

Read
This!



Foster Friend

Your family can try out pet ownership by providing a temporary home for an animal in need with a foster adoption

SEARCH online for “foster pet” plus your city or town to find local rescue groups.

EXPLAIN to your family what fostering an animal entails (daily care as well as the possibility of a short-term situation if the animal isn't a fit for your home), and make sure everyone is on board.

PREPARE your home for your new furry friend's arrival. Ask the foster agency about free supplies. Many provide crates for

dogs, for example, plus food and leashes. It's a good idea to have stain and odor remover on hand in case of bathroom accidents (inevitable with puppies!).

SPEAK with the rescue group if your family experiences problems. They may have solutions and, if need be, can find other arrangements for the pet.

PLAN a farewell ceremony so your child can say goodbye if the pet doesn't work out or is adopted by

another family. The goal is to find the animal a permanent home, whether yours or another, but this can mean mixed emotions for your family.

MAKE a scrapbook or photo album to help your children remember special times with their foster pet. Let them know that they did something wonderful to help an animal in need.
—Sarah Zobel

Source: Diane Wilkerson, director, volunteer program, ASPCA Adoption Center

Nests: Fifty Nests and the Birds that Built Them

by Sharon Beals

Who knew our feathered friends had so many decorating ideas? One nest looks like a beehive, another resembles a pile of feathers, and yet another could pass for a perfectly woven basket. Each of the magnificent photos is accompanied by fascinating facts about the builders themselves. *Chronicle Books, \$30.*

