

LONE STAR SANCTUARY FOR ANIMALS: VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES

HOURS TO VOLUNTEER – ANY DAY:

8:00am – 11:30am

1:00pm – 5:00pm

1. Volunteers must be 16 years of age or older to volunteer by themselves. Younger volunteers, or volunteers with special needs must have a parent or legal guardian with them at all times
2. Volunteers must have their own transportation. Carpooling is alright, but a volunteer can not be dropped off at the sanctuary and picked up later.
3. Check in at the office every time you come to volunteer
4. Volunteers must dress appropriately at all times. Closed toed-shoes (tennis shoes or boots) are required. No sandals or flip-flops will be allowed. Shorts must be an appropriate length. You will be asked to go home and change prior to volunteering if you are out of dress code, so please be sure to dress in proper attire.
5. If you are walking dogs on the trail, please pick up a walkie-talkie in the office before you start walking. This is for your safety as well as the dogs'. Every dog must be walked with a harness and leash; these can be found on the back of the door in the office.
6. The staff knows our animals' temperaments, so check with them before you go in a kennel or take a dog out of their kennel.
7. Treats can be found in the back office. There are a few dogs who really love food and will be eager for a treat, so watch your fingers!
8. If you notice a problem with any of the animals please notify the staff right away so they can take care of the issue as soon as possible.
9. If you want to spend time with the **cats**, let someone on staff know and they will direct you to the cat house. The cats benefit greatly from socialization and positive interaction with people.
10. If you are interested in helping clean kennels, bathe dogs or have dog grooming skills you would like to share, please let us know. We can always use the help.
11. **If at ANY time you are in a situation with an animal, dog or cat, that feels uncomfortable, walk away or call a staff member. Do not put yourself in danger. If you are in a field, leave the dog, close the gate and find someone to help you. If you are with one of the cats, leave the cat room, find an employee and let them know the situation.**
12. **If there is an ORANGE card on the kennel gate, that indicates the dog(s) are in quarantine. Quarantine can be due to known health issues, age (puppies) or recent intake. New dogs must be evaluated for health and temperament for the safety of our other dogs and volunteers, so please do not touch or take pictures of these animals.**

So, what will you be doing as a volunteer?

Here is a rough outline of what you could possibly do while here:

- Take the dogs on a walk! (one at a time please, unless the staff specify that they have a walking buddy) Each and every dog needs to spend time outside his/her kennel. They also need practice being on a harness and leash; so go blaze those trails! (please follow the trail guidelines on the “general information” sheet)
 - Please be careful opening the kennels. Make sure no one else is opening another kennel while you are.
 - You **MUST** take a walkie-talkie with you when you walk a dog
 - All dogs should be walked with a harness and leash
- Take a dog out to an unoccupied field and play with him/her. Or just sit in there and let them run around and explore. It is important that each dog learn to socialize with a variety of new people, this will enhance their chances of being adopted.
- Simply hand out treats to the dogs. You will seriously be their new best friend. This is a great way for the dogs to get to know you as well. The treats are kept in the office.
- We always need an extra set of eyes on the water bowls. If you notice that they are low, or dirty, feel free to wash the buckets and change out the water.
- Poop duty! I know, I know, not very exciting. Yet it needs to be done and if you are feeling lively, please help scoop the poop.
- Dishwasher for a day. The dogs get fed twice a day, and after each feeding their bowls get cleaned. If you would like to help, just let someone know and they can show you what needs to be done.
- To groom or not to groom. If you have any experience in this area please let one of the staff know and they can show you where your skills would be most useful.

CAT HOUSE: HOURS 1pm - 4:30pm

Just like the dogs, cats need socialization as well. If you would like to go play with the cats and give them some attention, let someone in the main office know and they will radio over to the cat house to let them know you are on your way.

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