



Foster

Updated January 28, 2011

Link to the Mission:

At Animal Humane Society, our mission is *to engage the hearts, hands and minds of the community to help animals*. Volunteers working as fosters provide important support for animals that are currently not suitable for adoption, but with time and/or medical care, will be. Foster volunteers help these animals get that extra time they need in order to be suitable for adoption and find a home.

Qualifications:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Understand & accept Animal Humane Society's philosophies regarding open admissions and humane euthanasia
- Be a homeowner or have consent of property owner/manager to have animals on premises. Residence should include a separate room or area in which foster animals can be confined should they be incompatible with resident pets and to prevent the spread of contagious diseases.
- Any resident pets must be at least 6 months of age to ensure adequate vaccination levels to protect the health of young animals.
- Communicate professionally, as human interaction is a requirement of ALL volunteer roles
- Take and follow direction
- Understand and fulfill all responsibilities of their role independently. Even if families are participating in the foster process, one adult must be designated as the responsible volunteer.
- Read, comprehend and follow detailed policy and protocol information
- Be able to see and interpret animal body language
- Be able to lift and carry up to 20lbs
- With a positive attitude, emotionally manage a role that can be stressful

Time Commitment:

Volunteers are required to make a one-year minimum commitment to foster animals at least 24 days each year.

Responsibilities:

- Complete the volunteer application process, which includes filling out an application, paying an application fee, attending an info session, sitting for a one-on-one interview, attending orientation and training sessions. **This process can take from two weeks to two months, depending on site timing.**
- Generally provide prescribed care for the foster animal, including transporting to and from Animal Humane Society shelters for medical appointments, as necessary.



- Other duties, as requested by the Foster Coordinator.

Accountability:

Accountable primarily to the Foster Coordinator and secondarily to the Volunteer Services Site Coordinator.

Physical and Mental Demands and Working Conditions:Standing/Walking:

Hours per day: 2 to 3

- Volunteers are expected to stand and walk when the animals' needs require. Volunteers may be exposed to extreme weather conditions including but not limited to cold, heat, rain, and snow when walking foster dogs.

Stooping/Bending:

Hours per day: 1 to 2

- Volunteers may have to bend or stoop to clean a kennel, litter box, re-fill water bowls, pick up debris or dog waste. Volunteers may also need to bend to pick up an animal.

Reaching:

Hours per day: 1 to 2

- Volunteers will be expected to reach into kennels above their heads, reach for various supplies needed throughout shift.

Sight/Hearing:

Hours per day: 2 to 3

- Volunteers must be able to see and interpret animal body language, read animals' foster and medical instructions, use email communication, talk to employees.

Lifting/Carrying:

Hours per day: 1 to 2

- Volunteers must be able to lift and carry up to 20 lbs.

General Intelligence:

Hours per day: 2 to 3

- Must be able to learn and comprehend basic and intermediate instructions, protocols, policies.

Motor Coordination Skills:

Hours per day: 2 to 3

- Must be able to coordinate eyes, hands, fingers and make precise movements.

Coordination of Eyes, Hands, and Feet:

Hours per day: 2 to 3

- Must be able to coordinate eyes, hands, and feet in response to visual stimuli.

Verbal Intelligence:

Hours per day: 2 to 3

- Must be able to understand the meanings of words and respond effectively.



Benefits:

Work with adoptable animals in need of help before they can find their final homes. Gain an understanding of animal welfare issues. Discounts on merchandise sold in retail areas, boarding at the Golden Valley site, training classes, euthanasia, and cremation services. After one year or 200 hours of service, 50% off one pet adoption.

Recognition:

Volunteers at Animal Humane Society provide vital work without which we could not operate. Recognition comes in many casual forms and each year volunteers are invited to a special recognition event to especially acknowledge the amazing work done.

Location of Role:

Buffalo, Coon Rapids, Golden Valley, St. Paul, or Woodbury

Contact:

To apply, visit our website at www.animalhumanesociety.org/help/volunteer.

For more information you can contact Volunteer Services at volunteer@animalhumanesociety.org or 763.489.1581.

