

Job Title: Cat Socializer

Purpose of the position:

Cat socialization volunteers help keep our shelter cats happy and healthy by petting, grooming, playing, and spending quiet time with them. This vital time spent with cats helps to reduce their stress, which makes them more adoptable and shortens their length of stay at the shelter.

Supervisor(s):

- Community Engagement Director, Erin Ellis
- Shelter Volunteer and Foster Programs Manager, Samantha Laroche

Volunteers ages:

- 8yr + (volunteers under 16yrs of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian)

Duties and responsibilities:

- Petting, socializing, grooming and sitting in the community cat rooms or in the caged cat room (letting the cats out of the cages to roam around a bit)
- Relaxation exercise called quiet time
- Volunteers must be able to be self-sufficient in the shelter
- Volunteers must adhere to all rules and policies
- Once trained, volunteers are responsible for knowing where cat care items are kept and how to document time spent in the shelter

Training requirements:

- HSTT general orientation
- HSTT cat training

Skills and qualifications:

- Cat handling experience in any capacity is a plus, but HSTT will teach you what is needed to help and how to handle the cats at the shelter

Time commitment required:

- Two hours per month for six months, minimum
- Once trained, volunteers can decide when they would like to come in and work with the cats. We are open to volunteers seven days per week

Dress code required:

- Close-toed, close-heeled shoes
- HSTT provided aprons
- Nametags (issued by HSTT)
- Clothing must cover the volunteer's body appropriately and no offensive images, language or slogans are allowed
- HSTT reserves the right to ask a volunteer to change if the clothing is seen as offensive

- Long pants and long sleeves are recommended for safety

Expectations of volunteers:

- Adhere to all safety requirements discussed in training to ensure the safety of both people and animals
- Act in a courteous manner with staff, fellow volunteers and members of the public at all times
- Interact in a positive, kind, and purposeful manner with all cats
- Refer all questions from the public to the Adoption Specialists
- Be self-sufficient
- Have the ability to read common cat body language
- Any volunteers under the age of 16yrs must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times
- All volunteers, including supervising parents/guardians, must be fully trained in order to socialize with HSTT cats