



Fostering Survey

May 2020

Best Friends[®]

SAVE THEM ALL



Highlights

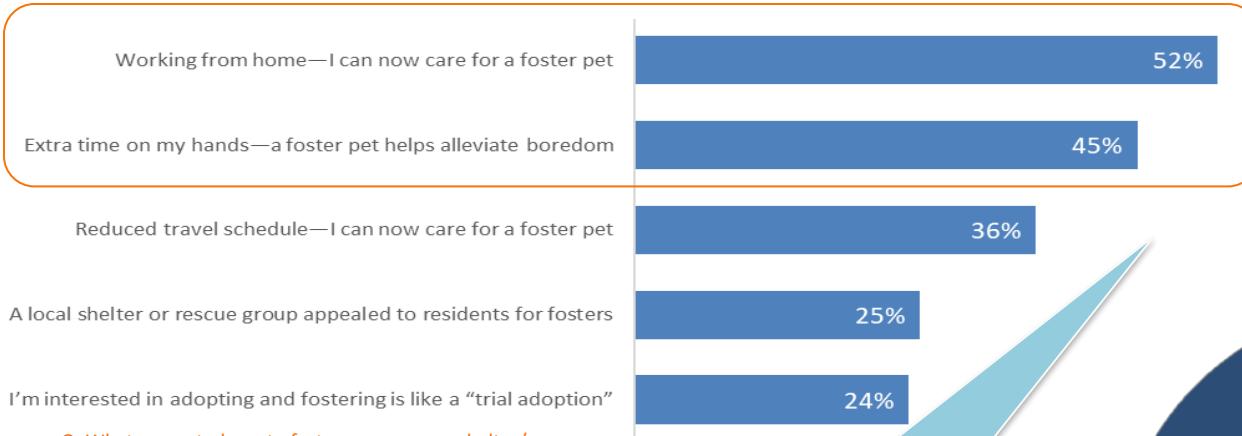
- A survey was conducted to assess fostering perceptions and future behaviors based on foster experiences during the COVID-19 quarantine. A survey link was sent via Best Friends Animal Society Lifesaving Centers and Network Partners. A total of 321 participants responded between May 10-18, 2020.
- 43% of respondents said this was their FIRST foster experience. For many, the pandemic allowed respondents to work from home and have some extra time on their hands to foster. Most heard about the need for fosters through social media (35%) or their local shelter (27%) or rescue group (24%).
- 79% fostered through Best Friends. The largest percentage fostered cats (49%), followed by dogs (32%), kittens (27%), and puppies (7%). The large majority also had personal pets at home (62% dogs and 71% cats).
- Satisfaction of the foster experience was extremely high, with 75% extremely satisfied and 20% satisfied.
- While 58% say they are unlikely to adopt the animal they are currently fostering, nearly all (95%) have already facilitated the adoption of their foster pet or are comfortable working directly with prospective adopters to do so.
- 80% believe the greatest impact of fostering shelter/rescue animals is the ability to expand a shelter or rescue's capacity to save the lives of homeless pets.
- 90% believe the definition of a successful foster is fostering until the animal is adopted by someone else.
- 82% said they are likely to continue fostering one or more shelter/rescue animals within a year after their community "re-opens". 71% said in the future they would be interested in fostering until the animal is adopted.

These unprecedented times of a pandemic and social distancing has a silver lining when it comes to fostering. With more time at home, many have been able to foster for the first time and they have been extremely satisfied with their experience. These new and existing foster families believe their foster work expands the capacity of shelter and rescued to save more homeless pets. Even though most aren't planning to adopt the animal they are fostering, they are very comfortable helping to facilitate the adoption process (many have already done so). Most say they will continue fostering even when their community "re-opens" and they believe that a success foster is fostering until the animal is adopted by someone else.



