



Becoming a Foster Parent through Hope Marie's Fund

Thank you for your interest in becoming a foster parent for Hope Marie's Fund (HMF)! Because we do not have a shelter, we rely on a network of foster homes to house adoptable dogs and cats while they await permanent homes. Foster homes are a crucial part of HMF's ability to save an animal's life. Following are some frequently asked questions regarding HMF's foster care program. Specific questions may be directed toward our foster coordinator, **Scarlett Cmiel**. Her e-mail is scarlettcmiel@aol.com. You may also e-mail our general information inbox at [hopemariesfund@gmail.com](mailto:hopenariesfund@gmail.com).

What is HMF?

HMF is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization dedicated to saving the lives of animals most at risk of euthanization either due to serious medical conditions or in need of behavioral rehabilitation.

What are my responsibilities as a foster home?

Foster parents are responsible for the care of the foster animal, including providing quality food, shelter, grooming, and attention. Foster parents are expected to bring the animal to adoption events. These events are scheduled at various locations in Indianapolis and surrounding areas. Foster parents are responsible for transporting their foster animal to the Bargersville Veterinary Hospital for any medical treatments, including vaccinations and spay/neuter surgeries. Foster parents are responsible for complying with all state and local laws regarding the keeping and care of the companion animal. Foster parents are required to sign a contract detailing responsibility and limiting HMF's liability while the animal is under their care.

What are HMF's responsibilities?

HMF covers veterinary services for foster animals through a partnership with Bargersville Veterinary Hospital. HMF also is responsible for finding suitable adopters for the animals in our foster program. HMF maintains a website that promotes the animals in the most popular adoption sites on the Internet, such as PetFinder, Adopt-A-Pet, Overstock and more. HMF also takes responsibility for conducting applicant screening of potential adopters and home visits at the time of adoption.

How long does it take for an animal to get adopted?

The answer varies widely. Puppies and smaller dogs often are adopted within a few weeks; kittens and adult dogs can take anywhere from 2 weeks to several months. Adult cats may take several months to adopt. Some pets are adopted within a week, while others can take 6 months, a year, or, rarely, even longer.

Can I choose which animal I wish to foster?

Foster parents may request a certain type of pet, such as a dog, cat, puppy, and kitten. If a specific size, gender, or trait (such as good with children) is required, the foster parent should notify HMF. HMF maintains a list of animals needing foster homes, and desires to place the neediest animals first. However, HMF representatives will work with the foster parent to find an appropriate animal for his/her home.

What if I want to adopt my foster pet?

It is very easy to fall in love with a companion animal who relies on you for all of his/ her care. While HMF doesn't like to lose a foster home, we are happy to see a pet find a loving, permanent home. Foster parents must complete the official adoption process, including payment of the full adoption fee, and completion of all

adoption paperwork. [NOTE: Foster parents wishing to adopt their foster animal must make the adoption request prior to any approved applications for the foster animal being received and accepted by HMF. Fosters wishing to adopt their foster animals once an application from a potential adopter has been accepted will be declined.

What if I know someone who wants to adopt my foster pet?

Any potential adopters should contact HMF if they are interested in adopting an animal. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES IS A FOSTER PARENT TO GIVE ANYONE POSSESSION OF THEIR FOSTER ANIMAL.** HMF requires a home visit and completion of adoption paperwork, including the fee and contract, before turning an animal over to the adopter.

Do foster parents attend the home visits when their foster animal is adopted?

Foster parents are welcome to attend home visits with their HMF representative provided they are not in any way disruptive to the process. The foster parents presence at the home visit would be to convey information that would be helpful to the adopter in building a lasting relationship with their new pet.

What if I travel while a foster animal is in my care?

Foster parents must arrange for the safe care of their foster animal if they must travel while the pet is in their care. All boarding is at the expense of the foster parent.

What if I am having behavioral issues with my foster pet?

Becoming a foster parent is a big responsibility, and you will likely not get the perfect pet. Many of the animals that HMF rescues have been strays, or haven't received a proper amount of training and good treatment. Even the most well behaved animal can undergo stress adjusting to new people and a new environment. The animal may exhibit this stress through inappropriate behavior. In many cases, a little TLC goes a long way. However, many behavioral problems require some effort. HMF partners with Just like MaGiC to provide behavioral guidance regarding your foster animal.

What if my foster pet doesn't get along with my own animals?

HMF makes an effort to place animals who are likely to get along with a particular foster parent's pets. Proper introductions are crucial. It is also possible in some homes to manage a foster pet despite an animal-aggressive resident pet. Please contact HMF for advice.

