

THE WATAUGA HUMANE SOCIETY

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM GUIDE



Welcome!

If you are looking to get involved at the Watauga Humane Society, you are in the right place! Whether you want to take dogs on doggy daycations, or help clean their living environments, WHS has volunteer opportunities for the whole family.

To begin your volunteer journey please visit our website at wataugahumane.org and fill out the volunteer application under the Get Involved tab. *If you need pre-court or court-ordered community service, please still fill out this application*

Junior Volunteers are children ages 10-15 and must be supervised by their adult at all times while volunteering.



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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

These opportunities are for those that are unable to work directly with our animals due to allergies, physical limitations, or any other reason.

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DOG VOLUNTEERISM

For volunteers interested in volunteering with our shelter dogs. These programs require volunteers to be 18 and older

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FAQ + GENERAL INFO

The last page of this guide should address any questions you may have about volunteering at WHS

How to Get Started

All individuals interested in volunteering should apply to be a volunteer on our website.

- Junior volunteers are kids ages 10-15 and must be accompanied by their adult at all times. Both the child and the adult should apply to volunteer on separate applications.
- Those needing community service hours should mention their hour requirement on their volunteer application.
- If you are part of a group that would like to volunteer, please do not fill out our volunteer application. Instead email volunteer@wataugahumane.org

Volunteer Interview



Upon submitting your volunteer application, you will receive an automatic reply with link to our orientation and training videos and our volunteer coordinators calendar.

Please reserve a time that works best for you to meet with the volunteer coordinator to go over volunteer rules and regulations and to pick up your volunteer t shirt and name tag (\$20 to purchase, all proceeds go to the volunteer program).

GROUP VOLUNTEERISM

If you are in a group that is volunteering with WHS, you do not have to fill out a volunteer application or schedule a volunteer interview.

Volunteer Assignments: Non-Animal Care Related

We have some volunteer opportunities that do not involve direct interaction with our shelter animals. These opportunities are great for those with allergies, physical limitations, or overall volunteer availability.

- **SNIPS: Spay Neuter Is a Positive Solution**

This volunteer opportunity is for those that love to craft and sell their crafts to members of the public. It could be making doggy bandanas or helping out at the next craft sale. All ages are encouraged to get involved with SNIPS.

- **Bare Bones Boutique**

This volunteer opportunity is for those that love sorting through donations and organizing a retail-like setting. Our boutique is located down the hill from the shelter and has different volunteer hours as those listed under animal care volunteerism. If you are interested in volunteering at Bare Bones Boutique, let the volunteer coordinator know!

- **General Administrative Helper**

If you enjoy organizing files and maintaining a clean space, then consider being an administrative helper! Once you are trained on our filing system and where everything goes, you are able to make your own schedule.

- **Outreach Events**

If you are a person who loves to talk about animals and their experiences volunteering at WHS, please help us at our outreach events. You can help sell WHS and SNIPS merchandise and talk to the public about WHS!

Dog Department Volunteerism



New volunteers are always encouraged to participate in **Level 1 Dog Walking**. This is walking our shelter dogs on site Tues-Sat 12:30-3pm. Kennel staff will leash up the dogs and bring them out of their kennel to you!

All volunteers interested in working with dogs at our shelter are asked to complete 2 basic trainings.

Dogs 101: This training goes over how we clean our kennels at the shelter every morning. We offer our initial training days Sat, Sun, and Mon 8:30am-11am. Before attending your initial training session, please review our dogs 101 training video. Once you have watched the video and completed the initial training session, you can assist with morning cleaning 7 days a week!

Dogs 102: This training goes over how to leash and harness up our shelter dogs, how to walk them through the kennel, and how to handle them outside the shelter environment. This training begins with a few videos with a quiz following them and then a 30 minute in person hands-on training at the shelter with a kennel manager.

What Happens After 102?

Once you have finished 101 and 102, you are able to advance to more involved dog volunteerism. All of these activities require you to wear your volunteer t shirt and nametag.

Level 2 Dog Walking: Volunteers that qualify for level 2 dog walking are able to come into our facility 7 days a week from 8-11am and 12:30-3pm to walk shelter dogs on our hiking trails. You will be responsible for taking the dog in and out of the kennel. Please wear your volunteer t shirt and nametag while doing this activity.

Virtual Foster: Our doggy daycation program is available to volunteers Mon-Sun 8:30-3:30. You will be responsible for leashing up the dog and signing them out and then off you go on your adventure! Please send any pictures from your day out to volunteer@wataugahumane.org

Click and Treat: This is an opportunity for those looking to teach our shelter dogs some basic skills like sit stay, lay, etc. If you are interested in this program, let the volunteer coordinator know and they will send you educational videos on the topic. This opportunity is offered Tues-Sat 12:30-3.

What Happens After 102 Continued

Dog Grooming: This opportunity is currently not on the calendar for volunteers to sign up for. Once we figure out a day and time, one volunteer will be able to sign up for a shift to help groom dogs in our grooming room with a kennel staff member.

Solo Play Yard Patrol: This opportunity is offered Mon-Sun 8-11am and includes you taking one dog out to our play yard during morning cleaning so they can have off leash time. You will be responsible for leashing up the dog and taking them in and out of their kennel. You will only be taking one dog out at a time.

Group Play Yard Helper: This opportunity is offered Tues-Sat 4-5pm and includes helping staff facilitate group play yard with multiple dogs at a time. You will assist in bringing them in and out of their kennel as needed but will not be responsible for setting up the play group.



Cat Volunteerism

Cats 101: This program is cleaning in our cat living areas! The training days are M,W,F,Sat 8:30-11am but once you have completed training in the condos or the rooms (or both!) you can come 7 days a week to help out!

Cat Room Socialization: This activity includes hanging out with our feline friends that currently live in the cat rooms. This occurs any time we are open to the public Tues-Sat 12:30-4. Junior volunteers and their adults are encouraged to participate in this activity!

Kitten Afternoons: This opportunity is seasonal to Spring time when we see kitten intakes increase. In order to help out with our kittens, you must complete Cats 101 and a short quiz about disease control!



Junior Volunteers



Junior Volunteers are children ages 10-15 that are interested in helping out at WHS. Due to liability, they are only permitted to do a few different activities and must have an adult with them at all times.

Cat Room Socialization: hanging out in the cat rooms Tues-Sat 12:30-3.
Can play with the cats, read to them, or provide snuggles.

Enrichment Toy Making: This opportunity is available Tues-Sat 12:30-3 and is where children and their adult can make enrichment toys for our shelter animals. This occurs in the Turchin Kitchen and there are videos to watch that show how to make the treats!

Small Critter Socialization: This is typically offered based on how busy the shelter is, but if it is a calm day, children and their adult can hang out with small critters in a meet and greet room to get them the exercise they need.

Level 1 Dog Walking: Children and their adult can walk a shelter dog Tues-Sat 12:30-3 as long as the adult is holding the leash and weather permits dog walking.

FAQ

What does the \$20 fee cover? It covers the cost of your volunteer nametag and volunteer t-shirt?

Do I have to wear my nametag and t-shirt every time I volunteer?

We ask that you wear your t-shirt for your first 4 shifts here at WHS so we can identify you as a volunteer. Nametags must be worn at all times while volunteering.

I need community service hours, what tasks can I do? For those doing community service, your opportunities will be limited to Dogs and Cats 101 and then an opportunity called Afternoon Community Service which is offered Tues-Sat 12:30-5.

At what age can my child start volunteering on their own? Here at WHS, with a parent signature, 16 year olds are able to help with morning cleaning. Once a child is 18, they can do any activity here at WHS.