



INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING / ADOPTING / FOSTERING

VOLUNTEERING

Why Do We Need Volunteers?

Each year the Charleston Animal Society 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 at Charleston Animal Society:

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 CAS 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.)

How to Register: To sign up for an orientation, [Click Here](#) We use “Volunteer Spot” for orientations and other volunteer opportunities. You will be required to enter your e-mail address to sign up, but we will use it for no other purpose.

If you have any questions about the Volunteer Services Program:

Contact Steve O’Brien, our Director of Volunteers and Emergency Services.

Email: sobrien@charlestonanimalsociety.org

Phone: (843) 329-1558



ADOPTING AN ANIMAL

Come Adopt an Awesome Pet Today

Charleston Animal Society 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 7-days a week, except for some holidays.
Visit us at 2455 Remount 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

843-747-4849

Weekdays: Noon – 5pm

Weekends: 10am – 5pm

There are lots of things to prepare before you bring your new pet home from Charleston Animal Society. 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 Charleston Animal Society store. Here is a [great article to read from the ASPCA](#) on getting ready for your new arrival!

FOSTERING ANIMALS FOR ADOPTION

Come Learn to Foster!

Join us for one of our upcoming foster orientations. We promise, it will be fun. We will give you all of the information and supplies you need to save lives!

All orientations are held at Charleston Animal Society. RSVP at Foster@CharlestonAnimalSociety.org or call (843) 329-1543.

Please call or email our foster care coordinators:

Jodi Osborne: (843) 329-1543
josborne@CharlestonAnimalSociety.org

Christina Ellwood: (843) 329-1543
cellwood@CharlestonAnimalSociety.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.



Animal Resource Center

www.charlestonanimalsociety.org/GetPetHelp