



Humane Society  
of SKAGIT VALLEY



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HSSV  
**FOSTER MANUAL**

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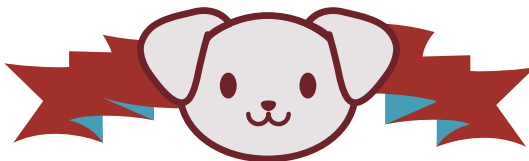
Mom with Puppies and  
Orphaned Puppies

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# HSSV FOSTER MANUAL

## MOM WITH PUPPIES AND ORPHANED PUPPIES

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### Foster Care Phone:

360.757.0445

foster@skagithumane.org

Mon-Fri 11:00-5:00, Sat & Sun 11:00-4:00

Humane Society of Skagit Valley

18841 Kelleher Road

Burlington, WA 98233

**Animals returning for adoption come back on Wednesdays and Thursdays**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

COMMITMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.....	2
SUPPLIES YOU WILL NEED.....	3
DISEASE PREVENTION.....	3
WHAT MAKES BOTTLE FEEDERS SO SPECIAL .....	4
THE BENEFIT OF A MOM DOG.....	4
CONFINEMENT AND SAFETY.....	5
KEEPING YOUR PUPPIES WARM .....	5
MONITORING HEALTH.....	6
SOCIALIZATION.....	6
FEEDING AMOUNTS.....	7
WHAT FORMULA DO I USE .....	7
BOTTLE BABIES – IT'S TIME TO EAT! .....	8
RECAP ON BOTTLE FEEDING .....	8
WEANING YOUR PUPPY.....	9
ALL ABOUT PEE AND POOP.....	10
INTRODUCING PIDDLE PADS/OUTSIDE .....	11
BATH TIME! .....	12
WHAT TO WATCH FOR AND WHEN TO CALL.....	13
EMERGENCIES.....	14

**HSSV FOSTER MANUAL**  
**MOM WITH PUPPIES AND ORPHANED PUPPIES**

# COMMITMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

## Estimated Time Commitment

Type of Foster	Total Wks Involved	Volunteer Hrs (Daily)
Bottle fed kittens (0-4 wks)	4 - 9 Weeks	6 hours
Weaned kittens (4-8 wks)	1 - 6 Weeks	4 hours
Mom w/kittens	1 - 9 Weeks	3 hours
Weaned puppies (4-8 wks)	1 - 5 Weeks	5 hours
Mom w/puppies	1- 9 Weeks	4 hours
Bottle fed puppies (0-4 wks)	4 - 9 Weeks	6 hours
Single kitten/puppy	1 - 9 Weeks	3 hours
Medical Dog/Cat	1 - 3 Weeks	2 hours
Injury Dog/Cat	1 - 3 Weeks	2 hours
Socialize Dog	1 - 3 Weeks	3 hours

You can expect to have to return to HSSV for the following appointments:

- 4 weeks of age - exam/worming/vaccinations
- 6 weeks of age - exam/vaccinations
- 8 weeks of age - PUFA (put up for adoption) and Spay/Neuter
- Emergency health exams

Additional time may be required to transport foster animals to HSSV for regular treatments or to pick up medications to administer at home.

### Financial Commitment

HSSV will provide you with a 24 hour supply of food, bedding, and other immediate needs. You will need to provide for the animals ongoing needs until returned to HSSV. This may include formula, wet & dry food, litter, bedding, toys, etc.

Our funding is limited to basic supplies and not for outside veterinary care. If you choose to take your foster pet to your own veterinarian or an emergency clinic, HSSV will not be able to reimburse you.



**NOTE: Foster families get first choice to adopt!**

## HSSV FOSTER MANUAL MOM WITH PUPPIES AND ORPHANED PUPPIES

### SUPPLIES YOU WILL NEED

1. Carrier- plastic is the easiest to clean
2. Esbilac (Puppy Milk Replacement)- Liquid or powdered
3. Fleece-great for bedding, dry quickly
4. Heating Pad- specially designed for animals
5. Washcloths and towels-have washcloths and towels you use for your foster animals ONLY
6. Dog/puppy food:
  - Canned- Pate' version is best
  - Dry Kibble- Higher quality, **without** dyes
  - Baby food- chicken or turkey flavored baby food (step 1) is great for slurry and to stimulate a puppy's appetite
7. Ceramic or stainless steel dishes- one for water, one for dry kibble, and one for wet food. **NO PLASTIC DISHES PLEASE**
8. Piddle Pads -use masking/duct tape to hold them down and keep uring from leaking under the pad
9. Non-clumping clay litter- Non scented is best, **NO CLUMPING LITTER**
10. Nature's Miracle-excellent at removing stains and odors



### DISEASE PREVENTION

Not only are many diseases that dogs and puppies contagious to the other animal's in your home, they can carry diseases that are communicable to humans as well. To prevent the spread of these diseases (giardia, coccidia, ringworm, ect), we ask that you wash your hands after handling your foster animals. Make sure to keep foster animals separate from your personal pets to limit exposure to possible diseases.

