

Physical, Cognitive and Emotional Requirements for Volunteers

Dane County Humane Society is committed to our mission of “Helping People Help Animals” and welcomes volunteers of all ability levels. Our volunteer team includes individuals living with a wide variety of disabilities. Some of these volunteers bring a job coach or assistant along to help them complete their volunteer tasks safely and effectively.

At the same time, we strive to maintain as safe an environment as possible for our volunteers, staff, and the animals in our care. Therefore, it is extremely important that we are made aware of any physical, cognitive and/or emotional challenges that could affect your ability to be a successful volunteer. For your safety and that of the animals, it is critical that you be matched with a position that is appropriate given any limitations you may have.

Individuals for whom an animal care volunteer role is **not** appropriate are usually able to volunteer in other ways. We have an endless need for people to help us with our administrative, customer service, housekeeping, creative, maintenance, fundraising and event work. All of these efforts are crucial to the well-being of our animals and help us work toward our ultimate goal of eliminating the issue of homeless animals.

To help us determine the most appropriate volunteer position for you, and to identify any accommodations that we may be able to make to help you be successful in your role, we require that all volunteer applicants complete the Essential Requirements Inventory. This will also give you a better idea of the abilities required to be successful as an animal care volunteer.

Thank you for your application materials. We look forward to working with you!

A note about the therapeutic value of working with animals...

If you are looking for animal therapy, please contact a group working in that field. The animals at DCHS, like at other animal shelters, are in a stressful environment and some may face special challenges of their own. It is not appropriate to expect shelter animals to be suitable for use in a therapeutic manner. With that said; working with these animals can be intensely satisfying for all of us and is often the greatest benefit our volunteers receive!