Fostering During COVID

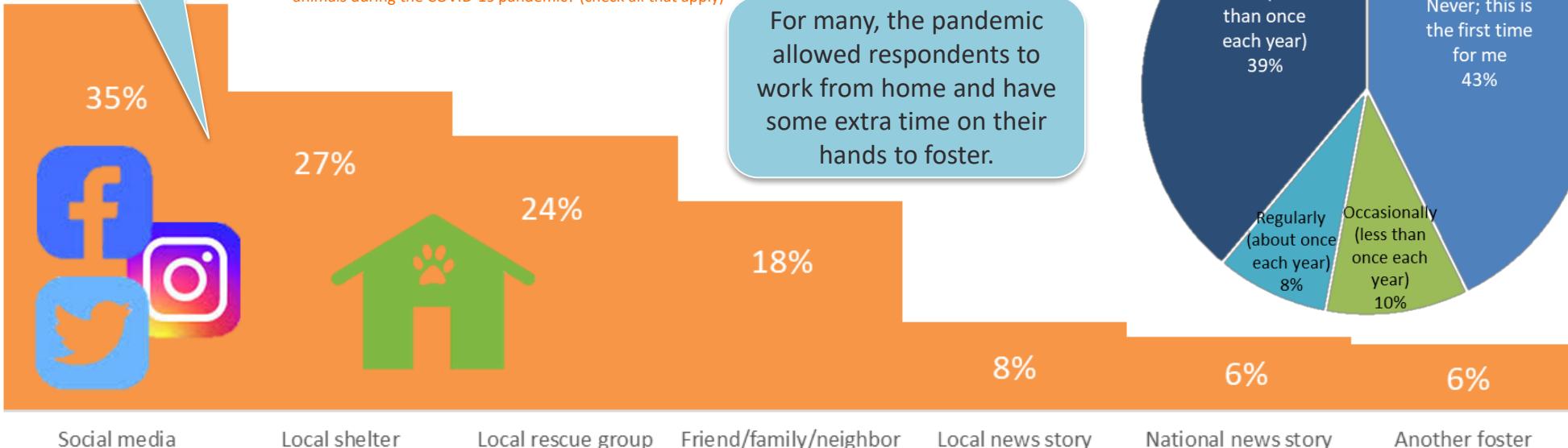
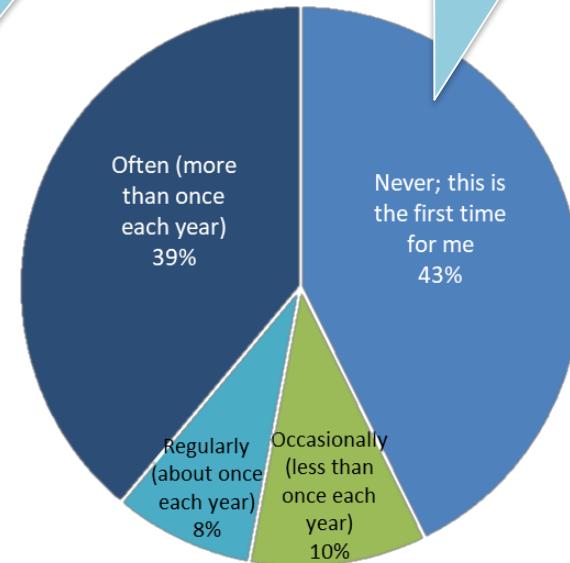
Most heard about the need for foster care from **social media** and their **local shelter / rescue group**



Q: What prompted you to foster one or more shelter/rescue animals during the COVID-19 pandemic? (check all that apply)

This was the **FIRST** fostering experience for **43%** of respondents.

For many, the pandemic allowed respondents to work from home and have some extra time on their hands to foster.



Q: How did you learn about the need for people to provide foster care for shelter/rescue animals during the COVID-19 pandemic? (check all that apply)



Foster Experience

FOSTERS



Q: Which species of animal(s) are you currently fostering? (check all that apply)



Very Satisfied
75%

95% are VERY SATISFIED or SATISFIED with their foster experience!

62% have personal dogs at home and 71% have personal cats at home in addition to their fosters.

Satisfied
20%

Neutral 2%

Unsatisfied 1%

Very Unsatisfied 2%

What do you need from your local shelter/rescue to be successful as a foster for the organization?