What if my foster pet damages my apartment or home?

HMF cannot be held liable for any damage caused by your foster pet. The foster parent is responsible for providing a safe environment for his/her foster animal. Crate training is recommended for dogs. Crates may be borrowed from HMF if available, but must be returned in the event that fostering is discontinued.

What if I can no longer foster the animal in my care?

HMF does not have a shelter or a large network of foster homes. Once you commit to fostering an animal through HMF the expectation is that the animal will stay in your care until he/she is adopted. Should an emergency situation arise, please contact HMF at hopenariesfund@gmail.com immediately so that arrangements can start to be made to find a new foster home. Please be advised that placement will take a few days at best and in many cases it could take a few weeks. If you are not able to commit to fostering an animal through the good and the bad until the time of their adoption, then we would ask that you don't make the commitment to start with. Our resources are limited and it's very difficult to rehome animals already in foster care.



VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

Hope Marie's Fund

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Are you at least 16 years of age? (circle one) YES NO

Pet Ownership

Do you currently have any pets? (circle one) YES NO

If so, please provide the types of pet, age, and sex: _____

Are all of your animals spayed and/or neutered? (circle one) YES NO

General Information

Have you fostered an animal in the past with another rescue organization? If so, what organization(s) _____

How many adults are in your household? _____ Children? _____ (list ages of all children residing and or visiting frequently) _____

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

Do you have a fenced in yard? (circle one) YES NO If so, what type? _____

Are you prepared to handle behaviors such as not being housebroken, chewing, destruction of items in your household and other potential problems associated with having an animal in your home? (circle one) YES NO

What behavior(s) would be unacceptable in your home? _____

What type of animal are you most interested in fostering (i.e., particular breed, sex, age)? _____

How long of a commitment are you able to make to an animal at this time? _____

What is your underlying interest in becoming a foster parent? _____

Are you prepared for the emotional toll of caring for an animal on a temporary basis and then letting them go to their adoptive home when a permanent placement becomes available? _____

Area(s) of Volunteering Interest (Starred items represent crucial needs)

Foster Parenting ** _____
Fundraising _____
Web Design _____
Grant Writing _____

Saturday Adoption Events** _____
Special Events _____
Administrative Support _____
Other (please list) _____



VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

VOLUNTEER RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY

PLEASE READ THIS FORM CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING BECAUSE IT AFFECTS YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS.

This Release and Waiver of Liability is executed this _____ day of _____, 20____, by _____ (the "volunteer") in favor of Hope Marie's Fund (HMF) and is for the benefit of HMF and its directors, officers, and agents.

In consideration for HMF allowing the volunteer to participate in HMF related activities, the volunteer hereby freely and voluntarily executes this Release and Waiver of Liability. Volunteer understands that execution of this document is a necessary condition for volunteer to be allowed to participate in HMF sponsored events.

Volunteer hereby consents to the following terms and conditions:

1. Volunteer hereby releases and forever discharges and holds harmless Hope Marie's Fund, its directors, officers, agents, assigns, and successors in interest from any and all liability, claims, demands, and causes of action, of whatever kind or nature, either in law or in equity, which may hereinafter arise due to or from volunteer's participation with HMF including any project, activity, or event which is sponsored, managed, arranged, or promoted by, or in any way affiliated or associated with HMF.
2. Volunteer understands and acknowledges that the primary mission of HMF is the provision of assistance to homeless or unwanted animals. Volunteer further understands that HMF cannot and does not warrant or guarantee the temperament of animals that volunteer may come into contact with during HMF events. Volunteer understands that working with or around animals can be dangerous and volunteer hereby assumes all risk of participation as an HMF volunteer.
3. Volunteer understands that by signing this Release and Waiver of Liability that volunteer is relinquishing legal rights for the benefit of HMF. Volunteer does this freely as a condition of the right to participate in HMF sponsored activities.
4. Volunteer understands that HMF does not assume any responsibility or obligation to provide financial or other assistance in the event of injury, illness, death, or property damage as a result of volunteer's participation in any HMF event.
5. Volunteer understands and agrees that this Release and Waiver of Liability is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by law, and that this Release and Waiver of Liability shall be governed by and interpreted under the laws of the State of Indiana. Volunteer agrees that if any provision or part of this document shall be held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction that such invalid provision or part shall not affect the remaining provisions of this document.
6. **Volunteer has received the informational overview of HMF volunteers and agrees to read it and abide by it in its entirety.**



VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT BELOW, VOLUNTEER ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THEY HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, AND ASSENT TO THE TERMS OF THE DOCUMENT AND AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THE TERMS.

