

Volunteer Opportunity Descriptions

Volunteer Age Requirements:

- **Over 18 years of age:** No restrictions.
- **Ages 16 and 17 (Junior Volunteers):** May help in all areas *except*: Grounds keeping, Dog Walker, PetSmart Cat Caregiver, Cat Comforter or PetSmart Dog Event Volunteer. Must have parent or guardian permission to volunteer but may spend time with the animals without the parent/guardian being present.
- **Ages 12 through 15 (Youth Volunteers):** May volunteer with direct parent or guardian supervision at all times. Can volunteer as a Critter Cuddler, Kennel Assistant (with some restrictions), Canine Companion and Cat Companion. Ages 12-15 may accompany their parent/guardian as a Dog Walker, Special Event Volunteer, or PetSmart Event Dog Volunteer.
- **Ages 6 through 12 (Critter Club Volunteers):** A club for kids from 6 to 12 years of age who love animals. Critter Club was designed for kids who are not old enough to work directly with the animals. Children work on projects that help CRHS and help animals within the community. Please call 608-781-4014 and speak with our Education Director about this program. She may also be reached by email at kaylynn.cooper@couleehumane.com.

Special Event Volunteer:

Special Event Volunteers help the shelter by attending events to promote adoption and animal welfare. You may be asked to help at a booth or table at community or shelter events. This position would be wonderful for you if you are outgoing, friendly, and love talking with people!



Greeter:

We want every guest that walks in the door of the Coulee Region Humane Society (CRHS) to feel special and welcome. Greeters welcome people at the door and help direct them to the area of the shelter they are interested in (cats, dogs, small critters, etc). Greeter must be outgoing, fun, and willing to go the extra mile to make people feel special.

Housekeeping Helper:

As you can imagine, the washing machines and dryers run all day long here at CRHS. We are always looking for volunteers to help us with the not so glamorous job of making sure all of our animals have clean, fluffy beds to sleep on. We would love to have your help, even if it is for a half hour after you spend time with the animals.

Small Critter Cuddler:

Do you love bunnies, guinea pigs, hamster or other small cuddly friends? We need volunteers who would like to spend time socializing with our small mammals here at the shelter. We often get critters that are a little fearful and would benefit greatly from a little snuggle time!

Grounds keeping:

We have lots of beautiful green areas for our canine friends to play on, and those areas needs to be mowed weekly in the summer months. We have a riding mower and everything else you would need to keep the yard looking nice! We also occasionally need help in the winter with shoveling or de-icing. Must be 18 years of age or older.



Morning Kennel Assistant:

Do you love dogs? Every morning CRHS staff clean and sanitize the dog kennels. During that time the dogs need someone to watch over them! Morning Kennel Assistants work from 9am to 11am (sometimes a bit later). You would be responsible for socializing with dogs, helping to collect dirty laundry, filling water dishes, or other miscellaneous tasks to help get the kennels ready for the day.

Canine Companion:

These volunteers work with all of the dogs to help them settle in to the shelter environment. We have wonderful fenced runs where you can interact and play with each dog. Canine Companions are also responsible for spot cleaning kennels if they are soiled.

**Dog Walker:**

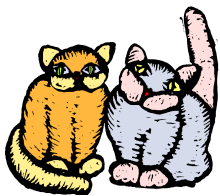
Love taking long walks? Are you a jogger looking for a dog to tire out? Dog walkers get to take adoptable dogs for leashed walks or runs on the roads and trails around the shelter. You must complete 16 hours as a Canine Companion before graduating to this program. You must be 18 years of age or older and attend a Dog Walking Orientation.

Dog Training Assistant:

Do you want to help the dogs at CRHS find forever homes? Everyone loves a well mannered dog! There is a session held every Wednesday from 3pm to 3:30pm. You will learn the skills you need to help shelter dogs thrive.

Cat Companion:

Do you want to spend time with cats that need you? Cat Companion work with the cats that are housed in the main adoption area. You would be responsible for playing with and socializing with the cats in that area. You would additionally be responsible for cleaning up any messes and scooping litter boxes.

**Cat Comforter:**

Do you want to make a difference in the lives of cats that are fearful or sick? You would be responsible for socializing with cats that are new to the shelter or currently have upper respiratory infections. You must spend 16 hours as a Cat Companion and attend an additional orientation before becoming a Cat Comforter. You must be 18 years of age or older.

PetSmart Cat Caregiver:

We are lucky to be able to house adoptable cats at our local PetSmart store. The cats at PetSmart don't want to miss out on fun with volunteers! You would be responsible for cleaning, scooping litter boxes, and socializing with cats. You must spend 8 hours as a Cat Companion and attend an additional orientation before becoming a PetSmart Caregiver. Must be 18 years of age or older.

PetSmart Dog Event Volunteer:

Are you outgoing? Do you love educating people about dog adoption? This is the position for you! Once a month (and for special occasions) shelter dogs are invited to PetSmart to meet members of the public. You get the opportunity to educate the public about the importance of dog adoption and introduce them to the wonderful dogs we have at the shelter. You must spend at least 8 hours as a Canine Companion, and then complete an additional orientation session in order to be a PetSmart Adoption Event Volunteer. Must be 18 years of age and older.

Work Environment:

While volunteering at the shelter you will encounter many things. The Coulee Region Humane Society (CRHS) sees a variety of different animals from many different backgrounds. Some animals come to the shelter sick, injured, abused or neglected. We recognize that this can be very emotional and would be more than happy to discuss this with you during your time at the shelter.

CRHS does its very best to try to find loving homes for all of the animals that come to its doors. The reality is that there are more companion animals in our community than there are people wanting to adopt them. CRHS works with other organizations to help transfer animals to other rescues or shelters that may have more time, financial resources, and space to work with any medical or behavioral problems. Sadly, despite the hard work of volunteers, staff, and the community there are still animals that are euthanized due to pet overpopulation in our community.

While spending time here at the shelter you will also be exposed to cleaning chemicals such as bleach. These chemicals are used for cleaning and sanitizing kennels. You may also be exposed to animals that are fearful or not used to handling. Working with animals always comes with inherent risks, animals can become frightened and potentially scratch or bite volunteers and staff. Animals with unknown veterinary history may also carry diseases or parasites that can be transmitted to people.

Please feel free to contact the Volunteer Coordinator with any questions you may have about volunteering at the shelter.