

Cedar Valley Humane Society Volunteer Information

Volunteering with the Cedar Valley Humane Society is an excellent way to make a positive difference for homeless animals. We always have opportunities for volunteers and have a variety of volunteer positions to select. You can find one activity that matches your skills and interest whether it's socializing dogs or cats, helping at a special event, providing a temporary foster home for a special needs animal or any of the other varied opportunities.

Becoming a volunteer is easy. The first step is to fill out a volunteer application online (www.cvhumane.org). Click on the "Get Involved" tab, then "Volunteer" and complete an application. The next step is to attend a volunteer orientation. These are currently held on Zoom but will return to in person events when the pandemic subsides. At the orientation you will be asked to sign up for one or all of the training sessions at the shelter or online – cat handling/socializing, dog walking, cat cleaning, or dog cleaning. You will not be restricted to these activities; but, you will become familiar with the shelter and how we operate. You are then free to choose any activity. These activities can be found on the Volgistics program that you can access through our website. The only cost to the volunteer is a \$10 t-shirt to wear at the shelter or public events.

Volunteer Requirements – You must be physically able to enter and exit the kennels in a safe manner and have the ability to understand and comprehend Cedar Valley Humane Society rules and policies for their own safety and the safety of the animals. The volunteer must also understand that rules and policies can change and is willing to adapt to such change.

Volunteers can be as young as eight years old. However, until they are sixteen years old they cannot work directly with animals unless a parent handles the animal. For example, a parent and child can walk a dog, but the parent must control the leash. Volunteers under the age of sixteen must be accompanied by an adult volunteer, at least eighteen years of age, at all times. The adult volunteer who wish to handle the animals for their child also needs to have completed orientation and any subsequent training.

Finally, the Cedar Valley Humane Society is involved in a serious but highly rewarding effort of finding "forever" homes for our animals. As we have from 1,200 to 2,100 animals pass through our shelter every year, it is a large task. Although this is a serious endeavor, we want you to enjoy yourself and have fun! If you work with animal and have fun, they will respond in kind. It is then you will realize you have made their life and your own life better.

We are located at 7411 Mt. Vernon Rd SE Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

319-362-6288 www.cvhumane.org

Hours: 12-5 M-F and 12-4 Saturday (subject to change due to the pandemic)

CVHS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

This list may not be all inclusive and new opportunities arise from month to month.

Shelter Activities

Animal care
Animal transport
Building Maintenance
Cat socializing
Cleaning kennels for cats and dogs
Dog Walking
Front Desk Help (weekends – regularly scheduled commitment)
Holiday Open House
Internship
Landscaping including pet cemetery maintenance
Photography assistant
Public Tours
Special Projects
Dog Trail Maintenance (suspended due to derecho damage)
Walmart Dog and Cat Food Pickup

Examples of Off-site Events *Some events may or may not continue after the pandemic.*

Adoption Bank Collections
Adoption Events
Baking delicious treats for holiday and/or bake sales
“Boomfest” at Vinton
Drive for Lives golf tournament
Dog-O-Ween at both Theisen’s locations in Cedar Rapids
Food Pantries at three locations with free dog and cat food
Garrison Kid’s Day
HyVee Fabulous Fur Fun Fact Festival
Lucky Pawz Dog Walk and Run
Mutt Meet Up
North Liberty Doggie Plunge
Petco Adoption Event
PetSmart Monthly and National Adoption Events
PetSmart Cat Kennel Cleaning
Pet Therapy at Care Centers, Cornell College, and Mt. Mercy University
School Visits/Summer Camps
St Patrick's Day Parade
Trivia Night at NewBo
Town celebrations
Vaccination Clinics
Whine & Wags

What I Need To Know About CVHS

Founded in 1901, the Cedar Valley Humane Society helps place animals into new adoptive homes and returns lost pets to their owners every year. Since 2010, over 19,000 animals have passed through our shelter. **We have achieved an outstanding 98% save rate compared to the national average of 67%.**

Are you part of a national organization? No. We are not affiliated with any other agency or organization. However, we work with at risk or low traffic shelters in other parts of the country to save animals from euthanasia.

Who works there? The operations are overseen by an eleven-person Board of Directors. We operate with 15 full and part-time employees. In each of the last two years, almost 500 volunteers donated 27,000 hours in activities for the shelter, fundraising, and fostering of animals.

