

Volunteering at Winnebago County Animal Services

About the Auxiliary:

The Winnebago County Animal Services Auxiliary (WCASA) is a volunteer organization that helps support Winnebago County Animal Services (WCAS). The auxiliary is dedicated to providing additional social and psychological needs for the animals housed at WCAS, raising funds, increasing the number of adoptions (by providing medical care funds to rehabilitate injured animals, working additional locations for adoptions and providing adoption assistance to visitors at WCAS), and educating the public on responsible pet guardianship.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Animal Caretaker: Looking to get some exercise? So are our dogs and cats, and they need YOU for some extra socialization and training. Come check out WCAS' newly fenced-in recreation center, and give the dogs a chance to frolic. But, don't forget about the cats, they also need human interaction to help keep them from getting bored, a little bathing (if needed), brushing and nail trimming will keep all our pets looking neat, clean and more adoptable. If you have experience in grooming let us know, if not we'll be happy to show you the basics.

Adoption Counseling: If you are clearly a people-person and enjoy interacting with all kinds of people, you can help the animals find their permanent, loving homes by screening and matching potential adopters to the appropriate pet for their family. You'll be asking the visitors questions and gathering information about their lifestyle and what they are looking for to ensure a happy, satisfying adoption that will last a lifetime.

Foster Care: Do you have a nurturing personality and an extra room in your home? We have plenty of kittens or puppies too young to be adopted who need lots of TLC and socialization until they are old enough to be placed for adoption. We also need volunteers to care for sick animals too!

Off-site Events: Distribute information and answer questions about WCAS, adoption, various pet related issues and educate the public on the problem of pet overpopulation, etc. Volunteers may be required to handle dogs or cats available for adoption.

Internet Photos: If you like surfing the net and have a digital camera, we have plenty of adoptable pets who need the extra exposure. You can help them find homes by posting their photos on various websites.

PetSmart Cage Cleaning & Adoption: If you like spending time with our furry critters, spend one night a week making their world a little brighter. Duties include cleaning and sanitizing cages, replacing bedding if needed, changing food and water, giving playtime, adoption counseling and paperwork.

Fundraising Committee: Explore creative and fun ideas to raise money for needed items for the animals, help implement ideas and attend fundraising meetings and events. Be the fun in fundraising!

Membership Committee: If you have an outgoing personality and a knack for thinking outside of the box, you can help us recruit new volunteers and retain the current ones.

Public Relations Committee: If you enjoy writing or have experience working with the media, we need you to help us promote our auxiliary fundraisers, educational activities, satellite adoptions and any other auxiliary functions.

Education Committee: Be an advocate to create community awareness of pet overpopulation and responsible pet ownership by educating the community via public forums, schools, and at WCAS.

Newsletter Committee: If writing is your passion, join the diverse talents of our newsletter committee. We are currently searching for new talent to assist in choosing, writing and editing articles to promote responsible pet guardianship, educate people about spaying and neutering, recruit new volunteers, encourage adoptions at WCAS and a variety of other topics to improve the lives of animals in our community.

Requirements:

Interested in volunteering for WCASA? Volunteers must meet the following requirements:

1. 18 years of age or older.
2. Provide proof of current vaccinations for all cat(s) and/or dog(s) that live at your address.
3. Although not required, we prefer that your own cat(s) and/or dog(s) must be spayed or neutered.
4. Pass a background check.
5. Willing to commit a minimum of 4 hours a month.
6. Willing to attend two initial training classes and 2-3 mentoring sessions.
7. Understand and support the philosophy of WCAS
8. Team player with a positive attitude (outgoing personality a plus!)

Any exemptions to the above requirements will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Dismissal:

If volunteers behave in a way that is inappropriate for a representative of Animal Services OR if they exhibit behavior that puts a volunteer, another person or an animal at risk, this may be considered grounds for dismissal.

Euthanasia:

We ask that volunteers be understanding of the difficult reality of euthanasia. Unlike animal shelters that pick and choose the animals they house, WCAS accepts almost all animals that are presented to the facility. This means that there will always be animals that are unadoptable (severely injured, extremely sick, or aggressive animals) and need to be euthanized. With your help, we can work together to reduce the number of animals euthanized in our community.