



## **Could you be a foster carer for a needy Ragdoll?**

We have a small, but dedicated number of foster carers, who provide a safe, loving environment for any homeless Ragdoll, for as long as necessary. With a growing number of Ragdolls needing foster care, we are always seeking to find more volunteers, who have the commitment and time to give to a needy Ragdoll, who for whatever reason require our care. The following is designed to give a basic guide to what we are looking for. If you feel you have what it takes to become a Raggie foster mum, then please contact us.

- Do you keep all cats and dogs up to date with vaccinations, have your pets health checked regularly and use an effective method for worm and flea control? We would not place a foster cat into a home where other cats are unvaccinated. This is for the welfare of the resident cats, as well as the foster cat.
- All foster Ragdolls must remain indoors throughout the period of foster care and never allowed to gain outside access. So the security of windows and doors, especially during the summer, is very important. Can you ensure that any Ragdoll does not get out?
- When any foster cat goes to its foster home, it must be confined, away from all other animals, for the first four weeks at least, preferably for the full foster period, so the foster carer will need to have a fully contained foster pen, with an indoor area which is lined, heated and easily cleaned etc. or a spare room that they can dedicate to the foster Ragdoll, for as long as necessary. The room should be junk free and large enough to accommodate a large litter tray or two, a climber of some sort, a feeding area, which is well away from the trays and a little space for play. The box room is fine, but only if it is not full of boxes and other junk! Foster periods range from a few days to many months, so it is no good if the room will be needed in a month for a visitor.
- The fosterer needs to be prepared for any foster Ragdoll to leave Raggie fluff on carpets, soft furnishings and for the litter tracking. They also need to be willing to cope with deposits of hair balls, vomit, wee and poo, as sometimes the foster Ragdolls are unwell and accidents happen!
- The foster carer needs to be willing to make trips to the vet, whenever necessary and so they need to have a vet they trust and one which they can travel too easily and at short notice. Preferably their own transport.
- The foster carer needs to be able to give medication confidently.
- They need to be able to observe for and recognise any signs of ill health and react accordingly. We encourage caution – so if in doubt, call the vet.
- Many of the foster cats we work with need a period of rehabilitation to recover from illness or neglect etc. This needs a commitment of time. Can you dedicate the hours needed to rehabilitate any Ragdoll and build their trust and confidence in people?
- Are all family members living in the home in agreement with the commitment to foster cats?
- Foster cats often need foster homes at very short notice. Can the potential fosterer fit this into their lives? (That said, we do give choice and do understand that it may not always be possible for a foster to take a cat.)



- The foster carer needs to be willing to liaise regularly with the UKRCC, keeping us updated on the Raggie's progress and the result of any vet checks etc. They will also need to be willing to speak to and possibly meet potential adopters.
- Record keeping is important, so keeping notes of all vet visits and the progress of the foster Raggie.
- If the foster does their job properly they will love the foster Raggie as they would love their own cat, so when the time comes for the Ragdoll to go to a forever home, it does hurt! Any foster carer needs to be prepared for this feeling.

## What the UKRCC will do

- We give as much information as we have about any foster Ragdoll to the foster carer so they can make a decision on whether they feel they can take them on. That said, often detail is limited and a Ragdoll will arrive in a much worse state than we were led to believe.
- We support all foster carers fully throughout, offering advice whenever necessary.
- The UKRCC will fund all veterinary costs for the foster Ragdoll. Some vets are happy to invoice us directly, but if not we reimburse, on provision of a full, itemised invoice.
- The UKRCC will fund food, litter, worming, flea treatment and other things to benefit the Raggie's welfare, like Feliway, for the foster Ragdoll, on the provision of full receipts.
- The UKRCC authorise the foster carer to seek emergency veterinary attention, without our prior consent, but all routine veterinary treatment is to be discussed with us, before authorisation.
- All foster Ragdolls are health checked vaccinated, neutered, microchipped and blood tested as necessary.
- All Ragdolls who are high risk for FIV (feline aids)/FeLV (feline infectious leukaemia), such as those who have been allowed outdoor access, those who have been bred or those which are entire, are tested for this.
- All geriatric Ragdolls, 10 years+ are given a geriatric blood profile.
- Any other treatment that is necessary, such as dentals etc. or treatment for ill health, is provided.
- For every Ragdoll that is taken into fostercare a 'Plan of Action' is developed with the foster carer, following initial assessment of the individual cat. This will be reviewed as and when necessary, depending on the results of health checks etc.



- The foster Ragdoll remains the responsibility of the UKRCC throughout the period of foster and must not be rehomed without our consent. If we feel the foster placement is not working out and the welfare of the Ragdoll is being compromised, then we will move the cat to another foster home.

## What the UKRCC will not do

- We do not pay the foster carer for their time or boarding for the cat
- We do not pay any heating bills, phone bills etc
- We do not pay vet bills for the fosterers own animals, even if they believe that they have become unwell due to the presence of the foster cat. This is why we ask that any Ragdoll is confined to a dedicated room, away from other pets, preferably for the full foster term. This is best for the welfare of the fosterers own animals and that of the foster cat. It also minimises stress. Pet insurance for the fosterers own animals is advisable.
- We do not pay for food, litter etc for the fosterers own cats and expect any purchases for these items in relation to the foster cat, to be separate, so we are paying for the foster cat only.
- We do not accept liability for damage to property or person by any foster cat.