

Ringworm Cat Companion

Objective:

- Meet the basic needs & enhance quality of life for cats being treated for Ringworm by providing consistent socialization & stimulation.

Locations/Hours of Operation:

- *Intake and Assessment Center* | 2320 Park Blvd |
Shift times for this role are
Mon-Fri 8am-9am, 11am-12pm, 4pm-5pm Sat-Sun 8am-9am, 11am-12pm, 3pm-4pm

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:* 3hrs/month, no set schedule, for a minimum of 3 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

- Wear proper PPE as provided by CHS. This includes gowns, gloves, and shoe covers.
- Socialize cats in ringworm isolation using touch, brushing, play, etc. No-touch enrichment options for those who are still concerned about handling cats with ringworm even with PPE.

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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: 2-2.5 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|
- *“Ringworm Cat Companion Training”*-30-45 minutes|1st official shift |Tour of facility, daily responsibilities, CHS cat operations/protocols, behavior, health, & safety info, meet staff, meet vols, equip demo, handling basics