



**HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF CHARLES COUNTY**

# VOLUNTEER FAQ's

**BECOME A VOLUNTEER TODAY**  
**And make a difference in the life of a shelter pet!**



We truly appreciate your interest in volunteering at The Humane Society of Charles County (HSCC). The wonderful work you do is very important and there are many ways to lend a hand and heart to make a difference in the animals' lives.

## Who can volunteer?

We welcome anyone who is six years old and up, although minors age 6-16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian while volunteering.

## What volunteer opportunities are available?

Volunteers are invited to participate in many different activities: Routine animal Care, Animal Socialization (reading to pets, walking, petting and playing with the animals), cleaning cages, washing blankets to help them become more adoptable and ready for their forever home. Volunteers are also needed to foster animal in their homes, as well as helping with off-site adoptions at local businesses such as PetCo. The Humane Society of Charles County also needs many different kinds' volunteers with special skills: professional skills in computer networks, public relations, veterinary services, office skills, fundraising, customer service, building repairs and maintenance and even construction and landscaping. Volunteers help run our very successful Yard Sales, Dog Walks, Basket Bingo nights, Rabies Clinics and other events

## What Is the Process to Become a Volunteer?

We are phasing out the open seating volunteer orientations and implementing a new process to help the shelter track and interact with our volunteers in a more efficient and personal manner.

The following is our new Volunteer Process. We are still in the early phases of implementing this new way of becoming a volunteer, so please be patient as we evolve.

1. All potential new volunteers will need to complete our NEW "[online volunteer application](#)".
2. Potential new volunteers will then need to pay the [non-refundable \\$25.00 application & training fee](#) (this link will take you to our secure [Shop.humanesocietycc.org](http://Shop.humanesocietycc.org) page and payment will be accepted via credit card). The \$25.00 non-refundable fee will cover the following:

- a. Attendance at one of the Volunteer Orientation Classes offered (you will be provided an email at a later date)
  - b. Volunteer T-Shirt
  - c. Volunteer Name Badge
  - d. Background Check for Adults and vetting of your volunteer application
  - e. Basic Shelter Training for Care of Cats & Dogs
3. Approved New Volunteers will receive an email once your application has been processed with a link to sign up for a **Volunteer Orientation /Training Class**. Volunteer Orientations occur on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month from 9:00am-11:00am in the Humane Education Room at the shelter.

### **What is the Junior Volunteer Program?**

Our Junior Volunteer Program is set up for those under 18 who have a love of animals, and would like to help. Junior Volunteers are a vital part of the Humane Society of Charles County.

1. All junior volunteers are required to submit the On-Line volunteer Application and pay the \$25 Non-Refundable Application & Training fee if they wish to volunteer in the shelter.
2. The \$25.00 non-refundable fee will cover the following:
  - a. Attendance at one of the Volunteer Orientation Classes offered (you will be provided an email at a later date)
  - b. Volunteer T-Shirt
  - c. Volunteer Name Badge
  - d. Basic Shelter Training for Care of Cats & Dogs
3. Junior Volunteers 16-18 do not require a parent or guardian to stay with them during their volunteering.
4. Junior volunteer aged 15 and below require a parent or guardian to attend the Scheduled Orientation and to stay at the HSCC while they do their volunteering. Parent and Guardians are not required to submit volunteer applications unless they plan on volunteering as well.

### **What happens when I arrive at the HSCC?**

We want your volunteer experience to be fulfilling so after signing in we will try to let you work on a project that suits your interest. We will have you work with an experienced “buddy” for the first couple of shifts until you are comfortable with that activity. If you are volunteering with a group we can arrange for a project to work on with advance notice.

### **Can I take an animal on an outing or sleepover?**

Some of our dogs and cats are approved to go with volunteers on outings and sleepovers which is a real treat for them. To take an animal on a sleepover or outing you'll first need to volunteer at least one shift in that specific animal area Foster Application needs to be on approved and on file. Also, any children in your group must be six years old to take a cat and 10 years old to take a dog.

### **What should I wear?**

Volunteers must wear a HSCC Volunteer T-Shirt and a Volunteer Badge. Humane Society VOLUNTEER T-shirts is included in the Volunteer Application Fee but can additional shirts may be purchased for \$15 in the Lobby. You should wear old clothing, as you may get them dirty, be splashed with bleach, etc. Closed toe are a requirement for volunteering in any of the animal areas. Long pants are strongly recommended for volunteering and we advise dressing in layers. Wearing a hat is a good idea because the sun is bright year-round.

**Is there a place to eat at the Shelter?**

Unfortunately, there is no place to purchase food so please pack a lunch or snack to eat in the staff break room or picnic tables outside.

**Can special groups volunteer at the Shelter?**

If your special group is interested in volunteering on a project together (for instance, Girl/Boy Scouts, church group, tour group, college or high school group, etc.), please email: [humanesocietyccvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:humanesocietyccvolunteers@gmail.com)

**Where is the HSCC located?**

We are located at 71 Industrial Park Drive, Waldorf, Maryland.

**ARE YOU READY?**

Would you like to start the process of becoming a much valued volunteer? If you are ready to get involved, please fill out the "[Online Volunteer Application](#)" and pay the \$25.00 non-refundable "[Volunteer Orientation & Training Fee.](#)"

Please email us at [humanesocietyccvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:humanesocietyccvolunteers@gmail.com) or call us at 301-645-8181 x112. We are open every day 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., with extended hours until 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays.

## Join Our Gang

Volunteers make everything we do possible.  
Let us know your interests and availability, and we'll find  
a volunteer position that is right for you.

