

Conway Area Humane Society Youth Volunteer Program

Conway Area Humane Society recognizes and values the importance that animals play in the lives of children. We strive to protect and nurture the love of animals that is naturally present in most children by giving them the opportunity to be around animals and to help animals in need. CAHS' Youth Volunteer Program has two guiding principles: kindness and safety. To ensure the safety of both the children and animals involved in the Youth Volunteer Program, certain ages of children have limitations as to which volunteer roles they can perform. Nevertheless, all the CAHS volunteer roles are very important to improving the lives of the homeless animals in our care. The following list includes the direct animal exposure roles that may be allowed for each age group, though CAHS reserves the right to determine if a particular child is ready for a specific volunteer role, regardless of the child's age. These determinations are made based on the safety of everyone involved, minimizing stress levels for the animals and maximizing the efficiency of staff persons' time. Children may need to earn the privilege to do certain tasks by successfully completing a certain number of volunteer hours.

Fuzzy Tails Program (ages 3-9)

-Volunteers ages 3-9 can spend time in the cat room with a supervising parent, guardian or other approved adult over the age of 18. --Children under the age of 10 can pet cats only while a parent holds the cat or the cat is on the floor with a parent helping. These children can also do the following with the cats: read to them, tell them stories, talk to them and sing to them. They can also photograph, draw or write about the animals and then share/distribute this in the community to help increase the likelihood of the animals getting adopted. Roles other than direct animal care are also available (see Additional Youth Volunteer sheet). -The adult must fill out a volunteer application, sign a liability waiver for themselves, and directly supervise the child at all times. One adult cannot supervise more than 2 children at a time. - A parent or guardian must sign a liability waiver for the child. -The Volunteer Coordinator will meet with the child and adult and do a reference check on the adult. -The child and supervising adult will then do a general orientation with the Volunteer Coordinator and do any required training with animal care staff.

Volunteers Ages 10-13

-Volunteers ages 10- 13 can do everything the children in the Fuzzy Tails Program can do plus handle specific cats themselves with a supervising parent, guardian or other approved adult over the age of 18. -The supervising adult must fill out a volunteer application and sign a liability waiver for themselves. -A parent or guardian must sign a liability waiver for the child. -The Volunteer Coordinator will meet with the child and adult and do reference checks. -The child and supervising adult will then do a general orientation with the Volunteer Coordinator and will complete any required training with an animal care staff person.

Volunteers Ages 14 and 15

-Volunteers ages 14 and 15 can do everything the children ages 10-13 can do plus walk specific dogs with a supervising parent, guardian or other approved adult over the age of 18 holding the dog's leash. They can also volunteer in the cat room without one-on-one supervision and can help do cleaning, laundry, dishes, etc. -If the child is going to assist in dog walking, the supervising adult must fill out a volunteer application and liability waiver for themselves.

-The child must fill out a volunteer application. -A parent or guardian must sign a liability waiver for the child and also fill out the Youth Employment Certificate (this is required by the NH Department of Labor for 14 and 15 year old volunteers). -The Volunteer Coordinator will meet with the child and parent and do reference checks. -The child and supervising adult will then do a general orientation with the Volunteer Coordinator and will complete any required training with an animal care staff person.

Volunteers Ages 16 and 17

-Volunteers ages 16 and 17 can do everything children ages 14 and 15 can do plus walk specific dogs on the shelter grounds near the building without one-on-one supervision. They may also be able to walk dogs on the trails near the shelter if paired up with another volunteer. -The child must fill out a volunteer application. -A parent must sign a liability waiver for the child and also fill out the Parental Permission Form (this is required by the NH Labor Department for 16 and 17 year old volunteers). -The Volunteer Coordinator will meet with the minor and parent and do a reference check. -The minor will then do a general orientation with the Volunteer Coordinator and will complete any required training with an animal care staff person

Volunteer Roles for All Ages

Help Raise Donations for the Homeless Animals at CAHS

- Have a bake sale
- Set up a lemonade stand
- Hold a coin drive
- Have a car wash
- Have a garage/yard sale
- Do other jobs (like stacking wood, shoveling snow, babysitting, yard work and petsitting) and donate a portion of your pay to the shelter
- For your birthday or other holidays, ask for donations of money, food or other supplies to the shelter
- Host a dog and/or cat toy making party (ask us for approved types/materials)

Help Shelter Animals Get Adopted

- Make a list of possible names for incoming shelter animals
- Set up a display table or bulletin board around town with our adoptable animals on it
- Share our adoptable animal posts on social media (or ask your parents to do so)
- Ask your parents to take you and a shelter dog out in the community (with staff approval) to be seen
- If your parents are willing to help/be responsible, consider fostering a shelter animal in your home

Advocate for/Educate about Animal Issues

- Learn about proposed animal related laws and contact our state legislators about them
- Set up an educational outreach table at community locations/events
- Ask your school if you can customize one of its bulletin boards with animal issue photos/information
- Start a club at your school for kids who love animals
- Ask your art teacher if one of the year's art projects can be about animals
- Ask your writing teacher if one of the year's assignments can be about animals
- Learn as much as you can about animals and issues related to them
- Talk to your friends, relatives and neighbors about animal issues and the humane society
- Write a letter or article for the local newspaper or your school newsletter about animals
- Attend Conway Area Humane Society's educational events in their Community Room

