



Willamette Humane Society - Volunteer Role Description

Enrichment Team (E-Team) Volunteer

Availability: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM and 2:00 - 4:00 PM every day.

Purpose of the Role:

Enrichment provides sensory, social, mental, food, and physical enrichment to dogs and cats at WHS to enhance shelter pets' overall wellbeing. The E-Team goal is to ensure that every animal at WHS gets enrichment at least twice a day and seven days a week and will have three essential components: Through the Bars, Beyond the Bars, and the Creative Team.

- **Through the Bars:** enrichment involves sight, sound, touch, scent, and taste items being presented to each dog and cat in every kennel area with volunteers standing outside the kennel.
- **Beyond the Bars:** provides physical, social, & mental enrichment outside of the kennels. Daily outdoor or indoor physical activity such as agility, parkour, fetch, pool time, scent trails, bubbles, training, obstacle course, brushing, petting, etc.
- **Creative Team:** makes craft items like socks, t-shirts, crinkle toys, and mobiles for the animals during monthly team meetings and at home.

This volunteer role has a lot of animal contact. Unlike many dogs and cats belonging to volunteers, many of the animals at WHS have had little to no training or interaction with people. This lack of training and socialization, in addition to their possible large size, makes many of our dogs and cats challenging to handle and control.

Volunteer Role Location:

In the dog and cat kennel areas, suites, visitation rooms, and outside around the property.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- Model and communicate appropriate, rewards-based, fear-free handling skills following shelter standards and protocols.
- Provide out of kennel socialization and training periods to dogs and cats.
- Coordinate the physical manipulation of the kennel door, control the animal's movements, and be aware of your safety.
- Pick up after the animals, including scooping poop, cleaning up vomit, disposing of dangerous toys or bedding.
- Report any health concerns to staff via our communication binder, including but not limited to; diarrhea, vomiting, lethargy, blood in stool or urine, coughing, sneezing, lameness, and negative behaviors.
- Help track the enrichment program's success by checking off the sense item used and writing down any supplies that need replenishing.
- Craft dog and cat toys using materials and instructions provided by a volunteer peer leader or Behavior & Training point of contact.

Last Updated: [8/2/2021]

Updated by: CJ

Time Commitment:

- Enriching our animals is a high commitment volunteer job. E-Team members must commit to a regular two-hour per week schedule.
- E-Team Shifts are available all days of the week from 10am-12pm and 2-4pm

Qualifications and Requirements:

- Ability to receive program instructions via email.
- This position requires a tolerance for loud noises for dog enrichment.
- Ability to stand and walk for extended periods.
- Must use proficient, reward-based, and fear-free animal handling skills.
- Requires bending, stooping, and lifting.
- Must be able to deal with a wide variety of dog and cat behavior.
- Ability to work directly with animal wastes, potentially harmful cleaners, disinfectants, high noise, and potentially hazardous conditions, including the risk of animal bites and zoonotic diseases.
- Must be 16 years of age or older, or 12 to 15 accompanied by an adult.

Dress Code:

- Closed-toed shoes and socks
- Pants free of rips, tears, or stains that cover and protect skin
- Willamette Humane Society volunteer apron
- Willamette Humane Society volunteer name tag

Benefits:

- The volunteers will gain valuable hands-on experience with both dogs and cats.
- The volunteers will gain knowledge of dog and cat body language.
- Volunteers will collaborate with staff and other volunteers to improve the shelter enrichment programs.

WHS is dedicated to establishing, maintaining, and enhancing the bond between companion animals and people of Marion and Polk counties. For more information on volunteering, visit the [volunteer Facebook page](#), join our [monthly newsletter](#), or email volunteer@whs4pets.org.

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