Do you take all animals? We take in lost, abandoned, and owner-surrendered dogs, cats, rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils, ferrets, degus, and pet rats. At this time, we are not able to care for horses, reptiles, birds, barnyard animals or other wild creatures.

What area do you serve? We place animals in new homes throughout the Eastern Iowa area. We provide animal control services to unincorporated Linn County and Benton County. The municipalities of Cedar Rapids, and Marion have other animal control services providers. We also provide animal control services to Atkins, Alburnett, Central City, Center Point, Coggon, Ely, Fairfax, Hiawatha Lisbon, Mt. Vernon, North Liberty, Norway, Oxford, Palo, Robins, Shellsburg, Shueyville, Solon, Springville, Swisher, Tiffin, Urbana, Van Horne and Vinton.

What is your admission policy? The Cedar Valley Humane Society is an open admission animal shelter. However, there are some exceptions due to various situations. Call us at 319-362-6288 to discuss your situation.

Where are you located? The Cedar Valley Humane Society is located 1/4 mile east of Highway 13 on Mt. Vernon Road. Our address is 7411 Mt. Vernon Road, Cedar Rapids, 52403. Our web address is www.cvhumane.org. Our hours are Monday-Friday: 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday: 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. We are closed major holidays. Please note our hours have been changing due to the COVID pandemic. Please call 319-362-6288 if you have a question.

Are you part of Cedar Rapids Animal Care and Control? No. We are separate organizations with different goals and objectives. Cedar Rapids Animal Care and Control provides animal control services for Cedar Rapids and Marion. Cedar Rapids Animal Care and Control is funded by city tax revenues.

How are you funded? Our funding comes from donations, fundraising, grants, and fees for services. Though we occasionally receive estate gifts and large memorial gifts, the average donation is \$30. We do NOT receive funding from tax money from any governmental unit. We do charge governmental units a fee if we are called to capture or take in an animal from their jurisdiction but it is insufficient to cover all costs.

How long do you hold a stray animal before deciding whether to put it up for adoption?

County code requires all stray animals be held three working days before transfer of ownership occurs. After three days, dogs, cats and critters are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

What are some of the criteria involved in evaluating an animal's adoptability? Behavior, health, compatibility with other animals, children, etc.

What does the \$150 (adult dogs) or \$90 (adult cats) adoption fee include? Feline leukemia test (cats), heartworm test (dogs), age-appropriate vaccinations, deparasitizing (external and internal), microchipping, rabies, and the required spay or neuter surgery. Kittens, puppies and senior animals have different prices.

What are other fees or prices?

- Surrender fees for animals from:
- Cedar Rapids or Marion – \$75 – Stray animals from these two cities should go to Cedar Rapids Animal Control. Any exceptions will be decided by either the Executive Director (Lonnie Viner) or the Director of Operations (Amanda Knefley). Pets previously obtained from CVHS should be returned to us.
- Outside of Cedar Rapids or Marion – \$50
- Microchipping - \$35
- Cremation and burial pricings are available upon request.
- Prices vary for puppies, kittens, and senior dogs and cats.

Are we a no-kill shelter? The answer is yes and no. The animals that are considered for euthanasia fall into three categories. The first category has animals that have a terminal illness or injuries that are severe and **the animal is and can no longer enjoy life**. The second category finds animals that have an aggressive temperament to the point where it is unsafe for the public. These are rare situations. Third, if a District Court orders euthanasia on an animal it determines is a danger to the public.

Is there a time limit on any animal that is not adopted? No. If the animal is of good temperament and health, we will keep them until they are adopted. We do not euthanize for overpopulation.

The Beliefs & Values of the Board of Directors

- All animals should be treated humanely.
- All companion animals should be spayed or neutered.
- **Euthanasia is not an acceptable solution to the pet overpopulation problem.**
- Every companion animal deserves a loving, caring home.
- Humans have a responsibility to care for companion animals.
- Cruelty to animals for the purpose of entertainment is not acceptable.
- Shelters should advocate for and speak out on animal welfare issues.
- The public has a responsibility to help solve the pet overpopulation problem.
- Shelters have a responsibility to provide a humane, caring environment for abandoned animals.
- All sick and injured animals deserve care and treatment.