Wash your foster animals linens separately from the rest of your laundry. Bedding, clothing, towels, washcloths, and linens should always be washed with laundry detergent and bleach. The foster animals' area should be sanitized using a bleach water solution (1/4 cup of bleach to 8 cups water) before you bring home your next foster animals.

*Fostering Saves Lives!*

## HSSV FOSTER MANUAL MOM WITH PUPPIES AND ORPHANED PUPPIES

### WHAT MAKES BOTTLE FEEDERS SO SPECIAL



It takes a strong person to take home a litter of newborn babies. These fragile babies need round the clock care, which includes getting up throughout the night. Because neonatal puppies are completely helpless, it is the foster parent's role to be the surrogate mommy.

Bottle feeding, temperature control, stimulating them to potty, socializing, grooming and love are all essential needs you will have to fulfill. These babies may take up only a tiny spot in your home, but they take lots of time, patience, and energy. We never know why these puppies came to a shelter in the first place (mom hit by a car; mom rejected them) you can expect a 50% mortality rate. You should be emotionally prepared for the loss if you are working with bottle feeders.

The addition of new babies also includes all of their supplies. Make sure to reserve space in your fridge dedicated to bottles, formula, and baby food. The younger the litter, the more supplies they need. They also bring extra loads of laundry and dishes. Be sure you are up for the extra work before committing to a litter.

### BENEFIT OF A MOM DOG

The best part of opening your home to a mom cat and her kittens is that mom will do most of the work for you. Unlike with bottle feeders, you will have a mom to make sure the kittens are fed, cleaned, pottied, and warm. Think of yourself as the mom's assistant. Your job is to keep the environment safe and clean, provide regular feedings, change litter boxes and dirty bedding, give love and socialization, and monitor the health of the litter.

After all of your hard work and hours of snuggling, cleaning, and care, you will have the satisfaction of returning your babies to HSSV where they can find their new families!



# HSSV FOSTER MANUAL

## MOM WITH PUPPIES AND ORPHANED PUPPIES

### CONFINEMENT & SAFETY

Your foster animals should be kept in a quiet area of the home; preferably one that is closed off and easy to clean (laundry rooms are great!). Place a clean box or crate bottom in the space and fill it with a 2 inch layer of bedding. This will become the nest. The box should be large enough for the litter to comfortably fit but not so large that they can't huddle for warmth. The sides need to be high enough to prevent the puppies from rolling out or wandering off, but low enough that a mom will have an easy time getting in or out. **HINT: A box should never be put directly on a cement surface as it draws out the heat.**



### KEEPING YOUR PUPPIES WARM

If there is a mom dog, she will provide her puppies with the necessary warmth. If you have a litter with no mom, it is your job as a foster parent to make sure the puppies are maintaining a body temperature of 99-102 degrees. Until puppies are 4 weeks old, they cannot regulate their body temperature causing them to get cold or overheat very quickly. Puppies need an additional heat source until they have reached 4-5 weeks old.



Animal safe heating pads are recommended. To prevent puppies from direct exposure to the heat, make sure the heat pad is covered. Also, make sure the cord is in a place where the puppies aren't able to chew on it. You can place a digital thermometer in the bedding to monitor the temperature of their environment. Make sure their bedding is kept clean and dry. Wet bedding reduces the temperature very quickly.



If you have a litter of puppies, they will also pig-pile to keep warm. If you have a single puppy, you will need to provide a stuffed animal to snuggle with. We highly recommend a Snuggle Kitty/Puppy. These are stuffed animals that have a pouch to hold a small warming bag as well as a battery operated "heart" to mimic a mother's heartbeat. They are available to purchase at most pet stores. They are wonderful for young puppies because they are able to cuddle, stay warm, and relax to the sound of a beating heart.

