

## Cat Cuddling Volunteer

### Description:

Cat Cuddlers spend time with our cats by petting, giving treats and toys, and playing. You will help our companion cats feel more comfortable during their stay in the shelter and prepare them for adoption. No experience necessary.

### Objective:

To carry out NOCO Humane's vision, mission, and strategic goals via animal enrichment, training, and delivering animal-specific information to our public that will minimize animals' stay at our shelter and ensure loving homes for the animals in our care.

### Supervision:

Directly reports to the Volunteer Coordinator, Indirectly reports to Behavior Coordinator, Behavior Supervisor, and Shelter Manager. Must be able to self-start and work independently.

### Requirements:

- ☐ Cat Cuddling Volunteers must be at least 16 years of age if volunteering alone
- ☐ Volunteers age 10-15 years may join our Partner-Up Program with a parent or trusted adult who is 18 years or older
- ☐ Volunteers over the age of 18 must complete a national criminal background check and sex offender search
- ☐ Volunteers must complete 8 hours in cleaning & enrichment prep before starting Cat Cuddling training
- ☐ Ability to read animal body language and respond appropriately, as well as maintain a calm and quiet attitude at all times - no loud talking, no agitated or quick movements
- ☐ Read and understand signage in the kennel area and around the shelter
- ☐ Respond quickly and appropriately to verbal instruction and conduct duties without unnecessary disruptions to staff or clients
- ☐ Physical ability to control the animals being worked with

### Working Conditions:

All volunteer work will be performed in the animal shelter setting. There is a potential for exposure to zoonotic diseases and cleaning chemicals, exposure to dangerous and fractious animals, exposure to high noise levels when in kennel area, and a potential for animal bites and scratches while handling animals. Please note that you will be working with and around animals so be aware that clothing may get dirty.

### Physical Activities:

Potential to lift of up to 50 pounds unassisted; kneeling, squatting, bending, walking dogs on a leash, handling animals of all temperaments, animal restraint

### Training:

- ☐ Attend orientation with Volunteer Coordinator
- ☐ Complete 8 hours in cleaning & enrichment prep
- ☐ Complete online training
  - ☐ Fear Free Shelters course
  - ☐ Review cat body language information
  - ☐ Take Google Forms competency quiz
- ☐ Attend hands-on Animal Handling Training

### Duties:

- ☐ Using proper animal handling protocols to interact with cats in their kennels
- ☐ Recording memos about interactions with the cats
- ☐ Notifying NOCO Humane staff of any health and/or behavioral issues noted during interaction with the cats

**Dress Code:**

- ☐ Blue volunteer t-shirt
- ☐ Volunteer Name Tag
- ☐ Closed-toe shoes
- ☐ Pants