

# FOSTERING FAQs

## *What is fostering?*

You provide a loving home for a homeless parrot until they find their permanent home. This can be several weeks to several months until they are adopted. While in your care, you will work with the bird to improve their socialization, diet & training. We are also in need of short-term fosters to assist with "babysitting" while long-term fosters are unavailable/traveling.

## *What does STAR cover?*

STAR pays for all medical care and provide for the basic supplies (like the cage and travel carriers). Some food, toys and perches are also provided by STAR.

## *What am I responsible for?*

You are responsible for scheduling and transporting your foster to any necessary vet appointments with one of our partner vets. You are also expected to turn in requested information in a timely manner (per our foster timeline). You are responsible for supplying some, but not all, of the necessary food, toys & perches.

## *How do I sign up?*

To become a foster, first - fill out a foster application. Our team will process your application (which includes a vet check, a landlord check & a home visit). Applicants must be over 18, live in the St Louis area (MO or IL), have a bird safe home (incl no smoking & Teflon free), have no convictions involving domestic abuse/assault or animal cruelty/neglect.

Once approved to foster, before receiving your first foster bird, it is required to attend a new volunteer orientation and foster class (offered monthly in person).

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*"It's a small thing to help one animal,  
but to that one animal it's a big thing."*

*- Gene Baur*

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## *How long will I have a foster bird?*

A bird may be in foster for anywhere from 30 days to over a year. Our average time in foster is 3-4 months. We ask that whenever possible, the bird(s) stay with you for the entire time, but do understand that life happens and a transfer may need to be arranged. If you are no longer able to foster, we ask for as much notice as possible.

## *Does STAR provide training?*

Yes! All fosters are required to take an initial orientation/bird care class. We encourage fosters to retake this course yearly. We also have a dedicated health team that is available to provide health, behavior & husbandry advice as needed.

## *Do I get to choose who I foster?*

Not exactly. Our intake team will work with you to match incoming birds with your experience level, interests and home. If you are not interested in fostering larger birds, we would not suggest an incoming macaw. If you let us know that you love conures, we would reach out when we have a conure needing to come in.

## *Vacation plans or an emergency?*

We have multiple options for fosters going out of town, and will go over these options during orientation, but we are happy to temporarily transfer your foster to another foster home while you are traveling. We ask for as much notice as possible to allow for ease of scheduling. We also understand that emergencies happen, and have an amazing group of fosters who are willing to step up in an emergency and take in an emergency transfer.

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*“Never be embarrassed by how much you care about animals and how they're treated.”*

*- Stephanie Feldstein*

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