

# Youth Apprenticeship Program



## GENERAL INFORMATION:

Our Youth Apprenticeship Program (Y.A.P.) offers **13-16 year olds** the chance to learn about animal behaviour, care and safe handling practices in a shelter setting. Participants will have the opportunity to volunteer directly with the animals in this 10-week program.

*Y.A.P. participants can put hours towards **community service** and **resume building**.*

## THE SELECTION PROCESS:

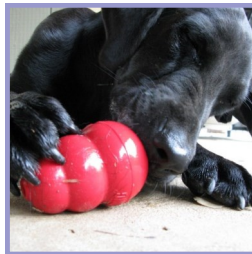
Y.A.P. runs three times per year, with 10 youth in each session. The 30 spots will be **filled by lottery**. On the day after Labour Day, we will take names and contact information from 12:00 am until 11:59 pm. All names will go into a draw, and 30 names will be randomly selected to participate in the following year's program.

Due to the volume of names entered, **only those selected to be in the program will be contacted** - the successful applicants will be contacted by the end of the week.

## HOW IT WORKS:

Once selected, we will meet as a group for an orientation. This will take about two hours and will include a behind-the-scenes tour of the shelter. Then you will sign up for **13 visits** to complete over the course of 10 weeks. A **visit** is a 1.5 - 2 hour block of time in a specific area. These include:

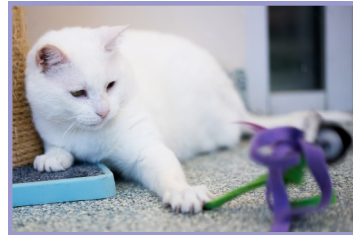
- **Cat socializing** (9 visits)
- **Dog training** (1 visit)
- **Small animal socializing** (2 visits)
- **Customer care** (1 visit)
- **Education** - optional
- **Special events** - optional



We will meet up again, as a group, at the very end of your volunteer time to wrap up.

## COST:

Once accepted into the program, the fee is **\$370**. This covers the cost of materials, and training but is also to provide staff supervision. Many of the animals at OMHS are under a great deal of stress - in order to ensure your safety, a staff member must be present while you are volunteering at the shelter.



## HOURS & LOCATION:

Following the orientation, you will choose a day and time for cat socializing, which will be the same for 9 weeks (e.g. Monday evenings from 6:45 - 8:15 pm). You will also sign up for other opportunities at this time. The 10th week is to make up any missed nights.

The program is held at the Oakville & Milton Humane Society. The address is **445 Cornwall Road** in Oakville.

## ANIMAL INTERACTION:

This experience is designed to give you an overview of the shelter and learn about the animals in our care. Our largest, most accessible population of animals is **cats**, so this program has more opportunity to volunteer with the cats. You will have the option of working with **dogs** for 1 week and **small animals** for 2 weeks as well.

**Customer care and special events** all involve working with people. In the shelter world, it's not just about the animals - it has to also be about the people. It is people that the animals go home to, and it is people, like you, who make our shelter a great place for the animals to stay until their forever homes come along.

**More questions?  
We would love to hear from you!**



For more info, please visit:  
[www.omhs.ca](http://www.omhs.ca)

