Thank you for your interest in the **Bergen County Animal Shelter and Adoption Center's Kitten Foster Program**!! This program allows us to provide a loving environment for the babies until they are ready to go through the adoption process.

Caring for kittens is a lot like caring for human babies. Depending on their age, they may require bottle feedings every few hours, assistance with elimination, temperature regulation and/or socialization.

As a foster parent, we require a few things:

- ✓ Your participation in a 30-minute training orientation, so that you can learn what you need to do, how the program works, and have your questions answered
- ✓ A separate area in your home to keep the kittens away from any other pets. Ideally, this should be someplace that can be easily cleaned and disinfected
- ✓ Your commitment to taking care of our babies until they are ready to be spayed or neutered
- ✓ Adherence to the foster kitten examination schedule provided with the kittens

BCAS will provide you with the following:

- ✓ All supplies for taking care of the foster kittens – food, litter, litter boxes, a crate, towels, etc.
- ✓ Access to information that will answer any questions
- ✓ Veterinary staff to monitor the kittens, provide them with vaccines and any necessary medical care

Frequently Asked Questions:

What types of kittens are available to foster?

Moms with Babies - nursing mother with her litter. Mom needs three meals a day. Once the kittens wean, mom will come back to the shelter, and the kittens will remain in foster until they are old enough for spay/neuter

Bottle Babies – kittens that have come in without their mothers and need around the clock care, including feedings every 2-4 hours, assistance with elimination, and a warm, quiet space

Young Ones – kittens less than 8 weeks old that are not big enough to be spayed or neutered. They need lots of play time, feedings 3-4 times a day, and a place away from other animals

Unsocialized – kittens of varying ages that may be "hissy/spitty" and uncomfortable with human interaction. They need time to learn to trust and frequent interaction with their foster family

Why do I need a separate place for the foster kittens?

Kittens sent out to foster are generally too young to be tested for contagious diseases like FIV/FeLV. They may get colds or have a parasite that can be transmitted to your personal pets.

How long will I have the kittens?

Kittens can be spayed/neutered at 2 pounds for males and 2.5 pounds for females. Depending on the age of the kittens you are working with, they can stay with you for anywhere from 2-8 weeks.

Is there someplace I can share pictures/stories of my fosters?

Yes!! We have a Facebook Group (BCAS Foster Volunteers) where our fosters ask questions, tell stories and get input on the kittens. The page is monitored by the Foster Coordinators and Vet Techs from the shelter, as well as peer volunteers. This is a great resource for both experienced and first-time fosters.

All this sounds great!!! What do I need to do to become a foster?

Simply stop into the shelter and fill out an application. You will be contacted to participate in our annual meeting.

For more information about the Foster Program, please call the Shelter at 201-229-4610 and ask for a Foster Coordinator.

COUNTY OF BERGEN

James J. Tedesco III, *County Executive*

BERGEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hansel Asmar, *Director/Health Officer*

ANIMAL SHELTER AND ADOPTION CENTER

Deborah Yankow, *Division Director*

Kelly Kropilak DVM, *Supervising Veterinarian*

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See our wish list on www.co.bergen.nj.us/bcas

Friend us at facebook.com/BergenCountyAnimalShelter

Become a volunteer! Applications available at the reception desk

Bergen County Animal Shelter and Adoption Center

Kitten Foster Program