

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO VOLUNTEER

The first step is to fill out our Volunteer Application form. It can be downloaded from our website at www.springfarmcares.org/volunteer.htm or picked up in person at our facility. You can also call our office and request that an application be mailed to you.

Once we review your application, we will set up an appointment with you for an orientation tour of our facility. One of our staff will show you around and explain to you what you need to know to start volunteering.

You will be asked to sign a liability waiver before you begin volunteering.

Thank you for considering volunteering your time and heart for our animals. You truly do make a difference in their lives and we are very grateful to you.

Your Support Changes Lives

We are a home to 225-250 animals who would have no place else to go. Many of them come in injured, abandoned, and/or neglected and need specialized care on their journey to health. We never make a medical decision based on a price tag. Each animal is considered for what is right for them. Many then go on to find loving homes where they share their hearts and love with you. Some stay with us for long periods of time while they heal and many live with us forever. Whatever the case may be, we are able to help them because of your support.

There are so many ways your help changes lives. You can be the hope that makes all the difference. Through donations, sponsoring an animal, volunteer work, providing items from our wish lists – your compassion and generosity changes lives. Please go to our website to see how you can help.

www.springfarmcares.org

We thank you!

Spring Farm CARES is a nonprofit 501c3 charitable organization, located on about 275 acres, in central New York. An Animal and Nature Sanctuary with a deep spiritual and philosophical belief that animals, like humans, have souls and thoughts and feelings that can be heard and understood. Center for Animal Communication, home to world renowned Animal Communicator, Dawn Hayman, we also offer other programs such as: Animal Adoption Center, Animal Sanctuary, Nature Sanctuary, Happy Hearth Spay/Neuter Assistance, and Humane Education.

Visit our website for more information:

www.springfarmcares.org



Volunteer Caregiver Program



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YOUR ROLE AS A VOLUNTEER

As a volunteer caregiver you play a very important role in the lives of the animals in our sanctuary. While we have staff who do most of the basic care and cleaning and feeding and medicating, equally important in the lives of the animals is their enrichment. Enrichment is what makes the difference of living a joyful and happy life. For our cats, that includes everything from playing, climbing, hiding in boxes, and just a good dependable lap to sleep on. Sometimes it is someone willing to sit and read out loud to them, or someone to take a nap with, or someone to throw their favorite toy one more time. With 130 – 150 cats in residence, we depend on our volunteers to help meet this need. We are looking for people who are willing to share their hearts and compassion and playful side with many wonderful cats who are just waiting for you to walk into their lives.

We have seen again and again the healing that occurs in their lives from people who simply come and sit with them. For example, many of our most shy cats start to come out and sit closer and closer to a human sitting in their room reading out loud to them. You truly will be a part of their life that they look forward to and you will also benefit from their joy and gratitude in return.

Volunteers are welcome 7 days-a-week (excepting major holidays) from 10am-4pm.

Volunteers must be at least 13 years old and children ages 13-16 yrs. must be accompanied by an adult.

GUIDELINES FOR VOLUNTEERS

It is important to remember that when you come to volunteer or visit that you are entering the home of animals with a variety of special needs. This is their home and we do all that we can to provide an environment for them that is conducive to not just their safety and physical wellbeing but also for their emotional and spiritual wellbeing. We ask that you respect their space and their wishes. Some animals may not be comfortable with you entering their space at first or at all. We all need to work around their needs and desires.

When you volunteer, there are some specific guidelines that must be followed so that we can be respectful of the animals in their environment. Once you have had your orientation tour and are all set up to volunteer, please follow the guidelines below.

- When you arrive, please sign in at the volunteer table AND check in with a staff person to let us know that you are here. It is important to check in with our staff so that you can be told of any animals that cannot have visitors that day or ones that need extra special attention.
- Be respectful of the animals' space. Follow all guidelines given to you by our staff. For example, if you are told not to walk by one of our dogs, please do not walk by the dog – even if you think you can do so without problem. Our staff knows these animals well and knows what they can and cannot handle on a specific day. Please do not second-guess their decisions.

- Please wash your hands between cat rooms. This is a simple health precaution that all of us take to avoid spreading things from one cat room to another, should there be anything contagious.
- Please do not change the furniture in our cat rooms around or reorganize the rooms. Many of our rooms have blind cats or cats that are just plain territorial about where they like their things. Our staff tries to organize the rooms to meet the needs of each group of animals in that room.
- If you have ANY questions or concerns about any of the animals, please notify a staff person immediately and they will be happy to assist you or to follow up on any observations you may have.
- You are welcome and encouraged to bring books or other reading material to read either silently or out loud with the cats if you'd like. We also have chairs available for you to sit on or we can get fresh blankets/comforters for you to sit on the floors with the cats. Please ask one of our staff for assistance with this.
- We encourage you to play with the cats who want to play. Please consult our staff about appropriate toys if you do not see any in the rooms. ***Absolutely no laser toys are allowed on the premises.*** Also, there are several rooms where toys with strings are not allowed as we have cats who will instantly eat the strings. Our staff can help direct you on which toys are safe in each room.