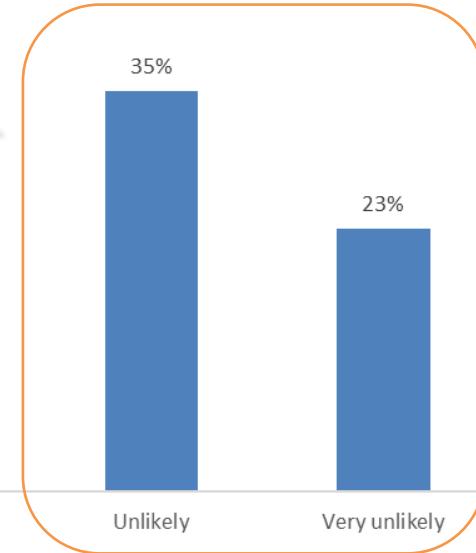
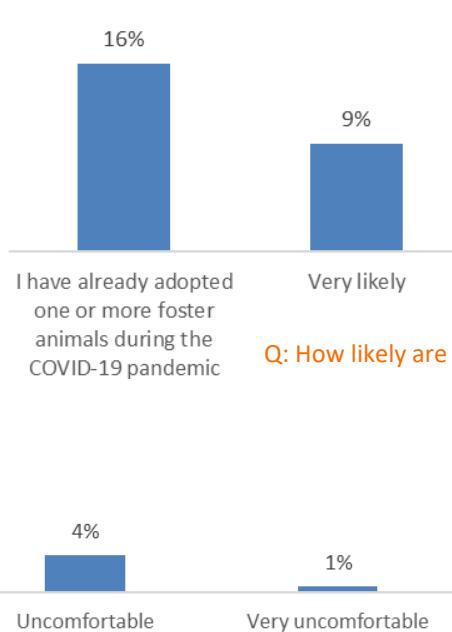
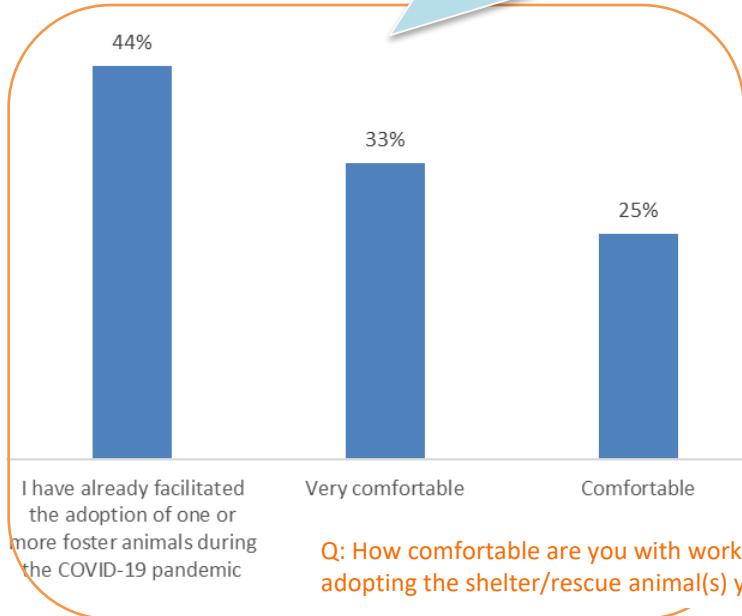
- Good communication!
- Supplies (food, litter).
- Information about animal (background, medical, etc.).
- Guidance on care.
- Access to medical care/support.