# HSSV FOSTER MANUAL

## MOM WITH PUPPIES AND ORPHANED PUPPIES



## MONITORING HEALTH

It is important to monitor the health of mom dogs and puppies on a daily basis. For mom dogs, be sure to check their mammary glands for any signs of infection (hard, red, or hot glands are all signs of infection). Observe puppies eating habits. If nursing, make sure each is getting fed. If you see that one puppy is regularly separate from the others, call the foster department. This can be a sign that something is wrong with the animal. If weaned, be sure that each puppy gets a fair share of the slurry and dry food. If one is getting bullied, feed them separate. If possible, check the puppies' weight on a weekly basis. Monitor dog/puppy(s) stool. Diarrhea can be a sign of parasites, stress, or illness so it is important to note any changes in their stool. Look for any signs of Kennel Cough; sneezing, crusty eyes, discharge from nose, or labored breathing. If you notice any of these symptoms, we will want to start the litter on antibiotics.

## SOCIALIZATION

While it is very important to make sure mom dogs and their puppies, as well as orphaned puppies get proper socialization, we want to do it in a manner that does not affect the development of the animals. Mom dogs can be very protective of their babies, so be sure to give them time to settle into their surroundings before you begin handling her or the puppies. Watch her reaction when you handle the puppies. If you notice that it causes her too much stress, limit handling them to once a day (during this time you will provide human interaction, check hydration, and assess overall health). If a mom is extremely stressed by you handling her puppies, she can reject them so always be observant of her behavior. Orphaned puppies do require more handling since you are the surrogate mom. Regular petting, cleaning, and feeding are necessary to help with their socialization. While cuddling and interacting with these puppies is very beneficial, you do want to allow them time to rest. They need sleep to grow and build up their immune system. If they are regularly woken to be handled, it can stress their immune system and cause them to get sick. So, make sure to allow them "rest" periods throughout the day where no one is allowed to handle them.



# HSSV FOSTER MANUAL MOM WITH PUPPIES AND ORPHANED PUPPIES

## FEEDING AMOUNTS

Feeding will vary depending on the stage/size the puppies are at, as well as whether there is a mom dog with the litter.

Mom dogs with puppies under 4 weeks old will typically provide the pups with their feedings. In this case, you just want to make sure the mom is getting enough food to produce the milk necessary for her litter. You will want to have an unlimited amount of dry food and water available to her. On top of dry food, you will want to feed her wet food 3 times a day (about ½ can per 10 lbs each feeding).

If puppies are bottle feeders or orphaned, you provide all of their feedings. Below is a chart of how often a puppy should eat and the type of food needed dependent on their age.

Age	Type of Food	Amt per Day (Depending on size)	How Often
0-1 wk	Formula	Sm 2oz, Lg 4 oz	Every 3 hrs (2X @ night)
2 wks	Formula	Sm 3oz, Lg 5 oz	Every 3 -4 hrs (once @ night)
3 wks	Formula	Sm 5 oz, Lg 7 oz	Every 4 - 5 hrs
4 wks	Formula/Slurry	Sm 7 oz, Lg 9 oz	Every 5 - 6 hrs
5 wks	Dry/Wet Food	1/4 can wet, unlimited dry	3 -4 times daily
6 wks	Dry/Wet Food	1/4 can wet, unlimited dry	3 times daily
7 - 8 wks	Dry/Wet Food	1/4 can wet, unlimited dry	2 times daily

Puppies are bottle fed until they are 4 -5 wks. Weaning starts at 4 weeks of age. Follow the process for bottle feeding and weaning listed on the following pages.

### What formula to use, if needed:

HSSV recommends Esbilac which is a Puppy Milk Replacement. Esbilac is offered in both a liquid and powder version. The liquid version is ready mixed and great for "on-the-go" care.

The powder version is less expensive and keeps longer. Both versions are available at most pet stores. HINT: If you are using the powder version and have a well system, we recommend using bottled water to mix it. There are chemicals in well water that can cause puppies to get diarrhea.





## HSSV FOSTER MANUAL MOM WITH PUPPIES AND ORPHANED PUPPIES

# BOTTLE BABIES - IT'S TIME TO EAT!



Heat the Esbilac in a microwave safe dish and pour into a bottle or put the prepared bottle in a glass of warm water until the formula is warm. Test the temperature of the formula on your wrist to make sure it is warm, NOT hot, before you begin bottle feeding. Place a towel over your lap. You can wrap the puppy in a soft fleece blanket to help maneuver it around. This also helps them feel more secure and protects your hands from their sharp little claws. Sit with your legs crossed and prop the puppy on the upper portion of your leg with his head tilting toward the ceiling (see photo). Never feed a puppy on its back as this can cause them to aspirate formula into their lungs causing illness or drowning.

