



## INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING / ADOPTING / FOSTERING

### VOLUNTEERING

#### Why Do We Need Volunteers?

Each year the Greenville County Animal Care helps thousands of homeless, sick, abused, and neglected animals. Every single animal in our care deserves and receives medical attention, food, shelter, care, and love. It would be impossible for us to do this without volunteers.

Volunteers are a vital part of our everyday operations. They help with:

- Walking and socializing dogs
- Caring for cats and kittens
- Helping with adoptions and special events
- Providing post-surgical care in our spay/neuter clinic
- Assisting community members with animal resources / intake prevention / adoption follow-up
- Administrative projects and tasks
- Many other needs



#### The Basics of Volunteering:

All Volunteers must be 18 years old, or older. If under 18, please have a look at our Education page for further opportunities!

- We will accept Volunteers who need hours for their college, workplace, or military community service requirements.
- Sorry, but we do NOT accept volunteers who need court-ordered community service hours.
- Not all positions are available at all times, so there may be a waiting period. Often this is based on the season. Please be patient so that we can do the most for the animals in our care and find them homes – our primary mission.
- We are primarily looking for Volunteers who can commit to a long-term schedule.
- Most positions require additional training after the initial Volunteer Orientation.
- All volunteers will have an interview for job placement.
- The training and scheduling helps ensure you get the most out of your volunteer time, while also making sure the animals find homes and get the care and love they deserve!

#### Get Started: Come to a Volunteer Orientation:

The Volunteer Orientation is the **required** first step for all volunteers. Orientations are held at the shelter, and will include completion of a Volunteer Application, information about Greenville County Animal Care and the possible jobs available to you, and a tour of the shelter. Most Volunteers are then interviewed and placed in their new position within one week. (Sorry, there are no walk-in volunteer positions. All volunteers must attend a training orientation.)

#### If you have any questions about the Volunteer Services Program:

Contact Brent Mead. Email: [bmead@greenvillecounty.org](mailto:bmead@greenvillecounty.org)

Phone: (864) 467-3987

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## ADOPTING AN ANIMAL

### Come Adopt an Awesome Pet Today

**Greenville County Animal Care has some awesome dogs and cats to choose from!** Come find your new best friends and save a life at the same time. Please make room for one more — let's send a message to the world.

We're open 6-days a week, except for some holidays.

Visit us at 328 Furman Hall Road to "Find Your Soul Pet" today!

Or call and speak to one of our animal guardians about any questions you may have.

### Adoption Center

(864) 467-3985

Weekdays: Noon – 7pm

Saturday: 11:00 – 6pm

There are lots of things to prepare before you bring your new pet home from Greenville County Animal Care. The good news is we can walk you through all of the steps. Plus, we have everything you need from leashes to crates, to food bowls at our store. Here is a [great article to read from the ASPCA](#) on getting ready for your new arrival!

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## FOSTERING ANIMALS FOR ADOPTION

### Come Learn to Foster!

Please email our foster care coordinators:

[fosterapet@greenvillecounty.org](mailto:fosterapet@greenvillecounty.org)

### What Kind of Animals Need Foster Homes?



Many people wonder what kinds of animals need foster homes— the answer is ALL kinds of animals. Here is a short list of some of the more typical needs:

- Puppies or kittens too young to be adopted.
  - An abused pet that needs socialization and tender loving care.
  - An injured dog or cat recovering from surgery.
  - A dog or cat with a cold or cough.
- A dog or cat recovering from a treatable medical condition.
  - An abandoned mother with a litter of kittens or puppies.
  - Any animal when the shelter becomes overcrowded.

## Time Commitment and Responsibilities



We will be with you every step of the way– to answer your questions and offer support. We also provide veterinary care, food and other equipment you will need. Your commitment and responsibilities depend on the situation and animal. Animals going into foster care will at first be a little nervous and stressed. The animals will depend on foster parents for guidance through this adjustment period. We are always here to take your phone calls, or see you in person for support.

Here is a list of some of the typical time commitments for different animals:

- Weaned Kittens: 1-3 weeks, 2 hours/day
- Kittens with Mom: 2-8 weeks, 1-2 hours/day
- Injured Cats: 1 week – 2 months, 1-2 hours/day
- Dogs with cold: 1-3 weeks, 2-3 hours/day
- Injured Dogs: 1 week – 2 months / 3-6 hours/day
- Orphaned Puppies or Kittens: 6-8 weeks / 8 hours/day

## How Do Pets in Foster Care Get Adopted?



All foster parents are encouraged to promote the adoption of their foster pets to friends, family and other potential adopters. Foster animals never have to go back to the shelter for long periods of time, other than for spay/neuter surgery. They can be adopted straight from the foster parents' homes in many cases. When your foster animal is transferred back to the shelter for adoption, we love to get any photos, stories or children's' drawings about your foster animal, so we can share with the new adopter. One more thing: **foster families are allowed to adopt their foster animal.**

## How Hard is it to Say Goodbye?



Many people are hesitant to become foster parents, because they worry they won't be able to let the dog or cat go, once it is healthy enough for adoption. While saying goodbye is never easy, veteran foster families tell us that when you think of how many lives you are saving by offering your home and support to animals who would have had to stay in the shelter– it makes saying goodbye a happier experience. One of our families, who keeps kittens, estimates they save about 100 lives every year! That should bring a smile to everyone's face.

## Any Risk to My Dog or Cat at Home?

Anytime an animal is exposed to another animal, whether at a dog park, a vet's office or a friend's home, there is always a health risk. But if a foster family's animals are current on their vaccinations, maintain a healthy diet and lifestyle and are not elderly or very young– then any health risk is minimal. Proper hygiene and preventative measures will reduce the risk of disease. Before you foster, be sure to ask any questions you have on your mind. We will also have a booklet for you to take home as a reference guide.

