

Get Involved

Volunteer:

Volunteering are a crucial part to the animals of Pittsylvania County. Every little thing adds up and helps these animals. This will help ensure each and every pet gets the best quality care. All volunteering at the shelter can be started at 10 am and can continue until closing. Volunteering is all based on your time schedule. If you can only provide 10 mins a day, that is perfectly okay and we would love to have you! You are not required to do everything listed below. If there is certain task you like to do every time you volunteer, you can just do those activists while you are here.

If you are volunteering for hours (school, club, etc.) we may request to schedule those hours based on our needs. People looking to complete hours for court purposes will be asked to perform cleaning tasks only.



Enrichment Program/Socialization:

One of the biggest things that helps the animal is the most is socialization. Not only does socialization help the Pets stay healthy and happy, but it also helps them get adopted quicker! We call this socialization our enrichment program. Listed below is all part of our enrichment program:

- Walking Dogs
- Reading to the Pets
- Playing with the Pets
- Making toys for the Pets (Peanut butter filled Kongs, Frozen broth, etc.)
- Doggy day out
- Washing puppies
- Grooming (Clipping Nails, Washing, etc.)

Cleaning:

It is an all-day activity at shelters. Cleaning is being done all day, every day. Bedding always need to be washed. If you can stop by and just start a load of laundry, which helps tremendously! Staff primarily cleans the kennels, but as a volunteer, you can pitch in if you want to. It can be a great way to teach the upcoming generations responsibility in caring for a Pet. It is understandable that someone may not want to clean kennels. There are many things that can be helped with. Listed below are more you can help with:

- Laundry
- Dishes
- Kennels Care (only when staffed trained)
 - Cleaning Kennels
 - Cleaning litter boxes

- Replenish water

Offsite Events:

We have events where we go into the community and educate about animals, host adoption event, and others. Another way to engage with the animals indirectly is to help with these events. This will help put the word out about the shelter and encourage people to adopt and/or educate the community about caring for an animal.

Ballad Brewery:

The first Sunday every month we go to Ballad Brewery in Danville VA for an offsite adoption event. We show 2 or 3 dogs that are available for adoption. This helps show off the dog and also provides further socialization and exposes the Pet to new places and different people.

Group Projects:

We would love to have large groups here as well! We have large groups that come here already like Hardgrave, Chatham Hall, and Votech. If you have a youth group, school group, girl/boy scouts, or another other type of group we would love to have you here. A few suggestions that you can participate without coming here is by having:

- Food Drive
- Blanket/Towel Drive
- Toy Drive

Transport:

We work with other agencies where we will transfer animals to one and another. This allows the animals to have fresh eyes and get adopted. This also helps shelter that are overcrowded. This will allow them to keep a no-kill status and will allow that shelter to further help their community. Volunteers can help by driving these transports.

Restrictions:

Volunteers are key to our success in helping our animals. Junior volunteers (age 10 -16) must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. The adult will be the one who must walk the dogs for the safety of everyone. However, we have a play yard that the adult can take the dogs where the junior volunteer can interact with the dogs safely. If you are looking to volunteer and have a child under the age of 10, while they cannot officially begin volunteering, we do encourage both of you to come in and visit with our cats in our colony rooms. Our cats love the attention and children get a chance help them with some TLC. Once a minor turns 16, they are able to come in and volunteer on their own with a parent /guardian signed consent and waiver form. Volunteering with your children is a great way to help educate them on the responsibilities of having pets, proper care and the importance of civic engagement. We believe that by working together, we can make a difference for our animals. We hope to see you soon!



Fostering:

Being a foster parent can be very rewarding and wonderful for yourself and the Pets. Fostering can be lifesaving and help Pets find their wonderful new home. Pets will learn social skills that they would not have learned in a shelter environment. It will help provide TLC (Tender Love Care) to the Pets. Whether you have lots of experience in fostering, or none at all, anyone can make a difference. All you need to do is come down to the Shelter and fill out a Foster Profile and ask about fostering.

Foster opportunities:

- Young puppies and kittens (under 8 weeks)
- Recovery animals (animals that need some extra time to heal)
- Behavior (some Pets get depressed in a shelter environment and some Pets need just a little work)
- Space (Sometimes we get overcrowded and need help with space)
- Pregnant/nursing Pets
- Bottle Babies
- Hospice (Animals who are near the end of their life and need a place to rest)

