



Cat Socializer

Reports To: Cat Behavior Lead and/or Volunteer Director

Commitment: 2 hours per week (same day and time) for a minimum of six months

PURPOSE

Cat Socializers are an essential part of keeping our shelter cats happy, healthy, and comfortable during their time with us. The purpose of this role is to provide daily one-on-one interaction and enrichment through play, petting, grooming, or simply sitting quietly with the cats. Volunteers also learn to read cat body language and behaviors, which helps them better understand each cat's needs and respond appropriately. By offering socialization and engaging activities, volunteers help reduce stress, promote well-being, and make their stay with us more enjoyable.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide proper care, including housing, husbandry, exercise, and socialization, in accordance with EBHS policies and industry standards.
- Notify staff of any medical or behavioral needs or concerns.
- Use force-free, fear-free, science-based handling and training methods when working with shelter pets.
- Work respectfully and collaboratively with staff and fellow volunteers.
- Follow all shelter sanitation protocols.
- Comply with behavior programs designed for shelter cats.
- Follow cat condo and kennel symbols, staff directives, and the color-coding policy.
- Record all socialization and interactions as directed.
- Represent EBHS in a professional and courteous manner.
- Attend and participate in meetings, training programs, and continuing education.
- Follow safe handling procedures for shelter pets and cleaning agents.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be 12-15 years old with a parent or legal guardian, or 16 years or older to volunteer independently.
- Cat handling experience preferred but not required.
- Able to work independently with minimal supervision and/or as part of a team.
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail.
- Able to lift and carry shelter pets and supplies weighing up to 25 lbs.
- Must attend New Volunteer Orientation and Green Cat Socializer Training.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Physical Demands

- Frequent movement, including standing, bending, sitting and reaching.
- Lifting and carrying cats, supplies, food bags, and equipment.

Working Conditions

- Possible exposure to frightened, injured, or sick cats.

- Potential contact with zoonotic diseases.
- Use of cleaning agents and disinfectants.
- Floors are slippery when wet.

Emotional Demands

- Encountering neglected or abused cats.
- Witnessing animal medical or behavioral emergencies.
- Exposure to situations involving euthanasia.