Thank you for your interest in volunteering for the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA). Please submit your contact information here and we will send you an email the next time we schedule a New Volunteer Information Session. Sessions are generally held on a weekly basis.

Volunteers under the age of 18 can participate in the Youth Volunteer Program. Click here for details and to sign up online.

For descriptions of Future Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteer Listings.

WHAT DO VOLUNTEERS DO?

AWLA volunteers are committed, caring individuals who positively impact the lives of our animals. They work closely with the public to provide customer service and socialize animals. The valuable support and service they provide is truly appreciated by the animals, staff and visitors.

Volunteers can train to work with:

- Dogs
- Cats
- Small Animals

Other areas in which our volunteers help:

- Office support — answering phones, data entry, help with mailings.
• General shelter support — dishes, laundry, sorting donations, treat/enrichment preparation.
• Seasonal and/or project-based help — this can be anything from gardening to graphic design or any other skill sets you want to share with the AWLA.
• Special events assistance — with adoption events, fundraisers, pet care/vaccine clinics and outreach.
• Wildlife transport — to bring injured wildlife to licensed rehabilitators in the area.
• Humane Education program assistance — helping with youth badge programs and birthday parties

Our volunteers help in a variety of other ways. If you have a special talent that you’d like to share with us and our residents, please contact the AWLA at 703-746-4774 or email volunteers@AlexandriaAnimals.org.

HOW CAN I BECOME A VOLUNTEER?

Please submit your contact information here and we will send you an email the next time we schedule a New Volunteer Information Session. Sessions are generally held weekly, based on interest and staff availability.

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT FOR VOLUNTEERING?

AWLA staff members and volunteer mentors train each volunteer and ask that all volunteers spend four regularly scheduled hours per month for a minimum of six months in their roles as volunteers. We ask all volunteers to schedule their time so that we know when volunteers will be in the shelter and may be able to assist with certain tasks.

THE NEXT INFORMATION SESSION IS FULL OR THERE ARE NO UPCOMING DATES SCHEDULED. WHY THE WAIT?

Volunteer information sessions fill up quickly and we can’t open them up to additional participants or hold sessions more frequently because each of our new volunteers needs to be properly trained and oriented. Time is spent with each new valued volunteer to make sure they are getting the most out of their volunteer experience and signing up for volunteer jobs that are of value to the organization and to
the animals. This process helps to maintain the quality of our volunteer program, and we thank you for your patience!

**WHAT KIND OF TRAINING IS REQUIRED FOR VOLUNTEERS?**

The amount of training required **varies by volunteer position**. If you are selected to move forward in the application process, you will be given the dates to attend the required workshop for the volunteer position of your choice. Volunteers who handle animals receive specialized training in working with the animals in our care and will work with a mentor volunteer to progressively add skills needed to volunteer in the chosen animal specialty.

**MY SCHEDULE IS UNPREDICTABLE. CAN I STILL VOLUNTEER?**

The AWLA understands that everyone’s schedule is different. If you cannot commit to a regular volunteer schedule in the shelter, we welcome your time and talent in other ways: helping with events; disseminating information about the AWLA; general shelter support; and special projects, some of which can be completed at home. We ask that all volunteers who wish to handle our animals or help in many other shelter programs commit to a regularly scheduled, weekly shift for six months.

If this doesn’t work for you, learn about other ways to get involved.

**ARE THERE AGE REQUIREMENTS FOR VOLUNTEERING?**

We require that all volunteers be **18 or older**. Younger shelter friends can still help our furry residents as part of our **Youth Volunteer Program**. Click here to sign up for a youth volunteer program.

**ALREADY A VOLUNTEER?**

Click here to sign in to Volgistics. It’s our volunteer portal.

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**Other Questions?**

Please contact the AWLA at **703-746-4774** or email our Volunteer team at **volunteers@AlexandriaAnimals.org**.