Hold the puppy firmly around the shoulders so he can't back up. Gently place the bottle up to his mouth. You may need to have a drop on the tip so he can smell it. You can also put some on his lips so he can lick it off. Don't be surprised if your puppy turns his nose up at the formula. Remember that even if he never knew his mommy, he will know that rubber thing is NOT her.

It may take a good amount of time for your puppy to even sample the bottle, so be patient. For the first feeding, make sure you have all of the supplies ready and nothing else to do for at least half an hour. After a few awkward tries at drinking, the pup may start to chew on the bottle. This is the first step to drinking. As long as he is getting something into his stomach, he is fine.



Squirming and crying during this process is normal. Remember, the puppy is hungry and the only way to tell you is to cry. When the puppy latches on properly, you will see him gulp and swallow. His ears will also twitch when nursing. These are all good signs that he is eating correctly. After a few days, your puppy will be a professional bottle baby and will know exactly what to do. He will let you know he is done eating by letting go of the bottle and turning away. Burp the puppy after each feeding by gently patting them on the back. After his tummy is full he will fall asleep or get quiet and calm. **Give him a few minutes to sit and then move on to the "Peeing and Pooping" portion of the manual, pg 10.**

## RECAP ON BOTTLE FEEDING



- Puppies will not eat if their body temp is below 95° F, Temp should be at least 99-102°F before feeding
- Puppies may not latch on right away, be patient
- Never squeeze the bottle or feed puppies on their backs. This can cause the puppy to aspirate formula which can lead to illness or drowning.
- Puppies must be pottied after eating.
- Call the Foster Department if you have questions or concerns: 360-757-0445

## HSSV FOSTER MANUAL MOM WITH PUPPIES AND ORPHANED PUPPIES

# WEANING YOUR PUPPY

### Formula to Slurry

When your puppy is approximately 4 weeks old, you can introduce them to slurry (a mixture of pate wet food and formula). You will want to make the mixture the consistency of wet oatmeal and serve it in a low sided ceramic or stainless steel dish. Start by putting a little slurry on your finger and hold it up to the puppy's lips to encourage him to lick it off. You can slowly lower your finger towards the dish of food. He may sniff it or stick his face in it. Don't be discouraged if he chooses not to eat. Give him time and try again later. This process can take a couple of days before he chooses to eat. Puppies are very messy when first learning to eat. Don't be surprised if they walk through it and smear it all around. This is why it is important to clean them with a warm washcloth after every feeding. This removes the food bits and prevents bacteria build up and hair loss.

### Puppy Kibble

Once your puppy gets the hang of eating real food, you can slowly discontinue mixing it with slurry (usually when the puppy is between 5 and 6 weeks of age). You can start leaving a low dish of dry kibble out when the puppy is 4 weeks of age. You will also want to have a shallow dish of water out at all times when puppies hit this phase of weaning. At 6 weeks of age, puppies should be eating regular puppy food and drinking water by themselves.



## FEEDING TIPS

- Feed mom dogs dry puppy food. It has more nutrients she needs during nursing
- Pate wet food is the best type to use when making slurry. It is easier for puppies to slurp up when they are first learning to eat.
- Always use shallow dishes for puppies under 6 weeks old. Deep dishes present a drowning hazard
- Change water and wash bowls regularly to prevent bacterial build up
- Watch puppies and mom dogs during feeding times to ensure everyone is eating



# HSSV FOSTER MANUAL MOM WITH PUPPIES AND ORPHANED PUPPIES

## ALL ABOUT PEE & POOP



### Stimulating

If you have a mom dog, she will take care of pottyng her pups. If you are the surrogate mom, you will have to do it for the puppies. Start by laying a towel across your lap. Gently hold the puppy to keep it from crawling away. Using a warm, soft cloth or cotton ball, gently rub the genital region. It is normal for a puppy to fight or cry out. Most pups will pee pretty quickly. You will notice the cloth or cotton ball turn yellow and get warmer from the urine. This should be done after every feeding.

