



Mahalo Nui Loa Volunteers

Thank you for your interest in the Hawaii Island Humane Society's Volunteer Program. By becoming a part of our team of dedicated volunteers and staff, you will be helping the animals and the people of Hawaii.

Volunteers help in many ways, and *every* position helps animals. There are many areas where volunteers can work at HIHS, along with the training and time commitments. On the reverse page you will see a listing of some policies of the Hawaii Island Humane Society.

All volunteers must attend a volunteer orientation given by the Volunteer Coordinator or another experienced staff person. We are very grateful for any time that you can give us, be it a half hour or 8 hours. Every little bit makes the life of our animals better.

Volunteers must be 16 years of age, although children under 16 may volunteer as part of a team with a parent. Children must be at least 6 years of age to volunteer. We do allow 2 children with 1 adult to volunteer as a team. In those cases both the youth and the adult must attend the orientation and participate in all volunteer activities *together*. All community service or school projects require the review of the Shelter Manager and the Volunteer Coordinator, and must be flexible in the areas of available work, time frames and supervision. At this time we are unable to accommodate large volunteer groups. We apologize for any inconvenience.

We hope you will find the work here rewarding and fulfilling. Besides the satisfaction that comes from helping those in need, volunteers gain valuable skills in companion animal care and behavior, customer service, and team work. We also provide training opportunities for our long-term volunteers.

Please read through the enclosed materials, and fill out the volunteer application. The Volunteer Coordinator will contact you to set up an orientation.

Thank you for your interest in the *Hawaii Island Humane Society's Volunteer Program*. By becoming a part of our team of dedicated volunteers and staff, you will be helping the animals and the people of the Big Island.

We look forward to you joining our team!! Mahalo Nui Loa.

Hawaii Island Humane Society
Bebe Ackerman
Humane Educator/Community Coordinator
808-217-0154
Email: volunteer@hihs.org

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All Volunteers must be aware of the following policies of the
Hawaii Island Humane Society

Adoption Screening:

It is the policy of the Hawaii Island Humane Society (HIHS) to find qualified homes for as many pets as possible. However, we also want to make sure that each pet will lead a healthy and happy life and is properly cared for. Not everyone who comes in to adopt is capable of providing an appropriate home for a particular pet or, in some cases, any pet. It is the decision of a Humane Officer and/or the Shelter Manager as to whether an adoption is approved or not. Some people may be refused adoption if they cannot provide an appropriate home or are not committed to caring for the pet on a long term basis. A Volunteer must be willing and able to honor any and all decisions made by shelter staff.

Spay/Neuter:

HIHS requires that ALL pets adopted from our shelters must be spayed or neutered. This is a crucial step in controlling pet overpopulation, one of our primary goals. To ensure that we meet this requirement, adopted pets are sterilized on site by our staff Veterinarian. The pet is then released to their new family.

At times, pets on adoption row may be chosen for sterilization prior to adoption. The pet may then go directly home with their new family.

In certain cases, such as the pet is too young, or may thrive better in a home environment, the Shelter Manager will allow the pet to be fostered before being spayed or neutered. There are no other exceptions to this rule.

Humane Euthanasia:

One of the hardest parts of working in an animal shelter is dealing with euthanasia. Euthanasia means "kind death." Prospective volunteers need to understand how and why it is done. During volunteer orientation you will learn our policies and procedures concerning such topic.

We are dedicated to finding appropriate homes for as many pets as possible. However, it is important to understand that we must accept ALL pets/animals brought to our shelters regardless of their condition. We cannot selectively accept only those animals which are the most adoptable, nor can we close our doors when all the cages are full. There are other organizations that do not use humane euthanasia, however, they must close their doors when their kennels are full. Our policy is to keep adoptable pets as long as space allows and the pet does not show signs of mental or physical deterioration.

Overpopulation is a national tragedy and Hawaii is no exception. We are actively working on educating the public about this problem and providing opportunities for low cost spay/neuter surgeries, and in some cases, at no cost to the pet owner. However, the fact is that there are not enough homes for all the pets brought to us and humane euthanasia is preferable to the alternative—a life of starvation, illness, injury or a traumatic death on the streets. It is important that volunteers must be able to understand and accept this facet of work at HIHS. Believe that the work you are doing will, in the long run, make a difference and help bring to an end this tragic situation.

*The mission of the Hawaii Island Humane Society is to
Prevent cruelty to animals,
Eliminate pet overpopulation &
Enhance the bond between humans and animals*



VOLUNTEER PROFILE

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME/CELL PHONE: _____ WORK: _____

EMAIL: _____

Occupation/school: _____

If you will be working as a parent/child team please indicate this information below:

CHILD: _____ BIRTHDAY: _____

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EMERGENCY CONTACT: (If this changes, please contact us immediately)

NAME: _____ RELATIONSHIP: _____

PHONE: HOME/CELL _____ WORK: _____

Is this volunteering part of a school accreditation program? _____

Do you have any physical, medical, or psychological limitations or disabilities that might hinder you from participation in specific areas of the Volunteer Program? _____

EXPLAIN: _____

Do you have any animal care training or specialized skills in working with animals? _____

Do you understand that due to certain circumstances HIHS occasionally has to perform humane euthanasia? **YES NO**

I verify that the above information is accurate to my knowledge, and I understand that the completion of this profile does not guarantee me a volunteer position at the Hawaii Island Humane Society.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____



Often times we need an extra hand or two. Please review this list and select the opportunities that interest you. Training will be provided for many volunteer opportunities,

- Adoption Flyers. Stuff envelopes.
- Baby Bird Care
- Bottle Feeding
- Carpentry
- Cat Socialization
- Clerical
- Computer Tech
- Data-Entry
- Desktop/Graphic Design
- Event Coordinator
- Feeding Newborns
- Foster Parents (Please request a foster application at front desk)
- Fundraising
- Grant Writer/Editor
- Groomer
- Photographer
- Promotion/Distribution
- Publicity/Outreach
- Sewing
- Trainer
- Trap/Neuter/Release
- Vet-Tech
- Walking Dogs
- Web Design/Maintenance

If you have any special training or individual service not listed, please feel free to add.
Mahalo for your interest in Hawaii Island Humane Society. We look forward to you joining our team.