

Dear AAF,

I would like to share my story of fostering for Animal Adoptions of Flamborough, in the hopes that it will help others make a decision about participating in this wonderful program. I began this journey after the sudden loss of my own amazing cat of 14 years. I was not ready for another pet; yet I sorely missed having cat contact and cuddles. I remembered AAF from my visits to the library, and stopped by to donate the food I had left over from my own pet. While I was there I signed a volunteer application form, checking off the shelter work and fostering options. This was the beginning of an amazing journey!

Fostering-hmmm-I had not considered that. I had not been aware of how animal rescue organizations work, utilizing foster homes for some animals, while others go to be cared for at the shelter. Now, my paper was misplaced, and I stopped back a couple times before I made a connection. I am SO glad I did. Soon, I was able to go and help out in the shelter with the daily morning routine. Oh happy day. Cats everywhere! It was therapeutic. I felt better right away. The sadness over losing my beloved pet was gradually being displaced by the love these precious homeless animals poured out.



Before long I had a call to foster a homeless cat that had been rescued, but was too weak for the shelter. I took her in, and loved her dearly. The amazing thing about fostering is watching the animals adopt you! At first they are anxious and unsure. Day by day they come to love and trust you, and soon are showering you with affection. Their ability to recover from whatever trauma led to them being in AAF care is amazing. I learned a lot about moving on from these amazingly heroic creatures.

In the months that followed I took in another pair that had been rescued, and was thrilled to witness the complete cycle from rescue to foster home to shelter to forever homes. Recently, I took in 2 new rescues that absolutely were purrfect cats for me in every way. I am now the proud as punch cat mom to these beauties, who have a forever home with me. I am the biggest winner. These animals give far more than they need. They have restored a great joy to my life, and I am forever grateful to Animal Adoptions of Flamborough for walking me through this journey.

If you love cats and dogs but have never considered fostering, I encourage you to. If you have considered it, but not followed through, you are missing a very rich experience. The rewards of helping these wonderful creatures are far greater than you can ever imagine. They will teach you about yourself, about life and loss, and moving on, lessons that you may not get any other way.

Most sincerely,

Maggie, Millgrove ON