They also need to be stimulated to poop. They may be tiny but they produce a lot of waste! It can be helpful to start the stimulation process by making small circles on their lower abdomen helping move the waste down. Then move to rubbing the genital region. Puppies should poop at least once a day. Feces should be firm or soft but formed. Make sure to clean the area completely after pottyng. This may require a bath. It is important to get any excess urine or feces washed off to prevent urine burn or infection. **NOTE:** If your puppy's stomach becomes distended (sometimes blue and firm to the touch) and they have not pooped, call the Foster Department as soon as possible.

### Diarrhea

The most common call we get from concerned fosters are about their puppies/mom dogs having diarrhea. What do we consider diarrhea? Diarrhea is any stool that has no shape or consistency. There are several causes of diarrhea:

- Parasites - stools can have a mucus like discharge, requires treatment
- Worming/vaccines - not uncommon to have blood in their stool from the worming, usually clears up within 3 days
- Change of diet - can cause an irritation of the digestive track and can need medication to rectify
- Diseases - can be a sign of serious illness, if also vomiting & lethargic do not wait 3 days to call; bring in immediately

Anytime a puppy has diarrhea for more than **three days**, the Foster Department should be called. It is important to resolve these issues as soon as possible to keep puppies from becoming dehydrated. If you notice your animal is dehydrated and it hasn't been three days since the diarrhea started, call the Foster Department to bring your pup in for examination.

### Fecal Scoring System



Score 1 - Very hard and dry; requires much effort to expel from body; no residue left on ground when picked up. Often expelled as individual pellets.



Score 2 - Firm, but not hard; should be pliable; segmented appearance; little or no residue left on ground when picked up.



Score 3 - Log-like; little or no segmentation visible; moist surface; leaves residue, but holds form when picked up.



Score 4 - Very moist (soggy); distinct log shape visible; leaves residue and loses form when picked up.




Score 5 - Very moist but has distinct shape; present in piles rather than as distinct logs; leaves residue and loses form when picked up.



Score 6 - Has texture, but no defined shape; occurs as piles or as spots; leaves residue when picked up.



Score 7 - Watery, no texture, flat; occurs as puddles.

 Nestlé PURINA

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Only the last 2 images in the above image would be considered diarrhea in a puppy/dog.

## HSSV FOSTER MANUAL MOM WITH PUPPIES AND ORPHANED PUPPIES

# INTRODUCING PIDDLE PADS/OUTSIDE

Puppies can start to potty train at 3-4 weeks of age. Since they are not vaccinated, we need to use either piddle pads indoors or an x-pen on a cement surface outside to start their training. DO NOT put into grassy areas until AFTER their first vaccine has been given. Mom Dog and Puppies should ALWAYS be taken outside under direct supervision ONLY!

To start training, be sure that you have the puppy in a small space with a piddle pad. Praise him with a treat any time he uses the pad. As you learn the puppy's potty schedule, you will know when to take them outside. Have a area of your patio or driveway set up with an x-pen. When you notice the puppy run over to its piddle pad, quickly pick it up and take it to the set up area outside. Always use the same command when teaching them. We use, "Go Potty".



**AFTER their first shots, start training to go outside in the grass.** Crate training the puppies can help with the potty training process. Take the puppy out at 2-4 hour intervals and use your command. Give the pup time to find their "spot" to go. This can take up to 15 minutes. Praise the puppy, "good potty!" and give a treat whenever he goes outside. If the puppy doesn't go, put him in a crate for 1/2 an hr and try again. The puppy doesn't get "freedom" inside until they have pottied outside. **Never** scold a puppy for having an accident inside. This can actually cause the puppy to be afraid to go to the bathroom anywhere. If you catch them in the act of going, make a noise to distract them (they will usually stop going), pick them up and get them outside.

Puppies should be going poop several times a day, usually after feedings. Make sure you get them out and give them a chance to go. Stool gives us a good insight into the puppy's health. While potty training, monitor his stools. Do not worry if your puppy has not pooped in a day. If his stomach gets tight or it has been 2-3 days without a bowel movement, contact the Foster Dept.

It is not uncommon for puppies to step in their waste. If this happens, simply use a warm washcloth to clean him up. Sometimes the messes take a little more than a washcloth to wipe away. If this is the case, you may need to give them a bath. **Please refer to the "Bathing your puppy" page in the manual.**

**IMPORTANT:** Mom Dog should always be wearing a collar (or harness) with tags and never leave a foster dog of any age outside unattended!

# HSSV FOSTER MANUAL

## MOM WITH PUPPIES AND ORPHANED PUPPIES

### BATH TIME!

PUPPIES ARE MESSY! When they get to be 4 weeks old they are notorious for walking through their food bowl, playing in their water, and stomping through their messes. All puppies do this and the only way to keep them clean is by bathing them. If you have a mom dog, she will do her best to help you keep up on the puppies' cleanliness. But sometimes even mom needs that helping hand!



