

Paws On Helping

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Are you looking for an animal? Would you like to foster? Well there are many different animal shelters that you can go to. There are over 5 million animals that are put into shelters nationwide every year according to the ASPCA. You can be one of those helpful people that adopt loving animals and you can keep them from being euthanized.

If you cannot adopt an animal now, you can help them get better. How, you might ask? There are many different ways to help, but one way is fostering.

“My definition of fostering is caring for an animal as if it was your own,” said Shawn Williams, MCMS Teacher and animal foster parent.

When you foster, you take in litters of animals with the mom, and you care for them until they are old enough to go to the shelter and get adopted.

You can foster both cats and dogs, but it's a lot of work.

You have to provide the mother with a safe and quiet whelping box and a heating pad for nesting. You also have to feed the mom and keep her exercised. You have to give the mother love, keep her healthy, and keep her looking over her puppies. For the puppies themselves, you have to socialize them and teach them how to walk with a collar and a leash, according to Williams.

Whether you have been fostering for a month or many years, you will have many opportunities to help an animal in need.

8th grade student/animal foster, Kellie Stahlhuth, answered, “Yes, it’s nice to see puppies and kittens who wouldn’t have been here without my help,” when asked if she enjoys fostering.

“I have fostered over 100 dogs,” said Williams, “in my 11 years of fostering.”

Stahlhuth states: “I foster them at my home, but I get them from the Agoura Shelter.”

If you do not live next to the Agoura Animal Shelter, there are plenty of other great shelters around California and the country. For example: The Burbank Animal Shelter located in Burbank, CA, the West Valley Animal Shelter located in Chatsworth, CA, and the Animal Regulation Department located in Camarillo, CA.

These are all very good animal shelters scattered throughout the community.

So the next time you think of adopting or fostering an animal, check out your local animal shelter and help out an animal in need!