



Health and Disease

Vaccinations & Deworming

Your foster pet(s) will be up to date on age-appropriate vaccinations and deworming at the time that you take them in. Puppies and kittens must return to the Medical Care Center every two weeks while in foster care to be weighed, dewormed, and have vaccines boosted. Puppies leaving the shelter will get a DHPP vaccine that day and kittens will receive the FVRCP vaccine starting at 6 weeks of age. Adult foster pets may or may not need to return to the Medical Care Center for vaccines, but will need monthly preventatives.

Seeking Veterinary Care

Many pets will head to foster with an established treatment plan for an existing medical concern (such as medications, bandage changes, rechecks for broken bones, etc.).

We will do our best to ensure that any medical concerns are addressed prior to a pet leaving for foster. Please make sure to give all doses of medications and be sure to make an appointment with our Medical Care Center for any rechecks.

Pets coming from the shelter have been exposed to many diseases. They do not have an established vaccination history, and their immune systems may be suppressed due to shelter stress, therefore it is not uncommon for a pet to become sick shortly after arriving in a foster home.

All new foster pets need to be quarantine for at least 7 days before being introduced to any other pets in the home!

Please watch for the following symptoms in puppies or kittens:

- Diarrhea that lasts for more than a day
- Vomiting and diarrhea for more than 6 hours
- Vomiting more than once in an hour
- Not eating for more than 12-24 hours
- Lethargy with or without fever
- Sneezing, coughing, and/or significant eye discharge

- Areas of crusty skin and/or hair loss
- Lameness paired with discomfort or pain

Please watch for the following symptoms in adult dogs or cats:

- Not drinking for more than 24 hours
- Diarrhea that lasts for more than 1-2 days
- Vomiting more than 2-3 times in an hour
- Not eating for more than 72 hours
- Lethargy without fever for more than a day OR lethargy with fever
- Sneezing, coughing, or significant eye discharge
- Lameness paired with discomfort or pain

If you notice any of these symptoms, please contact the medical clinic at appointment@sanantoniopetsalive.org immediately for guidance and/or an appointment to bring them in to be examined. If it is between 7pm and 9am and you feel it is a life-threatening emergency, please call our **Medical Emergency** Hotline at 210-338-8225. If you think your puppy or kitten is fading, please follow the Fading Kitten or Puppy Protocol. Following the Fading protocol is their best chance at survival.

Remember that SAPA! provides all veterinary care onsite at no cost to you, but if you go to an outside veterinary clinic without explicit permission from SAPA!, you will have to pay for the visit yourself and will not be reimbursed (but it may be tax deductible).