

# Fosters Needed

Irving Animal Services wishes to be prepared this upcoming puppy/kitten season. This is the time of year when shelters will soon become overbooked with litters of unplanned critters. We need fosters ready, willing and able to help!

## **What is a foster parent?**

A foster parent provides a temporary home for an animal to anywhere from one week to several months. Being a foster parent is like being a grandparent-all the enjoyment of caring for an animal without the lifetime responsibility. However, a foster parent must be the type of person who can take home a needy animal, care for and bond with it, and then be able to let it go to another family. Remember, all animals in foster care are the property of Irving Animal Services.

## **What can I foster?**

The animals available to be fostered are selected at the sole discretion of the animal services manager and shelter veterinarian. Animals that are generally identified as needing foster care are those that are:

- Too young to be adopted (usually are unweaned, need to be bottle fed)
- Pregnant
- Unsocialized
- Have a medical need that can be better treated in a foster home

## **How do I become one?**

You must first attend our volunteer orientation (see Events Calendar for dates). After that, you will need to fill out our foster application and either mail or fax it in. If approved, you will be on a list to be contacted if and when a foster parent is needed.

\*If you have not yet attended our volunteer orientation but you have fostered for another shelter or humane group, please call us at 972-721-2257. We will ask you for the name and phone number of 2 references. You might still be able to foster for us while you wait to attend our next volunteer orientation.