

10 TIPS

FOR VOLUNTEERING WITH AN ANIMAL RESCUE ORGANIZATION

As a volunteer-powered non-profit organization, The Arkansas Pet Savers (TAPS) would not exist without the hard work and dedication of the kind-hearted individuals within our community. The number of pets we can save largely depends upon the number of people we have helping us. As such, we're always looking for new volunteers.

There are many ways you can volunteer with TAPS. From cleaning to transport to event coordination—and everything in between, every little act of care matters. Here are few things to consider when thinking about volunteering with us or any animal rescue organization.

Consider Volunteering as a Family

Volunteering with an animal shelter or rescue organization is a great activity for the whole family. Not only are you helping animals in need, but you're also giving a lesson in compassion and helping your kids to see the value of giving back. Next time you're looking for a family activity, consider signing up to volunteer with your local animal shelter or rescue organization.

A Little Goes a Long Way

Seriously. Even 30 minutes of volunteering can go a long way. If you're short on time, consider working with your local rescue organization to find an activity that fits your schedule. At TAPS, we appreciate any amount of time you can contribute to our pet-saving mission.

Check with Your Employer

Oftentimes, companies have programs in place to encourage community outreach. Ask your current employer if they offer volunteer hours; this is a great way to give back to your community and represent your business in a worthwhile endeavor.

Make Room on Your Resumé

Volunteering is a great resume-building activity. Donating your time and talent to a worthy community initiative not only helps those in need but also provides great content for your resume or college application. Businesses and universities are always looking for well-rounded individuals with a healthy amount of extracurricular activities.

Handle with Care

Just like people, animals possess individual personalities. When signing up to volunteer with a rescue organization, it's helpful to be prepared for all scenarios. Sometimes, animals really want your attention, and other times, they struggle to connect. Don't take it personally, and don't give up. The shy ones need you the most.

Choose Your Own Adventure

The term "volunteering" can encapsulate so many different activities. If you're just starting out, think about the types of work you enjoy—where you excel and what individual contributions you can bring to the group. Do you prefer to socialize or clean? Do you like group or individual projects? Reflect on your individual preferences and share them with your rescue organization. This will ensure you find work that's beneficial for the animals and meaningful for you.

You Can't Keep Them All

As a rescue volunteer, you will quickly discover an unfettered desire to simply adopt them all. Problem solved, right? We can close up shop and go home—except that's not really how it works. Though we may love every rescue, it isn't feasible to take home every single one. We can, however, channel that energy into finding them the perfect home.

It's Free Therapy

Volunteering isn't just beneficial to the animals; it's healing for the humans as well. Many volunteers cite the therapeutic benefits as a key reason for their contributions. Helping animals is a great way to find joy in the small moments. Sometimes, being covered in dog hair really is the best medicine.

Listen to Your Fellow Volunteers

Some of our volunteers have been with us for years, and they know a lot about how to operate a rescue organization as well as how to expertly handle skittish abused animals. If you're looking for guidance, our veteran volunteers are a great place to start. They can provide a wealth of information and advise you during new situations.

Have Fun!

Remember that volunteering is meant to be an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Helping to save and care for our local rescue animals is a worthwhile and fulfilling activity that should bring joy to your life. Enjoy the experience, and know that the work you're doing is helping to save precious lives.



THE ARKANSAS
PET SAVERS

We're always looking for extra hands to help with the day-to-day tasks that come with operating a rescue organization. If you would like to volunteer with The Arkansas Pet Savers, please contact us today!

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