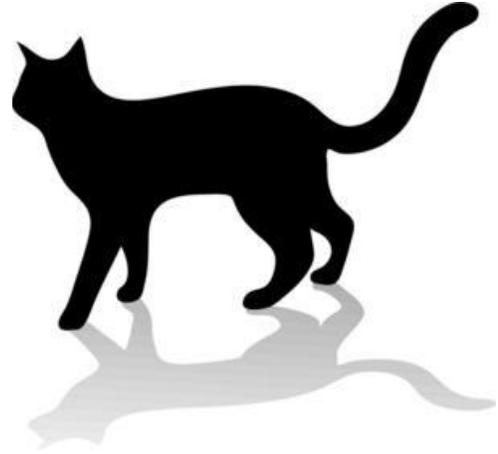


DCHS Feline Enrichment and Behavior Internship

Dane County Humane Society is a safe haven for a wide variety of species, but cats make up the largest percentage. Although cats make up over 50% of the animals that come into DCHS, only about 10% get redeemed. While we make every attempt to create a safe and stress-free environment, many cats suffer from boredom, lack of exercise, depression, and various contagious illnesses during their stay. Though we have quite a few Advanced Felines Friend volunteers (who focus on overstimulated and shy/fearful cats), we need a more focused team to help even more behaviorally “challenged” felines. Overstimulated and shy/fearful cats are our target population.



Currently, Feline Enrichment & Behavior interns (FEBI) work to improve the lives of those cats who need extra help. Interns may evaluate the cats, which provides potential adopters with a better idea of their personality and identifies issues that need modification. Interns are charged with improving the quality of life of special felines through play therapy, behavior modification, and socialization. In addition, they may work to educate the shelter staff and volunteers, as well as the public, about feline behavior with the goal of creating healthy, happy, and knowledgeable future homes for the program cats.

Duties and Responsibilities

The following duties may be executed by and under the direction of the Volunteer Training Coordinator.

- Basic clicker training for enrichment of all cats
- Behavior modification for cats that quickly become overstimulated
- Behavior modification for cats that are shy/fearful
- Relaxation protocol for stressed cats
- Brainstorm a project to complete over a semester – complete the project (you will need to propose the project to Volunteer Training Coordinator early in the semester)
- Create & edit handouts for cat-related behavior issues and/or general knowledge
- Create and edit new training videos
- Provide constructive feedback on Feline Behavior Program

Qualifications

- Current or graduated college student focusing on or strongly interested in animal welfare and behavior
- 18 years of age
- Personal experience in animal handling; professional experience preferred
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Attention to detail and personal safety
- Ability to follow written and verbal direction
- Familiarity with word processing, Internet, and spreadsheets
- Reliable transportation

Commitment

This is an unpaid internship, and the minimum length of the internship is one semester OR 6 months. The official schedule will be determined based on the intern's availability and department needs. We require all interns to assist with orientations which are once a month on a Saturday. If you are seeking university credit, you must contact your academic advisor(s). Below are the requirements per credit, depending on the semester type (i.e. fall/spring vs. summer):

Credits	Fall & Spring Semesters	Summer Semester
1 credit	5 hrs/week	7 hrs/week
2 credits	10 hrs/week	14 hrs/week
3 credits	16 hrs/week	21 hrs/week

Non university students are welcome to apply to the internship, the minimum requirement in this case is 4 hours/week.

How to Apply:

Send cover letter and resume to the Volunteer Training Coordinator.

Volunteer Training Coordinator
Dane County Humane Society
Voltrainer@giveshelter.org
(608) 838-0413 ext. 178