

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION – CAT GUIDELINES

- 1) Please sign in the log book in the volunteer room upon arrival to the shelter and remember to put on a volunteer tag so everyone is aware you are a volunteer.
- 2) **Always** use hand sanitizer before and after handling each cat and be sure to tell visitors to the cat room to please do the same. If a cat is coming down with a cold this will prevent spreading it to the next cat you handle.
- 3) Cats are not permitted to run freely in the cat room. A play cage is set up daily with toys for the cats to play in. Some cats can be placed in the play cage with another cat and some do not like other cats. Please ask the WAHS employee in the cat room before placing cats together in the play cage.
- 4) Each cage has a blue or pink index card with important information about the cat. The blue tags are boys and the pink tags are girls. The cat's name and color markings are in the center of the card. FS = Female Spayed and MN = Male Neutered. The date in the upper left hand corner is the date the cat entered the shelter. Each cat is assigned a number upon arrival for internal tracking purposes and this number is listed in the upper right hand corner.
- 5) All cats and kittens that are up for adoption have been spayed or neutered, have had all required vaccinations and have a microchip for identification if they happen to get outside. The microchip number is in the lower left hand corner of the card. All cats that are adopted are required to be indoor cats. We do not adopt cats to those looking for outside cats.
- 6) All cats need TLC but keep in mind that all cats are different in their personalities just as people. Some cats like to be held and others prefer all four paws on the ground. Start by petting and brushing the cat inside the cage and letting them get to know you before you try to pick them up. As you volunteer more frequently you will begin to know which ones like to be held in your arms and which prefer if you sit in a chair and let them rest on your lap which you pet them.
- 7) As you are going from cage to cage please observe the water bowl, food bowl and litter box. If the box needs scooped or water is dirty please take the time to scoop and change it for the cats. Living in a cage is not fun especially when you have litter in your water or poop that you have to smell all day. They will appreciate it tremendously. Litter scoopers are kept in a bucket under the sink and the garbage cans are by the back door.
- 8) Once you have become familiar with the cats you will be able to help potential adopters find the type of cat they are looking for. You can ask if they are looking for male or female or an active cat or a lap cat etc.

Cat Cage Cleaning

Every morning between the hours of 9am and noon all the cat cages in the shelter need to be cleaned before the shelter opens at noon. This includes emptying the entire cage, wiping it out and replacing the newspaper, bed linens, food, water and litter. The main door will be locked but you can enter in the rear of the building by the kennels. Once all the cages are cleaned the floor needs swept and mopped, garbage taken to the dumpster and dirty laundry taken to the laundry room. The more volunteers that show up the faster the morning cleaning can be completed so please try to come when you are available. This is a huge task with the amount of cats at the shelter. You do not need to sign up just show up.

Petsmart

We have cat cages at Petsmart in Washington next to Giant Eagle. We are always looking for volunteers willing to help with the cat cuddling and cleaning of these cages. Petsmart provides the food and the litter but we need to maintain the cages on a daily basis. If interested please contact Natalie at (724) 873-1737.

Wish List of Items Needed for the Cats

New or Used Large Towels	Cat Toys for cages and play cage
Clorox Bleach	Dry Cat & Kitten Food
Liquid Laundry Detergent	Wet Canned Cat & Kitten Food
Dishwashing Liquid	Clear Packing Tape for taping cardboard carrying cages
Hand Sanitizer	Blue/Pink Index Cards
Clay Cat Litter (No Scoop)	Large Green and Small White Garbage Bags
Peroxide/Antibiotic Ointment	Paper Towels
Lint Rollers	Ear Cleaning Solution for Mites
Q-Tips	Baby food for sick cats (Gerber or Heinz #2 Chicken)
Shampoo for cats and kittens	KMR Powder for feeding kittens
Unscented Baby Wipes	Band-aids
Clorox Wipes	Cat Beds