



FAQs - Volunteering with NOCO Humane

Why 6 months? / Why 2 hours?

We hold our volunteers to the same standards as staff, which means we want them to be knowledgeable and safe while handling shelter animals, assisting clients, and performing the work that keeps our shelters running every day. We invest a lot of time in training, and a longer-term commitment ensures that our training efforts are worth the time and energy we put into them.

Two-hour shifts tend to be a manageable amount of time, especially for those with busy schedules. We greatly appreciate the gift of our volunteers' time, but also understand that they may not have a lot of it. By asking for 2 hours per week (or 8 hours per month at our Weld campus), we can get the help we need without asking for more than volunteers can give.

If you are unable to commit to a 2 hour shift per week for 6 months, check out our [Single Day Community Service](#) options.

Can I come in more than 2 hours/week?

Absolutely! Volunteered time is your donated time, and you are welcome to give as much of it as you would like. We ask that you check with Volunteer staff first, as some positions have limited time blocks.

I can't do a regular weekly shift, can I still volunteer?

Time requirements depend on the position. Some positions rely heavily on consistency, and we expect that those volunteers come in at the same time each week. Some can be more flexible; please check with Volunteer staff to discuss which opportunities might suit you and your schedule best.

Can I earn Community Service hours as a regular volunteer?

We are happy to verify hours earned volunteering with us, however we prefer that volunteers do not sign up for our regular program solely to earn Community Service hours. We invest a lot of time and effort into training our volunteers, and we don't want our volunteers to view this opportunity as simply a means to an end.

We do have elective and court-mandated [Single Day Community Service](#) opportunities, however, please note that Community Service volunteers do not handle animals, as they do not receive the same training as regular volunteers.

Why do you need a background check?

We work around vulnerable populations (animals and children), and we want to ensure that everyone representing NOCO Humane has been vetted for serious infractions.

We cannot accept felony charges related to violence, sexual abuse, animal abuse, or narcotics. Other charges will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis; we understand that everyone's

situation is unique, and we support those looking to better themselves by seeking opportunities with us.

Do you have anything for kids under 10?

Unfortunately, not at this time due to safety concerns. You may check back with us in the future, as our program is always evolving to meet the shelter's needs! For now, we have opportunities in our [Humane Education](#) department and ideas for different ways kids can help out at home on our [Youth Opportunities](#) page.

What if the role I want isn't accepting new volunteers?

You are welcome to take on a different role and cross-train at a later time if/when a spot opens up. We have many different opportunities to choose from at all of our campuses, but if none of them feel like the right fit for you, we encourage checking out our [Youth Opportunities](#) page for ideas on how you can help in other ways.

Why are there so many steps?

We hold our volunteers to the same standards as staff, which means we want them to be knowledgeable and safe while handling shelter animals, assisting clients, and performing the work that keeps our shelters running every day. Our high training standards require a somewhat extensive process, but we find that our volunteers feel safe, confident, and informed in their roles once they've completed training.

Can I just come in and walk some dogs?

Unfortunately, no. Dogs in animal shelters often behave much differently than they would in a home, and our dog walking volunteers are trained in both the handling of shelter animals and in our shelters' specific protocols. While we appreciate how many experienced dog owners and dog lovers are willing to give us their help, we ask that they commit to volunteering and undergo our training first.

Do you have a program where kids can read to the animals?

Not at this time, but feel free to check in with us for future opportunities!

Do you facilitate dog field trips?

Not at this time, but feel free to check in with us for future opportunities!