They will cry and squirm, but when it's all over, you will have a clean (and fresh) ball of fluff! First you will want to assemble the necessary supplies: tear free shampoo, towels, and washcloths. It is helpful to have a 2nd person to help scrub while you hold.

#### **Puppies under 6 weeks of age:**

Hold under a stream of running water (like in the photo above) to bathe. We do this because until they are 6 weeks old they think they can breath under water and will aspirate if they put their face in the water. Use a gentle, tear free shampoo (Johnson's Baby Shampoo is good) to scrub the kitty clean. Puppies will have A LOT of baths and heavily scented shampoos can irritate their skin.

Once your puppy is washed and rinsed, immediately wrap him in a clean, dry towel. Gently rub him with the towel to get him dry and keep him warm. Once he is sufficiently dry, he can go back to hid bed to snuggle with his litter mates or on his heat pad. His body temperature can drop quickly if he is still wet, so make sure he stays in a warm, dry area until thoroughly dry.

#### **Puppies 6 weeks or older:**

Fill your sink with 1-2 inches of warm water, using a few drops of shampoo in the water. Scrub gently, being very careful not to get soap or water in his eyes, nose, or mouth. Follow the same drying procedure that was used for younger puppies.

## HSSV FOSTER MANUAL MOM WITH PUPPIES AND ORPHANED PUPPIES

# WHAT TO WATCH FOR AND WHEN TO CALL

Dogs and puppies come into the shelter for a variety of reasons, from a wide range of places where they may have been exposed to parasites, viruses, and other potentially harmful and contagious elements. Part of being a great foster parent is monitoring your foster dogs and puppies for the following common conditions that may not have been present at the shelter:

**If you see any of the following conditions, please call the Foster Department at 360-757-0445, so we can determine treatment.**

- A puppy not eating for twice the time indicated (SEE PAGE 7) Example: Your puppy should eat every 3-4 hours and it has been 8 hours since it has eaten
- A puppy consistently separated from the rest of the litter
- Colored discharge from eyes and/or nose or crusty eyes
- Lethargy
- Fever (temp should be between 99 & 102)
- Fleas or flea dirt (flea dirt looks like ground black pepper)
- Black, cakey dirt in ears (looks like coffee grounds)
- Patches of missing fur
- Rice or spaghetti looking parasite in the stool
- Unusual gait
- Nursing on genitalia
- Diarrhea for more than three days
- Aspirated while feeding
- Dramatic drop in body temp
- Dramatic drop in weight
- Vomiting
- Injured
- Open mouthed breathing
- Mom dog has hard, red, hot or painful mammary glands

**NOTE: For emergency situations, see page 14.**



"THE PEOPLE WHO LOVE AND CARE FOR ANIMALS HAVE  
SOME OF THE BIGGEST HEARTS AROUND."



# HSSV FOSTER MANUAL MOM WITH PUPPIES AND ORPHANED PUPPIES

## EMERGENCIES

The HSSV Foster Department can be reached at 360-757-0445. We are here 7 days a week during these hours:

Monday-Friday 11:00am-5:00pm  
Saturday/Sunday 11:00am-4:00pm

If possible, please call ahead and speak to the Foster Care Manager/Specialist on duty before bringing in your sick or injured animal. If the Foster Care Manager/Specialist is unavailable, ask for the Director of Animal Care, Vet Clinic Manager, or an Animal Care Specialist.

If you think your kitten is in a life-threatening condition, bring it to HSSV anytime between the hours above. You will be asked to leave the kitten/cat at HSSV for assessment. If you need to contact someone outside of shelter hours, please refer to the **Emergency Contact Form** you were given when you completed foster parent orientation. If you have lost this form, please contact us to let us know BEFORE an emergency presents itself. We do not publish the numbers in the manual for the protection of the privacy of our foster team.

Please be aware that our funds and equipment are limited, and euthanasia may be necessary to prevent the animal's suffering.

Our funding is limited to basic supplies and not for outside veterinary care. If you choose to take your foster cat or kitten to your own veterinarian or an emergency clinic, HSSV will not be able to reimburse you.

THANK YOU FOR SAVING LIVES!



Special thanks to NOAH, PAWS, and HSSKC for sharing materials from their foster manuals with HSSV!