



## **Volunteer Cat Socializer**

**Summary:** OMHS cats arrive at the shelter because of many different circumstances. Shelter cats range in age, breed and temperament. Due to the level of stress in the shelter environment there can be an increased risk of scratches or bites.

Our cat socializers use cat carriers to take cats out of their enclosures and bring them into a cat socializing room where they get to roam free and interact directly with the volunteer. Our cat socializers help OMHS cats socialize, destress, play and in some instances even exercise. Cat socializers provide shelter cats with visual stimulation and even assist with basic grooming tasks.

Cat socializers also have a variety of toys available to them and can choose to play a variety of different games with OMHS cats. The level of interaction varies on a case-by-case basis and changes depending on the cat. For example, some cats may prefer not to be touched or may not enjoy being brushed. Some may not enjoy being picked up. In these instances, the cats set the rules and cat socializers are required to go slow according to what they're comfortable with. The cat's preferences will be communicated to you ahead of time.

## **Essential Duties and Responsibilities**

- Providing OMHS cats with the opportunity to socialize, destress, play, visual stimulation, mild grooming and/or exercise.
- Monitoring cats during assigned play and socialization times to prevent accidents or injuries.
- Promptly reporting injuries, accidents, or medical issues to management.
- Observing and assessing behavioral patterns in shelter cats.
- Documenting enrichment opportunities provided.
- Documenting the cat's temperaments, personalities, likes, dislikes etc.
- Maintaining accurate records of each cats' progress with regards to behavioral concerns.
- Communicating behavioral concerns to shelter staff and other volunteers.
- Communicating medical concerns to the shelter medical staff.
- Utilizing various cat-training techniques to correct behaviors of concern.
- Utilizing cat carriers to move cats in and out of cat socialization rooms.
- Light cleaning duties including but not limited to sweeping/mopping.
- Following all OMHS protocols
- Respect and maintain confidentiality of OMHS volunteers, partners, and donors

## **Requirements**

- Must genuinely enjoy working with cats even when they are stressed, ill or in pain.
- Must be comfortable working in an environment where cats are in enclosures.

- Must have experience and be comfortable working with cats of various temperaments.
- Must be able to perform physical duties including repetitive standing, walking, bending and twisting.
- Must be able to grasp, hold and manipulate objects.
- Must be dependable and punctual.
- Must be observant, alert, and patient.
- Must be courteous and personable when dealing with the public.
- Must be self-directed, willing to take initiative, and detail oriented.
- Must be willing to work as part of a team.
- Must complete a criminal background check.

### **Training & Supervision**

- Participates in a general volunteer orientation.
- Attends a hands-on orientation.
- Access to ongoing training as needed.

### **Time Commitment**

- Must commit to a minimum of 6 months in the role.
- We ask that you commit to at least one 2 hours shift each week on a scheduled basis.
- Everyday there are 3 shifts.

### **Cat Socializer Benefits**

- Free parking if needed.
- Access to ongoing training.
- Volunteer work experience working with shelter cats.

We can't do it without you! Thank you for being part of our team.