

# *Kokomo Humane Society*

713 North Elizabeth St.  
Kokomo, Indiana 46901  
Phone 452-6224

## Volunteering

There is something for everyone at the shelter and we are delighted to have animal lovers volunteer. Volunteering here can be hard work but you will gain much in return (such as furry cuddles and wagging tails). As a volunteer, you will attend an **orientation** so that you will become acquainted with our facility and procedures. You will also need to provide proof of **health insurance** and current **tetanus vaccination**.

Most volunteers start as dog/cat volunteers (stage 1 jobs) and later perform other jobs (stage 2-3 jobs). More experienced volunteers who have fulfilled certain requirements and logged 25 or more hours, may be eligible to perform stage two and three jobs. Below are a few of the many opportunities. Please let the Volunteer Coordinator, Melissa Devendorf, know if you have a special skill or knowledge which may be useful at the shelter. Our volunteers are valuable to us here at KHS!

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## Dog Volunteer (1)

One of our greatest needs is dog walking. Dogs at the shelter spend most of their time in cages and greatly need exercise. This is a fun activity and healthy for dog and volunteer. We have three play areas and a dog walking path. As a dog volunteer, you need to be willing to clean up after dogs that you walk. You should also be willing to provide other care such as grooming, bathing, cleaning kennels, help photograph dogs for our website, etc. All dog volunteers participate in a basic dog training class.

## Cat Volunteer (1)

Although cats generally require less grooming than dogs, some do occasionally need a bath or brushing. Most shelter cats need extra special holding and petting. This also makes the cats friendlier to potential adopters.

## Facility Lawn Care (1)

It is important to keep our facility spruced up. If you have a green thumb and don't mind getting your "paws" a little dirty, you could make all the difference by helping to make KHS a brighter place.

## Laundry (1)

We try to provide each animal with a blanket or towel and a toy. Laundry piles up quickly and it is difficult for our staff to keep up with it. After taking a few dogs for a walk, you may be ready for a more relaxing job like laundry help. We would be happy to show you what to do. You may even take a load or two home and bring it back the next day. Folding is not necessary.

## Morning Kennel Clean-up (1)

Though not the most glamorous task we have to offer, kennel clean-up is something that is much appreciated around the shelter. It is hard work but great exercise and after all the kennels are cleaned you could take a dog for a walk or cuddle a kitty, if you wish. Our staff will train you for the position.

## PETCO and other Events (2)

One Saturday each month, volunteers take a few of our cats to display at PETCO. Customers may fill out adoption applications on these cats and may also browse books containing information about other pets available at KHS. We also set up a booth at other fairs and expositions. These are always fun for volunteers.

## Greeter/Matchmaker (Adoption Counselor) (2)

Visitors at the shelter need to feel welcome. Greeters walk visitors back to the animals and are available to answer questions. It's a lot of fun to talk about the animals. Although any adult can apply, this is a good job for someone who loves animals but cannot walk the big dogs.

## Website/Photographer Volunteer (2)

Do you enjoy photography? This job is perfect for the person who likes to photograph pets and put those photos and pet info on the website. Since KHS has been doing this, it has increased pet adoptions. This job is really a two person job, so recruit a friend!

## Adoption Follow-up Volunteer (3)

After pets have found homes through the shelter, we touch base with the families to see how things are progressing. If you enjoy talking with people about animals, have knowledge in or wish to learn more about cats and dogs, this volunteer opportunity is for you! You will conduct follow-up consultations by phone about one month after adoption. This is an opportunity to provide support, reassurance and literature to adopters or just to chat about our favorite subject-pets!

## "Open Arms" Foster Parent (3)

Foster families are beneficial to the shelter by providing temporary homes for animals with minor health needs, animals in need of simple training or mothers with litters too young to adopt. Our foster families provide extra care to animals that cannot necessarily be provided at the shelter. Foster animals often find homes quicker because of the care and training they have had through fostering. Consider having one of our furry friends as a guest in your home/pet bed 'n breakfast. KHS can provide food and supplies to our foster families.