

Critical Care Cat Volunteer Volunteer Position

DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this role is to provide support to the most vulnerable and medically critical cats at APA!, the cats and kittens in our Isolation Wards. Volunteers in this role help tend to medical, behavioral, and emotional needs of sick/injured cats and support operations inside the feline isolation units.

WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

This position reports to the Cat Program Manager.

This position will be required to maintain positive relationships with the staff and other volunteers. This position will work with Cat Care Specialists, Cat Program management, and clinic personnel.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Work closely with Cat Care Specialists to ensure the physical, medical, and behavioral needs are met for cats in isolation areas.
- At all times adhere to direction of staff and follow protocols including safe cat handling and disease control measures.
- Assist in feeding, cleaning, medicating, evaluating, and socializing the cats inside isolation areas.
- Provide enrichment and socialization to cats inside isolation areas, ensuring optimal emotional well-being.
- Assist in keeping isolation areas clean and hygienic per disease management protocols.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Completed APA volunteer orientation
- Current cattery volunteer
- Strong work ethic and the desire to work as part of a team
- Commitment to maintain positive communication with all APA staff and volunteers
- Able to work with animals carrying zoonotic illness
- Able or willing to learn medicating cats including oral, topical, injectable, eye, and/or ear medications; able or willing to learn syringe feeding; weighing cats; tracking and recording pertinent health or behavior notes
- Must handle all cats with kindness and compassion at all times, without exception
- Willing to work amongst cats of unknown or challenging temperaments

EXPECTATIONS

- As cats housed in our isolation wards are the most critical in health, there are rare but unfortunate times when a cat will pass or must be euthanized when all lifesaving efforts have been exhausted. Volunteers in isolation areas should be aware of this possibility.
- Contribute to the success of Austin Pets Alive! by leading a team through coordinating volunteers, resolving issues, communicating with staff and other team leads to get problems resolved and questions answered.
- Represent Austin Pets Alive! and lead in a polite, responsible, motivational and professional manner.
- Share and promote the culture, purpose, and objectives of APA! internally and publicly.

- Demonstrate respect and kindness towards our animals, staff, clients, donors, and other volunteers, treating each other with courtesy, sensitivity, tact, consideration, and humility.
- Value our role in ensuring the safety of each other, the animals, and the community.
- Recognize and congratulate the achievements of others.
- Endeavor to balance organizational and individual needs.
- Follow all procedures and protocols to the best of our ability at all times, promoting healthy and safe work practices during volunteer projects and training.
- Be an active volunteer, using MyVolunteerPage to regularly record hours.
- Represent team concerns, challenges and wins by communicating leadership meeting items with team members. Always share feedback or concerns in a respectable manner.
- Create a culture of civility within your team by refraining/discouraging gossip, negative speak about individuals or the organization, and general negative attitudes.
- Must embody APA!'s core values of innovation, respect, drive, resourcefulness, and inclusion
- Commitment to APA!'s customer experience expectations
- Willing and committed to working well with volunteers and staff in all roles
- All volunteers are expected to uphold by APA!'s Core Values when present on grounds and representing APA! publicly.

TIME COMMITMENT

Flexible four (4) hour shifts available seven (7) days per week between 7am - 8pm.

We require a commitment of one shift per week as this position will receive advanced training by staff members.

Please note, all volunteer positions are unpaid and do not qualify for employee benefits.