



# Winnebago County Animal Services Auxiliary

NEW VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION



Thank you wanting to volunteer!

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First let us tell you a little about our organization and how volunteers can help us save more lives.

NEW VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

# Winnebago County Animal Services Vision

- ▶ Winnebago County Animal Services is a respected community leader and credible resource for the care and protection of animals and people in Winnebago County.

# Winnebago County Animal Services

## Mission

- ▶ We will professionally and compassionately provide our community with humane shelter care, rabies control, enforcement of animal laws, adoption services and the promotion of responsible pet ownership.

# Winnebago County Animal Services Goals

- ▶ Customer service excellence
- ▶ Motivated, knowledgeable workforce
- ▶ Effective organizational practices
- ▶ Community Collaboration Fiscal responsibility

# WCAS – Adoptions, Transfers and Euthanasia

- ▶ As an open admission shelter, WCAS accepts all companion animals regardless of health, behavior, or space available, with no limitation.
- ▶ All animals are given a series of tests or observed for their health and behavior to determine if they are able to go up for adoption
- ▶ WCAS works with over 200 rescue groups and many fosters to provide opportunities for animals to be transferred if necessary
- ▶ Unfortunately, some animals have to be euthanized due to their health, behavior, etc.

# National Statistics

- ▶ Approximately 6.5 million companion animals enter U.S. animal shelters nationwide every year, a decline from approximately 7.2 million in 2011.
- ▶ Approximately 3.2 million cat and dogs are adopted each year.
- ▶ About 710,000 animals who enter shelters as strays are returned to their owners. Of those, 620,000 are dogs and only 90,000 are cats.
- ▶ Since 2011 the increase in pet adoption and animals successfully returned to their owners has resulted in less animals being euthanized in US shelters.



# How Volunteers Can Help

- ▶ The animals enjoy the attention and exercise from our volunteers who provide extra love and support.
- ▶ Volunteers also spend extra time with visitors to educate them about animals for adoption, as well as programs and services.
- ▶ Community events and education programs can be expanded with volunteer support.
- ▶ Fundraising through the Winnebago County Animal Services Auxiliary (WCASA) helps Animal Services save more lives.

# What is the Winnebago County Animal Services Auxiliary?

- ▶ A non-for-profit group of animal-concerned citizens that work towards making a difference for the animals while under the care of Winnebago County Animal Services.
- ▶ WCASA strength comes from aggressive fundraising and volunteerism. The success of the Auxiliary is a direct reflection of the power and spirit of its volunteers.

# WCASA Mission

- ▶ The Mission of the Volunteer Auxiliary is to support the animals under the care of Winnebago County Animal Services. The mission is completed by:
  - ▶ Assisting in adoption opportunities
  - ▶ Providing funding for animals that need medical assistance
  - ▶ Socialization of the animals
  - ▶ Raising public awareness of responsible pet ownership
  - ▶ Providing education on the importance of spaying and neutering your pet

# How can we make this happen?

- ▶ Fundraising events throughout the year
- ▶ Working with staff at outside adoption events
- ▶ Supporting the outside cat adoption facilities at the Machesney Park PetSmart
- ▶ Working shifts in the Cat and Dog rooms
- ▶ Having dedicated volunteers to do all of this!

# Assisting at the Shelter

- ▶ Interact with the public and help with questions about the adoption process
- ▶ Take animals out of their cages; dogs 6 months and older can go to the outside runs, while cats and puppies must stay inside
- ▶ Clean up accidents
- ▶ Fill water bowls
- ▶ Give the animals treats and toys
- ▶ Make sure they are as comfortable as possible

# Assisting at the Shelter

- ▶ Volunteers who work at the shelter generally volunteer during the shelter's open hours.
  - ▶ Mondays: 11am to 7pm
  - ▶ Tuesday-Friday: 11am to 5pm
  - ▶ Saturdays: 11am to 4pm
  - ▶ The shelter is closed on Sundays
- ▶ Our current openings for volunteers are during the day on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday.

# Assisting at Events

- ▶ Handle the animals and introduce them to the public
- ▶ Talk to people who stop by our booth and answer questions, promote WCAS services, etc.
- ▶ Educate about the shelter, responsible pet ownership, the importance of spaying and neutering, and microchipping your pets.
- ▶ Recruit potential volunteers and foster parents
- ▶ Common event locations include PetSmart and Farm & Fleet

# Dress Code at the Shelter

- ▶ Dress neatly, but comfortable
- ▶ Long pants without holes
- ▶ A simple green shirt (any shade), preferably plain
- ▶ Non-slip shoes (preferably tennis shoes); must have closed toes; no open back shoes
- ▶ Jewelry should be minimal
- ▶ Cell phones with the ringer off
- ▶ Name tag



# Accidents and Hazards

- ▶ Be aware of and report the following immediately:
  - ▶ Chemical spills
  - ▶ Physical hazards
  - ▶ Animal hazards
    - ▶ Bites/Scratches
    - ▶ Zoonotic diseases
    - ▶ Aggressive animal behavior

# Other Ways You Can Help

- ▶ Committees
- ▶ Fostering
- ▶ Fundraising events
- ▶ Picture-taking
- ▶ Shelter work
- ▶ Computer work
- ▶ Telephone calls
- ▶ Have a special skill or another way to help? Let us know!

# How to Stay Informed

- ▶ We try to get information out to all our volunteers in a timely manner. We use the Yahoo Board and email to communicate most everything. Also, WCAS has a website and Facebook page that you can check on a regular basis.
  - ▶ Watch for Yahoo Board invitation and join
  - ▶ Like the WCAS Facebook page – [www.facebook.com/winnebago-county-animal-services](http://www.facebook.com/winnebago-county-animal-services)
  - ▶ Save the County's website to your favorites – [www.wcasrock.org](http://www.wcasrock.org)
  - ▶ WCAS is also on Youtube, Instagram, and Twitter
  - ▶ Ask your mentor about in-house communication places

# Make the Most of your Experience

- ▶ Attend WCASA meetings to stay updated on the latest information with the Auxiliary
- ▶ Post your notes for others on the Yahoo Board (that's what it's for)
- ▶ Help out at outside events for both fundraising and adoption
- ▶ Ask questions if you are uncertain about something
- ▶ Make new friends!

# Please read the Workplace Bullying Policy

- ▶ Thank you for your interest in volunteering!
- ▶ Please download and read the [Winnebago County Workplace Bullying Policy](#).
- ▶ On the volunteer application, there is a place to check that you have read, understand, and will adhere to the policy.

# Complete a Volunteer Application

- ▶ [Download a volunteer application](#)