**Mentor Profile:**

An ideal foster mentor will possess the following traits:

* They have fostered various groups of kittens and have experienced URI, conjunctivitis, failure to thrive, and supplemental feeding. If they have bottle-fed a kitten successfully, then that is a bonus.
* They have fostered regularly for at least one year or more.
* They are calm when faced with adversity. That does not mean that they don’t have emotion but that they can remain composed until the crisis is over.
* They are good with people and pets.
* They can help another foster parent troubleshoot, problem solve, coach, etc., in a manner that is taken as helpful and not bossy.
* They understand the chain of command and know that they must follow it at all times.
* They respect that foster supplies are only for foster cats/kittens and not any other pets.
* They are trustworthy and reliable.
* They are willing to go above and beyond the duties of a regular foster volunteer.
* They have reliable transportation.
* They have the ability to commit to two to five hours per week depending on the time of year.
* They are a good communicator.
* Your veterinarian is comfortable working with them.

Some red flags to watch out for:

* They act like they know as much or more than your vet.
* They challenge your authority or what you know. This will only cause trouble later down the road. They should be supporting you, not tearing you down.
* They don’t communicate well; don’t return calls or emails in a timely fashion.
* They don’t agree with the way the shelter runs the program or believe their way is much better.
* They are non-compliant.
* They do not work well with your vet.
* They take on too many foster parents – this shows that they do not set limits or boundaries and may or will likely burn themselves out. This will leave your foster families without a mentor to support them while a replacement is sought.