Foster to Adopt

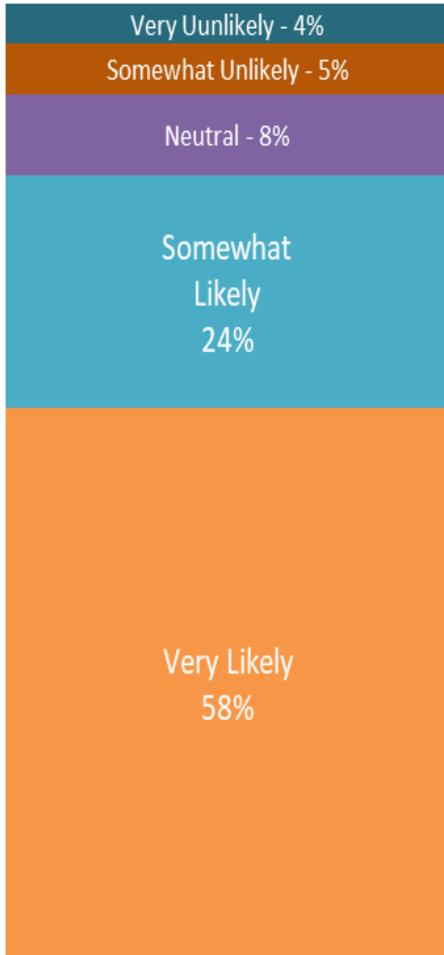
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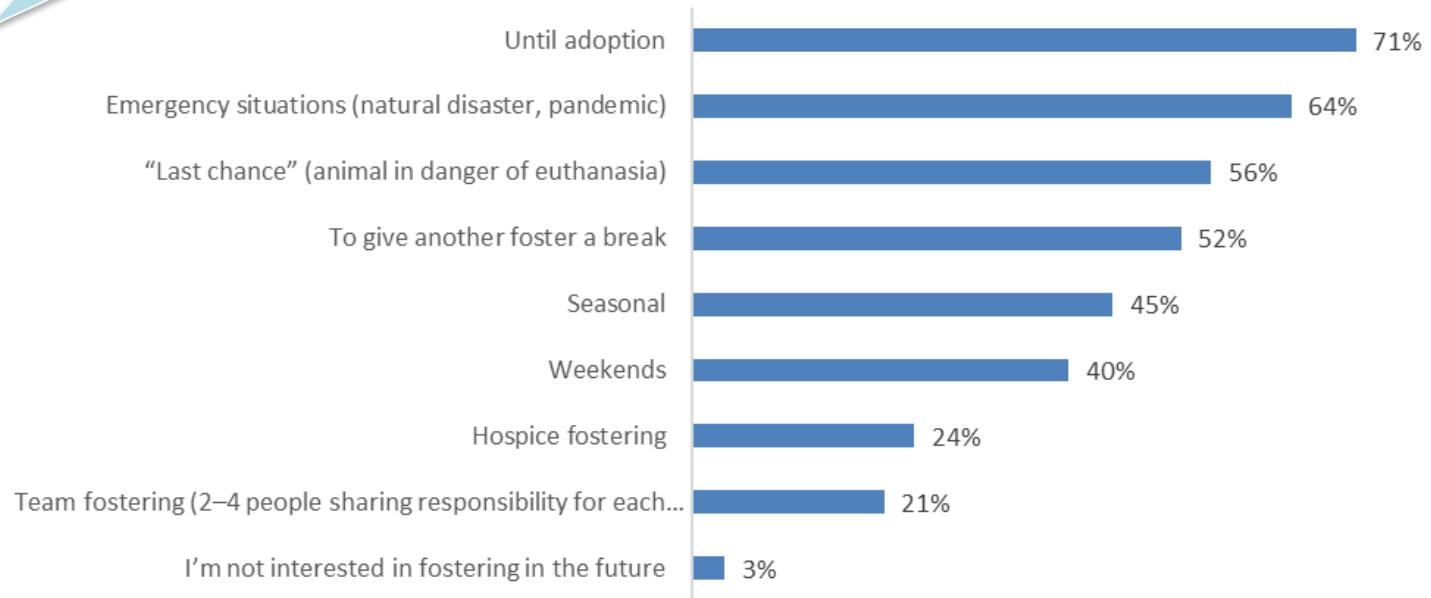
Future Considerations



Q: How likely are you to continue fostering one or more shelter/rescue animals within a year after your community "re-opens"?

82% said they are likely to **continue fostering** one or more shelter/rescue animals within a year after their community "re-opens"

71% said in the future they would be interested in **fostering until the animal is adopted!**



Q: If you were to foster one or more shelter/rescue animals in the future, which type of fostering are you interested in? (check all that apply)



Background, Methodology, Respondent Profiles

The purpose of the survey was to assess fostering perceptions and future behaviors based on foster experiences during the COVID-19 quarantine. A survey link was sent via Best Friends Animal Society Lifesaving Centers and Network Partners. Participants responded between May 10-18, 2020. A total of 321 people responded to the survey.

Which of the following best describes your housing situation?

	Count	%
Own	184	57.5%
Rent	132	41.3%
Live with family, friends	15	4.7%
Prefer not to answer	1	0.3%
Other	5	1.6%

How many people live your home (including yourself)?

	Average
Total in home (including yourself)	2.2
Total in home under age 18	0.5

What is your current employment status?

	Count	%
Working full-time	200	62.5%
Working part-time	30	9.4%
Unemployed	6	1.9%
Retired	22	6.9%
Temporarily underemployed/unemployed due to COVID-19	41	12.8%
Prefer not to answer	2	0.6%
Other	19	5.9%

Please indicate if you or any member of your household is, or has

	Count	%
Animal welfare group	23	8.9%
City or county shelter	11	4.2%
Humane society or SPCA	5	1.9%
Rescue group	11	4.2%
I don't work in the animal welfare/sheltering/rescue fields	203	78.1%
Prefer not to answer	4	1.5%
Other	15	5.8%

What is your age?

	Count	%
18-25	49	15.3%
26-45	171	53.4%
46-65	84	26.3%
66+	14	4.4%
Prefer not to answer	2	0.6%

Which of the following categories best describe(s) your gender

	Count	%
Female	281	87.8%
Male	32	10.0%
Transgender	2	0.6%
Other	1	0.3%
Prefer not to answer	6	1.9%