

Thinking of fostering cats for Anim-Mates?

Here are a few thoughts from Teresa our main cat fosterer

- Thank you for showing an interest in becoming a cat fosterer for Anim-Mates. We are just one of a number of small groups trying to help unwanted animals. Our aim is to take in unwanted animals, care for them and where possible find them loving, safe and permanent new homes.
- We are able to do this because of the kind generosity of many supporters and by having a few steadfast fundraisers, who are out in all weathers, rattling cans, selling bric-a-brac and raising funds in any way they can.
- Our priority is of course the animals and they have full vet care and as well as providing the basics like full inoculations, worm and flea treatment. We also have all our cats microchipped and neutered.
- Any tests and treatment the animals need on top is always given. Our vets bills are astronomical so we, as fosterers need to do our bit to support the donators and fundraisers by being as frugal as possible with expenses.
- Whilst we want to give our animals the best care possible we do have to watch the pennies. Obviously food can never be scrimped on but we are always on the look out for a bargain. For example, as individual pet owners we may well have always filled our own cats tray with inches of litter, but as a fosterer I now change the litter just as often but put in far less.
- A cat may arrive with toys, scratch posts and beds, so we keep them for future use by other animals. You may not have room to store these donated bits but please check with the other fosterers who may well need replacements.
- Once in a while we find ourselves with too many pet carriers; so listen out as if you hear that the potential adopter is about to go and buy one perhaps you can sell them one of those and help raise another £5 for the funds.
- As a group we are aware of how lucky we are to have such generous donators but we owe it to them to spend their money wisely and as much as possible directly on the animals we help, so we keep our administration expenses to the minimum.
- To be honest, even if one day we found ourselves in such a position to be able to buy luxury items I know I would always be reluctant to as there are many other worthwhile small groups out there struggling to make ends meet for the rescue animals.
- If you do decide to join us, please share with our team of other fosterers who care for cats, rabbits, dogs or guinea pigs any new ideas, opinions and queries you may have.

One thing we can give the cats, which does not cost a penny, is lots of cuddles and hugs