



## Paws for Compassion Volunteer Requirements

Thank you for your interest! From in-center to at-home foster care, volunteers support every facet of our work. Together, we're creating a more compassionate world for animals.

### Age Requirement

Volunteers must be at least 16 years of age. If you're younger than 16, there are other ways to get involved, please ask us how!

### Recruitment

- Volunteers must read and comprehend detailed policy and protocol information and remember and follow the center rules.
- Volunteers must understand and fulfill all responsibilities of their role independently.

### Time Commitment

- PAWS requires a two month commitment to volunteering. This commitment ensures that the program will operate smoothly and that maximum benefit is provided to the animals.
- If you are only able to commit 1 month of your time, you are required to volunteer at least 6 hours a week on 2 or more shifts.
- In-center opportunities require a minimum of 3 hours on regularly scheduled, recurring shifts.
- Shifts are 1-4 hours depending on the assignment or number of days scheduled.
- Shifts are filled Monday to Sunday for the Dog House from 8:00am - 6:00pm. Shifts are available in two broad times: morning (8:00am-12:00pm) and afternoon (12:30pm-6:00pm).
- Shifts are filled Monday to Sunday for the Cat Sanctuary from 9:00am - 4:00pm. Shifts are available in two broad times: morning (9:00am - 10:30am) and afternoon (1:00pm - 4:00pm).

### Volunteer Opportunities

#### Animals

- Dog and cat love and care
- Dog walks
- Animal baths
- Animal therapy

#### Fundraising

- Grant writing
- Marketing

#### Events / Programs

- Event planning
- Solicit sponsors and prizes
- Deep cleaning

- Distribute flyers

- Representing PAWS at events & markets

#### Programs

- Teaching about animal welfare / the environment
- Yoga teachers
- Art teachers

#### Maintenance

- Garden work
- Painting

## Volunteer Safety

Please note that we recommend that all volunteers obtain pre-exposure vaccinations for rabies. The vast majority of animals you will interact with are vaccinated against rabies, however, we suggest that volunteers obtain pre-exposure vaccinations as a precaution. If you are bitten or scratched, post-exposure vaccines are much more costly if you have not obtained pre-exposure shots. Affordable pre-exposure vaccinations can be obtained at: Please note that volunteers are responsible for acquiring the correct pre- and post-exposure vaccinations.

## Volunteer Acceptance Process

- Complete online application (5 minutes).
- Message PAWS on Facebook to ensure that your application has been received and to arrange a time for orientation.
- Volunteers attend orientation at the PAWS Center with our Volunteer Coordinator (1 hour).
  - Meet the rescue dogs or cats and learn more about Paws for Compassion.
  - A training shift is scheduled with an experienced volunteer.
  - A regular schedule of weekly shifts is established for the month.

## PAWS Volunteer FAQs

### **I'm confused, what is PAWS? A shelter, puppy/kitty heaven, a school?**

Paws for Compassion is an organization with goals to prevent cruelty to animals, improve the welfare of companion animals and to bring about a much needed, long-term change from the animals being victims, to being valuable members of a community. PAWS does this by rehabilitating and giving a good home to animals that have been abused, found ill, or disabled with the aim of finding them forever homes. These are the only animals we bring into our loving arms - we are not a shelter.

PAWS also reaches its goals by educating the community and raising awareness about responsible pet ownership with a focus on developing a youth campaign to eliminate the dog and cat meat trade. PAWS does spay and neuter days for the community, has a rabies free campaign, and much much more. Long story short, PAWS is an amazing non-profit organization!

### **Who are the founders and how are they so incredible?**

The founders are Domenique Terry-Kuhn (cat lady) and Lexie Gray (dog mama). These wonderful women saw a need in 2015 around Danang and took the leap to improving animals lives. They have rehabilitated, fostered out, found forever homes to many animals in their short time founding PAWS. They have educated over hundreds of children in our educational outreach programs where they teach Vietnamese youth about animals, how to care for/love/and adore them. All of the founders work full time jobs and operate the center based off their income. The founders have yet to receive a salary from their work at PAWS but for them it's not about the money - they are rich in lives changed and saved.

### **What are my main duties when volunteering at the animals Center?**

*Cuddles of course.* In more specific terms, volunteers are expected to nurture and care for all our animals - this could be in the form of walks, baths, therapy, touch conditioning, good company and bellyrubs. Volunteers are expected to help keep our center tidy. This means all are responsible for spot cleaning cages, kennel areas, and yards. Volunteers are expected to do their best, while adhering to center policies, to make animals more adoptable. Volunteers are also expected to report any medical or behavior changes noticed in animals to the appropriate staff members in a timely manner. Volunteers are expected to take initiative in PAWS projects and make the most out of their shift.

## When are volunteer shifts? May I volunteer in more than one area?

Again there are two locations for volunteering - the dog house and the cat sanctuary.

The time slots for the dog house are as follows:

Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
8:00-12:00	8:00-12:00	8:00-12:00	8:00-12:00	8:00-12:00	8:00-12:00
12:00-6:00	12:00-6:00	12:00- 6:00	12:00-6:00	12:00- 6:00	12:00- 6:00

You can either commit to one 3 hour shift or two 1.5 hour shifts within the given schedule.

For the cat sanctuary the time slots are as follows:

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
9:00- 10:30	9:00- 10:30	9:00- 10:30	9:00- 10:30	9:00- 10:30	9:00- 10:30
1:30- 4:00	1:30- 4:00	1:30- 4:00	1:30- 4:00	1:30- 4:00	1:30- 4:00

You have to commit to one of the time slots given within the schedule.

If you wish to volunteer at both shelters, then you would pick one cat slot and one 1.5 hour dog slot, easy!

## Why do I have to commit to a regular schedule? I work a grueling 15 hours a week - what if the sun is shining and I want to go to the beach?

All animals thrive off routine (including humans). Our animals need to know and trust volunteers - this takes committed time and working with them regularly. Things at PAWS change overnight, if a volunteer is not consistent with their visits they could become unaware of crucial changes and become out of touch with the center. The founders and full time employees of PAWS also base their schedules around volunteer hours, and they rely on volunteers to fulfill their duties while on shift. Sorry, but beach time must wait!

## What if the beach can't wait and I miss a PAWs shift?

Please refer to the absentee form. Once again, the full time employees are counting on you. We will not visit the shelter during your shift because we are assuming you are doing your job. If the animals are unattended during this whole time one of our disabled animals could get stuck, be in pain, or rubbing poop into its wounds (you never know). If you need to miss a shift or change days, we do require notice so that we can find alternative cover.

## If I am injured while volunteering does PAWS cover the costs of my medical treatment?

No.

## May I take photos of the animals and post them on social networking sites?

You may take photos of adoptable animals and post photos and descriptions on social networking sites as long as the photo and information you post are appropriate and show PAWS in a good light. We encourage social networking to help find homes for our rescues!

## What diseases/viruses affect animal shelter most commonly?

Volunteers should research Mange, Parvovirus, Distemper, Panleukopenia, and Calici. These are viruses/diseases most commonly seen in Vietnam. **Can I get these diseases/viruses?** Mostly no... don't worry we have a quarantine area for our animals with illness, you are not required to work with these animals -

in fact, you are forbidden. Some illnesses can be picked up by your shoes and brought out the rest of the animals - if there is a do not enter sign for the quarantine area then don't enter!

**What are some benefits of volunteering?**

Besides all the guaranteed animal love and snuggles?! We are happy to give any volunteers a letter of recommendation to use in any future ventures for whatever professional or volunteer opportunities that may arise.