

Volunteering at Etobicoke Humane Society

Frequently Asked Questions

- Why should I volunteer at EHS?

- ❖ Spend time with rescue animals and receive unconditional love in return
- ❖ Meet new people, form friendships and network
- ❖ Devote your time to a great cause feels great
- ❖ Develop new skills and use your existing skills
- ❖ Gain and improve your self confidence
- ❖ Opportunity to learn about an animal welfare organization
- ❖ Get your animal “fix” by volunteering if you are unable to keep a pet!

- What are some general requirements to volunteer at EHS?

- ❖ Love animals, support EHS mission and cause
- ❖ Be at least 16 years old, however consideration may be made for youth 14-16 years of age **in the cat area only**, AND they must be with an adult during the entire shift.
- ❖ Commit to volunteer for a long term basis (at least six months).
- ❖ Be a teamplayer and be willing to attend training sessions and meetings.

- What are some volunteering opportunities available at Etobicoke Humane Society?

- ❖ **Dog Team Volunteers:** daily care, exercise, play and socialization of dogs, cleaning of dog areas, introducing potential adopters to dogs
 - **Skills/experience required:** Previous experience with dogs preferred but not essential. Must be comfortable handling dogs of all shapes and sizes, and understand the unpredictability that comes with working with animals. Calm demeanor, willing to work in a noisy environment at times, able to work with the public, team player who can work with others. Not afraid of physical labour (cleaning “accidents”).
- ❖ **Cat Team Volunteers:** daily care, exercise and socialization of cats, cleaning of cat areas, introducing potential adopters to cats
 - **Skills/experience required:** Previous experience with cats preferred but not essential. Calm demeanor, able to work with the public, team player who can work with others, willingness to help with at least one fundraising event per year. Not afraid of physical labour (cleaning “accidents”, kitty litter pans). We do accept volunteers between the ages of 14-16, but they must be accompanied by an adult at all times on their shift at EHS. We are always looking for people who are experienced in giving medications to the cats when needed. If you are

unable to do a weekly shift, we have availability for foster coordinators, adoption coordinators, etc.

- ❖ **Office Volunteer:** welcoming the public and responding to inquiries about EHS, providing general information on surrendering, adopting, donations, and volunteering. Providing alternative resources for incidents EHS doesn't manage (e.g. injured wildlife), giving tours at EHS, willingness to help with at least one fundraising event per year.
 - **Skills/experience required:** Basic computer skills, familiarity with google apps is helpful but not essential, comfortable working with the public, organized, positive and helpful attitude, team player. Willingness to work on at least one fundraising event per year.

 - ❖ **Fundraising:** develop, create and assist in fundraising events, providing assistance at public relations and fundraising events, contacting sponsors, promoting EHS
 - **Skills/experience required:** Previous fundraising experience helpful, creative, enthusiastic.

 - ❖ **Facilities Volunteer:** work on special improvement projects at EHS, cleaning public areas, maintaining landscaping, assisting with recycling program, minor repairs and upgrades
 - **Skills/experience required:** Previous experience in minor plumbing, painting, drywall, helpful but not essential. Some heavy lifting may be involved at times.

 - ❖ **Social Media Volunteer:** Got experience working on social media? Creative? We are always looking for talented people who can come up with new ways of highlighting our animals and promoting what we do.
 - **Skills/experience required:** Experience with any or all of the following: facebook pages, blogging, twitter, Instagram, YouTube, videography, graphic design. Photography skills helpful!

 - ❖ **Fostering Volunteer:** There is a separate application form regarding fostering on our website. Fostering involves providing a welcome and comfortable place for our animals, helping with their socialization and and sometimes assisting with behavioural issues.
 - **Criteria required:** You must be 21 years of age or older, live in the west GTA region, provide references, have support of other household members, and consent from landlord if renting. You must have room to isolate a foster animal and be have a love of animals.
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- I am ready to apply. What is the application process?
 - ❖ Step 1: Fill out a volunteer application online
 - ❖ Step 2: Based on your listed preferences, the application is forwarded to the coordinator responsible for each area (e.g. cat or dog shelter, fundraising, office etc.)

- ❖ Step 3: Applications are reviewed by the coordinator in the respective area and if a position is available, you will be invited to an orientation or to an interview.
 - ❖ Step 4: Upon a successful interview, you will receive training appropriate to the area you have applied (e.g. dog shelter requires completion of two training shifts).
 - ❖ Step 5: If no positions are available, your application will be placed on hold until a suitable opportunity arises which matches your availability.
 - ❖ Please note that it can take a month to respond to your application
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- I submitted my application a while ago without a response, who should I contact?
 - ❖ We are sorry that you have been waiting for a response. Due to high volume of applications received and limited resources available to process these, we are sometimes unable to respond in a timely manner or provide an update on the status of your application.
 - ❖ We greatly appreciate your patience. If it has been more than a month since your application was submitted and you have not received any response, please contact us at volunteer@etobicokehumanesociety.com .
 - ❖ Our volunteer coordinators often communicate via email and sometimes these messages may end up in your junk folder. Please check your junk or spam folders before following up.
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- How long is each volunteer shift?
 - ❖ There are three main areas within the shelter where most of our volunteers work. Each area is divided into different shifts. Volunteers are expected to work the entire shift that they have been assigned. Fundraising/Facilities/Social Media do not have specific shifts, volunteer hours can be discussed with the manager of those areas.
 - Office:
 - Morning Shift: 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM
 - Afternoon Shift: 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM
 - Cat Shelter
 - Morning Shift: 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM
 - Afternoon Shift: 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
 - Evening Shift: 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM
 - Dog Shelter
 - Morning Shift: 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
 - Afternoon Shift: 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
 - Evening Shift: 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

- What kind of training do you provide?
 - ❖ Most of the training that EHS provides is 'on the job' training. This means that you will be shadowing an experienced volunteer to learn tasks associated in whichever area you are volunteering.

- My friends and coworkers want to volunteer together. Do you have any group volunteering opportunities?
 - ❖ Compared to some other shelters, EHS is fairly small and group volunteering opportunities might be limited and therefore, we cannot guarantee placement for a group. However, there are non-animal related opportunities available, your group could host a fundraising event, participate in our larger EHS fundraising events etc. Please contact us if you are seeking a group volunteering opportunity.

- Is there anything else I should know?
 - ❖ We sincerely thank all applicants for their interest in volunteering with us. Volunteering at EHS is a rewarding experience that comes with a great amount of responsibility. Please remember that EHS is an all volunteer run shelter. Your patience is immensely appreciated as we get through the applications.