



Pet Help Partners

There are several volunteer opportunities within Pet Help Partners that are typically filled by volunteers who work with program participants. To safely and effectively serve as a volunteer with Pet Help Partners, volunteers need to possess the following physical, mental, and emotional capacities. Your signature on this form indicates you believe you possess these basic capabilities, with your written acknowledgement of any limitations. Please note: some accommodations can be made and will be taken into consideration relative to role placement.

Essential Physical Capabilities

- Average vision (with or without correction) to be able to read paperwork and instructions.

Essential Mental Capabilities

- Ability to understand, remember and follow instructions and procedures.
- Ability to manage time in a pressured situation.
- Ability to quickly identify information needed and rapidly find this information within provided resource materials.
- Ability to reply quickly to supervisors' comments and directives.
- High level reading, writing, spelling and communication skills; ability to learn the common terminology used (example: understand common companion animal-related terms).
- Ability to speak and effectively communicate in English verbally as well as in written form or the language spoken by clients in our area of focus.
- Ability to learn about and understand the issues affecting companion animals as well as the resources and services available to pet owners in the greater Metro NY area.
- Possess problem-solving capability as well as the ability to retain information.
- Ability to be an active and compassionate listener, show good judgment, and pay attention to detail.
- Ability to think creatively, in a solution-oriented way.
- Ability and willingness to brainstorm with fellow volunteers and supervisors.
- Once trained, must be able to work with minimal supervision, yet must recognize limitations in knowledge and abilities, and ask for help when needed.
- Ability to work independently for periods of time, as well as work within a team atmosphere with other volunteers or staff.

Essential Emotional Capabilities

- Ability to cope with a highly emotionally-charged environment in which people may be dealing with life crises such as domestic violence, fires, homelessness, hospitalization, etc. and with some animals who appear to be cared for differently than we might care for them ourselves, as well as the reality that some people may not follow our suggestions.
- Ability to cope with injured or abused animals in need via the phone.
- Ability to understand The Humane Society of the United States' (HSUS) policies and positions and the Pet Help Partners approach, and an ability and willingness to appropriately and accurately represent those policies when interacting with the public or otherwise representing The HSUS or Pet Help Partners.
- Ability to communicate with a variety of people effectively and without judgment or making negative remarks.
- Must be flexible and willing/able to change plans and directions in the moment.

- Ability to cope with the fact that while Pet Help Partners experiences many, many successes, sometimes Pet Help Partners is unable to prevent surrender and that animal is relinquished by the owner to the shelter.
- Must be able to learn about less-than-ideal situations for people and animals and not get emotional in the moment.

Please indicate any reasonable accommodation(s) you may need in order to meet the essential capabilities of your volunteer position at The HSUS:

Printed Name of Applicant

Signature of Applicant

Date

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian (if under 18)

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under 18)

Date