



## **“Not Just a Volunteer” Program FAQs**

### **1. How do I become a volunteer?**

Log onto [www.valleyhumane.org](http://www.valleyhumane.org) and click on %olunteer+. From there you will be able to sign up for a new volunteer orientation. We open up the list to RSVP to orientations on the first of every month at 9AM; if you are unable to RSVP, that means that the orientations that month are full- check back the 1<sup>st</sup> of the next month to register!

### **2. What training is required?**

Volunteers must complete the New Volunteer Orientation and the appropriate training workshops and/or shadow training for their assigned paths.

### **3. Can I start volunteering tomorrow?**

We appreciate your enthusiasm of our volunteer program, but it does take some time and training to become a Valley Humane Society volunteer. After you attend orientation, you will choose a volunteer path and then attend the required workshops within that path. It can take some time to become a volunteer, but we are certain you will find the extensive training you receive with us to be a valuable addition to your skills.

### **4. How old do I have to be to volunteer?**

We ask that all volunteers be a minimum of 12 years old to work with a parent or guardian. Volunteers must be at least 16 to work independently. Some positions have different age requirements as well.

### **5. I'm not quite 12 yet my friends and I really want to help. Isn't there anything I can do?**

While you are not yet able to work directly in the shelter, we do have a few options for volunteers who do not meet the minimum age requirement. Two things you might want to try:

- a. Host a donation drive at your school or in your community to collect various new or used items from our Wish List which you can then donate to the animals of the shelter.
- b. Print Furry Fliers off of our website and distribute them around your neighborhood to help us get our available animals adopted. Furry fliers will be posted by February 2012.

### **6. What happens during the orientation?**

During the orientation, volunteers will learn more about our shelter, our programs, our volunteer program, get to know other staff & volunteers, go on a behind the scenes tour, and learn about shelter essentials and our guidelines and policies.

### **7. What is the minimum time requirement?**

We ask that our new volunteers make an initial commitment of six months. Monthly minimums vary by path by plan to spend at least four hours a month volunteering to meet requirements of most programs.

### **8. Do you have drop-in volunteer hours?**

No, we do not. All of our shifts are scheduled so that our animals stay on a routine.

### **9. Are there any costs associated with volunteering for the Valley Humane Society?**

All new volunteers must purchase a Volunteer Starter Kit that will set you up with a volunteer t-shirt, name badge, discount card for workshops, discount card for Pet Food Express, and volunteer manuals.

### **10. How do I get my dog involved in Canine Comfort?**

Please attend a New Volunteer Orientation where you will learn about VHS and our history and then you will have the opportunity to sign up for a Canine Comfort workshop where we go in depth about the program and how to get involved.