Signature of Volunteer

Date

Volunteer's Name Printed

Approval by HMF Officer

Date

I, _____, hereby agree that I am providing volunteer services to HMF, assisting in the pet adoptions. This may also include assisting in adoptions of pets thru HMF, Inc, at local retail stores. I understand that neither HMF nor any of its retail partners are responsible for any illness or injury caused by any animals that I come into contact with during my volunteer work. I agree to hold harmless and release from liability HMF and its partners should I become sick or injured from any animals as a result of my volunteer work.

Signature of Volunteer

Date

FOR VOLUNTEERS OF MINORITY AGE

For all Volunteers under Age 18 years

This is to certify that I, as parent or guardian with legal responsibility for the volunteer, do hereby consent and agree to his/her release as provided above and do hereby consent for myself, my heirs, assigns, and next of kin, to the Release and Waiver of Liability for my minor child, and agree to indemnify and hold harmless HMF from any and all liability incident to my minor child's involvement and participation as an HMF volunteer as set forth in this document, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Except as otherwise authorized by this release or the Board of Directors for HMF, no volunteer under the age of 16 will be permitted to participate in an HMF event. Exceptions to this prohibition will be considered on a case-by-case basis, are at the sole discretion of the HMF board of Directors, and are subject to immediate revocation at the Board's discretion. Furthermore, all volunteers under the age of 16 must have a Parent or legal Guardian at the event.

Any volunteer from the age of 16-18 years old may participate at any HMF event without the Parent/Guardian being present.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Parent/Guardian Name Printed

Name of Minor Volunteer

Approval by HMF Officer

HOPE MARIE'S FUND FOSTER PARENT AGREEMENT

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work/Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

This agreement is between the Hope Marie's Fund (HMF) and the above-named Foster Parent. HMF agrees to give the foster parent possession and control of foster animals contingent upon the following terms. As a foster parent, I agree to the following terms:

1. To provide food, shelter and care for the foster animal and assume all responsibility for the animal's well being.
2. To ensure that a dog/puppy lives primarily indoors and is NOT left outside unsupervised, even in a fenced yard, for extended periods. If the Foster Parent does not have a fenced yard, a dog/puppy will live inside at all times and be taken outside on a leash on a regular basis for exercise and elimination needs. All foster cats/kittens will live indoors only.
3. To bring the animal to an adoption location whenever possible for a chance of permanent placement.
4. To comply with all state and local laws relative to the keeping and care of the animal.
5. To assume all responsibility for damage caused by the animal either directly or indirectly while in the Foster Parent's direct control.
6. The Foster Parent understands and agrees that HMF will take every precaution necessary to ensure that the animal(s) are in reasonably good health. However, HMF cannot be held responsible/liable for any unforeseen health problem that may develop once the animal is in my care. If unforeseen problems arise, the Foster Parent is responsible for keeping the animal separated from any other resident pets (in cases of contagious and/or easily transmittable illnesses), and is also responsible for any medical needs of resident animals as a result of such.
7. In the event that the Foster Parent cannot continue to foster the animal(s), the Foster Parent will contact HMF and will await the finding of a new foster home
8. Understand that I am making a potentially long-term commitment to fostering an animal until he/she finds a adoptive permanent home.
9. To bring the animal(s) to Bartersville Veterinary Hospital for vaccinations and/or spay/neuter surgery and any other medical treatments as deemed necessary.
10. Hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless HMF, and its Board of Directors, from any and all liability arising out of or in consequence of, or injury sustained as a result of, any activity connected with volunteering for HMF as a foster home.
11. The Foster Parent understands and agrees that the Foster Parent is responsible for arranging for the safe care of all foster animal(s) in the event that the Foster Parent must travel. The Foster Parent will pay all boarding expenses.
12. Foster Parent carries sufficient homeowner's/renter's insurance to cover injury or damage caused by a foster pet and is aware of any breed restrictions that may be in place.

By signing this agreement, the Foster Parent agrees that he/she has read and understands the above and agrees to abide by all of its provisions. HMF may reclaim the animal(s), if in their judgment the animal(s) are not being cared for properly, or if in HMF's sole discretion, it is determined that the Foster Parent has not complied with the terms of this agreement.

Signature of Foster Parent: _____ Date: _____

HMF Representative: _____ Date: _____

Please contact HMF at hopenariesfund@gmail.com if you have any questions.