

Dear Foster Caregivers,

Thank you for offering to provide a temporary foster home to a Sandy-impacted family who need assistance with their pets. We continue to be humbled by incredible response and the generous offers to help.

Thanks to foster matches from this group, FIFTY animals that were in the emergency shelter in Barnegat found foster care. Those fifty are truly cases where the individuals and families would have faced having to surrender their pets when that shelter closed last week. Cats, dogs, rabbit, guinea pig, blue faced parrot, rat, hamster, parakeet and even a chinchilla. Young, old, big & small. Good stuff. Thank you to the fosterers who stepped up to help – many went above and beyond, driving to emergency shelter to pick up the animals or to the homes of the families in need to fill out the foster agreement. Bravo!

Since then – and during – other matches have been made where the animals weren't in the emergency shelter. And we're seeing some storm victims come onto the site whose living situations post-storm have become strained or are not supportive of their pets.

This is why I'm reaching out to you today.

Please keep a close eye on the site. And please be patient with some of the pet families in need. I've spoken with many personally and I've heard how stretched thin they are trying to get accurate information about their homes from town officials, landlords, utility companies, insurance companies and others all while holding down their jobs, caring for family and dealing with medical needs from a displaced location.

If you have made a match, please remember to register it (we wait for paperwork before changing the membership type) as we're ready to support you with services to help, such as food supplies, care supplies, behavior counseling and a modest veterinary fund has been established.

Here are a few cases outstanding that need some quick help. The full list is on the site. I put instructions below for those who are new to the site and unaware how to see just the pets in need.

Elyssa Perkins. Their rental home was in Lavalette. They need assistance with their two cats quickly: http://fosterasandypet.ning.com/profile/ElyssaPerkins?xg_source=profiles_memberList

Fred Lampiere was in Seaside. He has one cat and only needs help for a short period: http://fosterasandypet.ning.com/profile/fredlanphere?xg_source=profiles_memberList

Suzanne Cavanaugh has 3 small dogs she would like to keep together. She hopes to be back in her home by Christmas: <http://fosterasandypet.ning.com/profile/SuzanneCavanaugh>

Thank you, again,

--Heather for www.fosterasandypet.org

To see the full set of Pets In Need, click on the FOSTER MATCH tab - and then click on the PETS IN NEED link near the top. **Please read the profile to see if the person has access to the internet or if they have provided their phone # and need you to call them. If you message someone to offer assistance, consider including your phone # to help make connecting easier.**

And remember that if you do make a match, you and the pet can receive supportive services (food, supplies, behavior assistance, etc). Just let us know about the match by clicking on the Register Match tab.