



VALDEZ ANIMAL SHELTER

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

**City of Valdez
Valdez Animal Shelter
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Valdez, AK 99686
(907)-835-2286**

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OUR PURPOSE
To enhance the well-being of the animals in the shelter we strive to provide a loving, healthy and humane lifestyle. With a mission to improve animals lives with compassion and proper care.

Thank you for your interest in volunteering at the Valdez Animal Shelter. We are happy to have new volunteers join our program. Keep in mind, everyone wants to volunteer to play with the animals, but we are looking at the bigger picture.

The time and attention that our volunteers spend with animals helps keep the animals well-socialized and better able to present themselves when people come looking for a pet to adopt. In turn, this helps the animals find good homes.

What to expect

Along with socializing the animals, we also need help in other areas of the shelter to keep up with the daily chaos or cleaning. Light cleaning would include washing dishes, vacuuming hair, doing laundry, etc. Sometimes we also need help cleaning small animal cages or cat litter boxes, and occasionally scooping poop. Helping Animal Shelter Staff with cleaning duties relieves staff of some cleaning burdens, which in turns gives them more time to be able dedicate to the animals themselves.

Volunteers work under the guidance of the Shelter Attendant on duty, the Shelter Manager or Animal Control Officer. A member of the shelter staff will always be available to assist you should a question or concern arise. All volunteer opportunities are encouraged in any way you can help because it helps the big picture of giving more time to the animals. There are some limitations depending on which level experience within our program you have completed.

Volunteer are required to come appropriately dressed. Clothing requirements are **non-slip closed toed shoes** [no flip flops or crocs] for safety measures. Be prepared to walk outside and **dress appropriately for the weather**. Due to animals climbing or jumping **long pants** are a must. Tank tops are not acceptable shirts to wear when volunteering, so please wear conservative shirts with no inappropriate wording or slang.

Being a volunteer is a commitment. **We will be requiring minimum of 8 hour commitment be completed within 3 months of signing up to be a volunteer.** After the 8 hours are complete it is flexible on how many hours you would like to schedule and how far you would like to excel in our volunteer program.

Volunteers must be at least 16 years old to volunteer. If you are under the age of 18, you must also have a guardian sign your volunteer agreement.

Volunteers need to come in as a single person not in groups, or with children. Children are not permitted to come with a volunteer.

Volunteer time needs to be scheduled ahead to prevent too many people in the building at one time.

Frequently Asked Questions

How old do I have to be to volunteer?

16 years old with signed permission of parent or guardian.

Do I get to play with dogs?

Yes! We prefer to start out new volunteers in a room to socialize animals outside of their cage. The dogs sure enjoy the company. Be prepared for lots of hugs and kisses from furry friends.

How do I know when to volunteer?

Volunteers must schedule themselves and must call ahead to schedule time and let staff members know when to expect a volunteer. Online scheduling will be available in the future just not at this current time.

Can I walk dogs off property or around town?

Not at first, you must complete the first level of our volunteer program before this privilege. Also each dog requires staff approval before walking off property. Staff must decide based on dog's behavior [reactive, under socialized, fearful, or not up to date on shots]

Can I bring my children to volunteer with me?

No, it is too much risk for small children getting hurt, scratched or bit. **Each volunteer must be over 16** and must have a volunteer application completed on file.

Can I bring my friend to volunteer with me?

Due to Covid-19 precautions currently we would prefer if volunteers came alone during their volunteering time. This may change when Covid-19 restrictions change. Until then please come alone.

Do I have to clean stinky things?

Yes, but not always. Volunteer time is usually split up with some dirty and some fun animal time. Animals do have accidents, and when it happens please clean it up right away.

Will I get bitten or scratched?

There is always the chance, when working with animals, that a scratch or bite may occur. Following our routine procedures for safe handling of animals will help to minimize this possibility. We strongly suggest that you only work with animals you feel completely comfortable with.

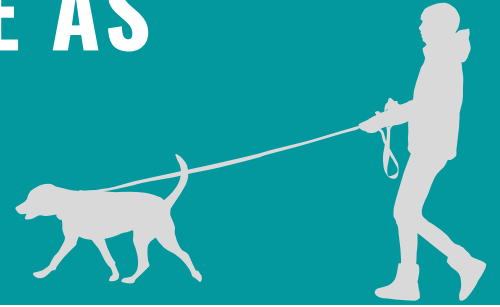
Can I bring home diseases or infections to my pets?

