

Sick or Injured Fosters

If you notice that your foster animal has mild, cold-like symptoms (sneezing or coughing occasionally, clear ocular or nasal discharge), diarrhea or has vomited, but is **alert, active, eating and drinking well**, please notify the foster coordinator at mas.foster@memphistn.gov so that it can be determined how best to proceed.

If your foster animal has more severe symptoms, such as frequent vomiting, lethargy, yellow/green ocular or nasal discharge, previously undocumented hair loss, straining to urinate or defecate, please notify the foster coordinator at mas.foster@memphistn.gov, and bring the animal to the shelter to be dropped off and seen by a veterinarian during our intake hours 12:00 PM – 3:30 PM Tuesday – Saturday *unless otherwise instructed*. If you are fostering a litter of kittens or puppies, even if only one animal is showing symptoms, the entire litter should be brought in to be examined. You will be notified when pets are ready for pickup. Please be aware that our veterinary staff must prioritize urgent/emergency situations, so wait times will vary.

After Hours Emergency

If you have a true emergency **outside of shelter hours (6pm – 8am)**, please email foster coordinator at mas.foster@memphistn.gov. Signs of a true emergency include but are not limited to: lethargy, persistent vomiting, poor or non-responsive, seizures, pain, severe bloody diarrhea, persistent vocalizing accompanying afore mentioned conditions, difficulty breathing, and difficulty urinating.

If you do not receive an immediate response via email, you can take your foster animal to **Animal Emergency Center - 3767 Summer Ave, Memphis, TN 38122**. When you present your foster animal to the emergency clinic, **you must inform the staff there that it is Memphis Animal Services foster animal and you must provide them with the animal's MAS ID#**. The emergency clinic staff will then contact designated MAS staff to verify that treatment can be provided. If the foster parent is unable to provide emergency clinic staff with the animal's MAS ID#, the animal may still be treated, but at the foster parent's expense. Animals taken to the emergency vet clinic for treatment will be kept overnight at the clinic and an animal services officer will be contacted in the morning to transfer the animal back to the shelter for further treatment/care.

Fading Kitten Protocol

Fading Kitten Syndrome is a life-threatening emergency in which a kitten, sometime one that was previously healthy, “crashes” and begins to fade away. If not dealt with immediately, it can result in death.

Symptoms:

- Low Body Temperature – the kitten feels cool or cold to the touch
- Extreme Lethargy - not getting up, unable to stand, not responding when pet
- Gasping for breath
- Meowing/Crying out

It is caused by 2 things:

Hypothermia (being too cold) and
Hypoglycemia (not enough blood sugar).

When this happens, it is vital that you take these immediate steps!

Step 1- Get them warm: - Create the “burrito” towel. Immediately wrap the kitten up in a towel like a burrito leaving their face exposed only. Their whole body, tail, ears, and paws should be in the towel, only nose and mouth exposed. Do not take the kitten out of the towel to adjust them, check on them, etc. - this is very important! Every time you take them out you will make them cold again, even if it is only for a second. - Wrap a HEATING PAD turned onto *low* around the burrito towel (to avoid burns) as an EXTRA source of heat. Secure it around the towel so it stays in place

Step 2- Get their blood sugar up: Once you get the heat on them, - Get a bowl or Tupperware and a few tablespoons sugar in hot water. - Stir it up so you get a sugar water solution - as strong as possible while still runny. - Using a syringe or your finger give 3 drops every 3 minutes into the mouth. - If they aren't swallowing, try not to get it down the throat, try to get it on the tongue or gums. - Set an egg timer or use the stopwatch on your cell phone to make sure you are doing it at least every 3 minutes. Every 5 minutes or 10 minutes will not work, it must be every 3 minutes.

Notify us via email: MAS.foster@memphistn.gov

Keep kitten with you and continue sugar every 3 minutes. We won't have any extra advice for you that is not in this handout, but we do want to be made aware of what is going on.

It can take hours for kittens in this condition to improve. Once they have shown marked improvement, they can return to their normal activities, but you should continue to monitor them for any reoccurrences.

Keep in mind, even with all the love and attention and perfect treatment of this condition, some of them still won't make it. Try not to blame yourself during this difficult time and focus on all the kittens you have personally saved by volunteering and fostering. Any kitten you've ever taken care of was given a second chance at life BECAUSE of YOU! The Survival Rate with our care FAR surpasses their survival rate in nature.