, Epping Animal Welfare Facility
<b>Time Commitment</b>	Various depending on the needs of the animal in care
<b>Date Revised</b>	January 2018
<b>Approved by</b>	Volunteer Engagement team member / Foster Care Network Supervisor

### About us

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Victoria) is a non-government, community based charity that works to prevent cruelty to animals by actively promoting their care and protection. RSPCA Victoria was established in Melbourne in 1871. Since this time, the RSPCA has become Australia's leading animal welfare charity.

Volunteers are an integral part of the RSPCA team. They play an active and vital role in helping to support our work to improve the welfare of animals, and protect them from cruelty and neglect. Volunteering involves commitment, dedication and passion.

### Role Purpose

Foster Carers play an important care and rehabilitation role, providing the more vulnerable animals in the care of the RSPCA Victoria with a comfortable and enriching home environment to recover and grow.

Some animals that come into the care of the RSPCA Victoria are not able to be adopted into their new 'forever' homes straight away. They may be too young, unwell, recovering from surgery, or they may need training to improve their behaviour.

While our shelter staff and volunteers work very hard to provide a comfortable and enriching environment, many of our more vulnerable animals are stressed by the experience of being in a shelter. These animals recover and develop much more successfully when they are fostered in a home environment. Foster Carers are critical to support our animals to become ready for adoption and have the best chance at finding their forever home.

### Key Responsibilities

**As an RSPCA Victoria Foster Carer you will be responsible for the following:**

- Caring for RSPCA Victoria animals in your home; providing for the day to day care needs.
- Collect animals from the RSPCA and return animals to the RSPCA for regular health and behaviour progress checks as required by the Foster Care Team.
- Adhere to an individual foster care plan for the animal in your care; including any special health or behaviour management instructions as specified by the RSPCA Victoria.
- Meet the needs of the animal, including daily cleaning, feeding, socialisation and lots of love!



## Requirements

To be successful in this role, the volunteer will possess the following necessary skills and attributes:

### Essential:

- A love of animals.
- A mature, pragmatic attitude; animals in the care of the foster program may have special needs.
- Ability to transport animals to and from the RSPCA Victoria for regular health and behaviour progress checks.
- A good attention to detail and an ability to follow instructions (both written and verbal); Foster Carers will be required to implement individual foster care plans for the animals placed in their care.
- Abide by and work within the guidelines of the RSPCA Victoria policy and procedures.
- Ability to work independently as well as part of a team; Foster Carers will be partnering with the Foster Care Team to deliver individual foster care plans.

### Desirable:

- Previous experience with animals, this may include your own pets.

## Training & Support Requirements

To become an RSPCA Victoria Foster Carer you will be required to attend a compulsory training session including a corresponding assessment.

When you start fostering, you will be provided with food, equipment and anything related to the veterinary care of your foster animal. You will simply need to cover the cost of transporting your foster animal to and from the RSPCA for progress checks.

We understand that some carers will bring more animal care experience than others so we are here to support you in any way needed. We will provide you with training, reference material and our Foster Care Officers will be here to support you.

As an RSPCA Victoria Foster Carer you will be part of the RSPCA family and we will be here to support your foster journey every step of the way.

## Other Requirements

RSPCA Victoria is serious about providing a safe and healthy environment for volunteers, employees and the animals in our care. If you are interested in this role, we will need to collect the following information prior to you commencing in the role (see checked items below).

<input type="checkbox"/>	National Police Check	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Screen for animal cruelty offenses
<input type="checkbox"/>	Drivers Licence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Working with Children Check
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Medical - proof of tetanus vaccination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CV / Resume / LinkedIn

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identify check	<input type="checkbox"/> Other as noted:
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This Volunteer Role Profile may be subject to change throughout the RSPCA (Victoria).

**RSPCA Volunteers contribute vital support to ending cruelty for all animals**