We encourage all volunteers to keep their own pets up to date on vaccination. Using common sense "infection control," such as washing your hands thoroughly with antibacterial soap and water, or using hand sanitizer, at the Shelter after handling each animal and before you go home, will help protect you and the animals. Wearing old clothes and removing them on your return home gives an added protection.

Can I take an animal home with me temporarily that is not adopted?

Yes & No. We do have a foster program for animals that need a little "extra help". Please sign up if interested! The Animal Shelter Manager chooses which animals may need foster help. Not all animals will be available for the foster program only ones that are extra stressed in a shelter setting, or need medical care. Signing up for the foster program will keep you in the loop for which animals need foster homes.

HOW TO ADVANCE AS A VOLUNTEER



Level 1 BEGINNER



- Basic pet care duties
- Socialize/ Playtime with pets indoors
- Light cleaning duties such as wash dishes/ laundry help
- Dog walking on property only (Staff approved dogs)

10 hours minimum required volunteer time working with dogs before walking dogs OFF property



Level 2 INDEPENDENT

Minimum of 5 hours of ANY volunteer time must be completed before advancing to Cat Level 2

Minimum of 10 hours of DOG volunteer time must be completed before advancing to Dog Level 2

Cat Level 2

- Extra Help with Cat Care such as cleaning and feeding
- Basic Grooming Care
- Kitten socialization time



Dog Level 2

- Enjoy off property dog walks such as dog park, bike paths, hiking trails
- Learn positive training techniques
- Advanced grooming, Bathing Dogs

20 Hours total volunteer time, including completion of dog Level 2 required for to advance to Level 3

Level 3 ADVANCED COMBO

Comfortable with all volunteer duties with cats, dogs, and small animals. May help staff with other assignments around the shelter such as training new volunteers, events, after hours related help.

Shelter Volunteer Application

Please complete all of the following sections:

Volunteer Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s) Cell: _____ Home: _____

Occupation: _____

Employer's Name: _____

Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

Have you ever adopted an animal from our shelter? Yes No

What kind of animal: _____

When: _____

Do you still have this animal? Yes No

If not, why? _____

In case of an emergency, whom should we contact:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Parent/ Gaurdian Form

Volunteers Under 18

Volunteers must be at least 16 years of age to volunteer

Please complete all of the following sections:

Parent (1) or Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s) Cell: _____ Home: _____

Employer's Name: _____

Parent (2) or Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s) Cell: _____ Home: _____

Employer's Name: _____

In case of an emergency, whom should we contact:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Volunteer Liability Waiver

I, the undersigned, wish to participate as a volunteer with the Valdez Animal Shelter (hereafter referred to as VAS). As a volunteer, I understand that there is a potential risk involved while participating in events. I understand that VAS makes every attempt at temperament testing and choosing well socialized dogs and cats to bring into the program, however animals can be very unpredictable. I understand that the VAS, staff members, volunteers, foster families and affiliates are not responsible for the behavior, response, or action of any animal in any given situation. As a volunteer I will follow every safety precaution to keep myself, the animals, and others safe. I understand that I handle all animals at my own risk. I also understand that I volunteer and participate in events at my own risk.

I voluntarily and knowingly sign this waiver, releasing the VAS, and its staff members, volunteers, foster families and affiliates of any and all liability, expense, damage, loss or cost as a result of any claim brought against the VAS whether as a result of negligence, willful action or recklessness. I will not hold VAS liable for any emotional, physical, personal, or property damage suffered while volunteering, both directly and/or indirectly.

All volunteers will undergo a preliminary background check.

Initial any of the following that apply:

____ I certify that I am of at least eighteen (18) years old and sign this waiver of my own free will.

____ I certify that I am between the ages of sixteen (16) and eighteen (18) years old, and a parent or legal guardian has read the agreement and signed below on my behalf.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

If volunteer is under the age of eighteen (18), the signature of the volunteer's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) is required before participation is allowed. We cannot accept volunteers younger than the age of sixteen (16). By signing this waiver agreement, you hereby release any and all liability and/or claims against the VAS, its staff members, volunteers, foster families and affiliates.

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date