

Cat Companion

Objective:

- Meet the basic needs & enhance quality of life for all cats in Capital Humane Society's care by providing consistent human handling & socialization.
- Learn more about individual cat preferences in order to make better adoption matches.
- Take pictures/videos that represent individual cat personalities to market effectively

Locations/Hours of Operation:

- *Pieloch Pet Adoption Center* | 6500 S 70th |
Shift times for this role are
Mon-Fri 12pm-2pm, 5pm-7pm & Sat/Sun 11am-1pm, 3-5pm

Qualifications:

- **Age:** Must be at least 13 years old with a parent/guardian at all times
- **Experience:** Must have spent time around cats previously either in a home or professionally
- **Knowledge:** Must demonstrate understanding of the importance of respecting animals boundaries & responsibility of being an animal caretaker. Should have the ability to read basic feline body language & knowledge of safe handling skills.
- **Physical:** Must be able to squat, bend, safely maneuver tight & crowded spaces.
- **Characteristics:** Must consistently follow verbal/written instructions, possess excellent awareness of surroundings, willingness & desire to learn, communicate effectively with others
- **Minimum Time Commitment:** Set 2hr shift, every other week, for a minimum of 4 months

Conditions:

- **Noise:** Barking/whining can be very loud at times, especially in the dog kennel area
- **Temperatures:** Varied, though usually moderate
- **Hazardous chemicals:** Potential exposure (used to sanitize animal living spaces)
- **Pet hair/dander:** Those with extreme allergies should be aware
- **Biological materials:** Some exposure to cat feces, urine, etc. Possibility of exposure to zoonotic disease such as ringworm, giardia, etc.

Role specific duties

- Orient yourself to the cat condo room & read all cage cards to learn details about any cats you haven't worked with before.
- Socialize cats in condo area for first hour of shift and socialize cats in colonies for second hour of shift.

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CHS volunteer expectations:

- *“Help where help is needed”* -The shelter is a hectic & unpredictable environment with limited resources. We ask that our volunteers are flexible & willing to occasionally pitch in with core shelter functions, even if those are outside their specific job description (laundry, dishes, etc.)
- *“Be an advocate in all things”*- Our volunteers are highly trained, respected, & trusted pieces to the CHS puzzle. We empower our volunteers to use their unique voice to communicate concerns, share observations, ask questions, suggest ideas, etc.! As a non-profit, it is especially important that our volunteers understand that being a successful (& satisfied) shelter advocate...aka “volunteer”...requires patience, curiosity, & creativity. In Animal Welfare, there are significant limitations to navigate, some of which are very obvious & others which are more abstract (& often harder to change). Put simply...we depend on volunteers to help us innovate & progress as a field/organization & we trust them to do so without taking personal offense or getting discouraged when/if that process is littered with roadblocks.
- *“Speak & act with compassion & respect, always”*- Our work is centered around the fundamental belief that pets AND people deserve to experience love & companionship. This belief directly influences the way we treat the people/animals we encounter during our work but also the way we speak about them AND the way we think about them. CHS volunteers share this important belief & allow it to be their “North Star”.

Training: 3-3.5 total hours to complete onboarding |in person, hands on, groups of 2-3| (Red= mandatory, green= optional)

- *“Welcome to CHS” Group Orientation*-1.5 hr|occurs 2x month| provides info on CHS programs, culture, history, operations, intro to Animal Welfare, socially conscious sheltering, tour of ppac, meet vols, meet staff|
- *“Cat Companion Training”*-1.5-2 hrs|1st official shift |Tour of facility, daily responsibilities, CHS cat operations/protocols, behavior, health, & safety info, meet staff, meet vols, equip demo, handling basics