

Volunteering for clinic positions

We are happy to thoroughly train anyone for ANY of these positions if you are willing to learn. Clinic days can be long and are physically demanding, as there is rarely any downtime. However, you do not need to commit to a full day. We ask that you commit to the same time frame every week, but that can consist of half a day if that works best for you.

Clinic Position Descriptions

INTAKE: The intake volunteer is responsible for checking in anyone bringing cats into the clinic for surgery. You will collect payment and check them into the database. You will also create the surgical log for that day. This position is a fast-paced one that requires interacting with a lot of people, learning some of the ins and outs of our organization in order to answer questions, and data entry.

TIME COMMITMENT: 8am to approximately 12pm

KNOCKDOWN: This position requires that you are familiar with or willing to learn how to give injections. This volunteer injects the cat with a dose of anesthesia while someone holds the cat (if it is a tame cat), or through the trap (if it is a feral cat). Everything in our protocol for this position is designed to ensure the safety of both the volunteer and the cats. If the cat is a female, you will express (empty) her bladder, and you will put a number in each cat's ear using a magic marker. This is a great position for anyone with any vet tech or nursing experience, or anyone who is eager to learn!

TIME COMMITMENT: 9am to approximately 5-6pm

KNOCKDOWN ASSISTANT: This volunteer assists the knockdown person with holding cats and getting cats ready to go into prep. Once a cat is taken out of a trap, you will empty the trap, move it over to recovery side, and line it with clean newspaper. Cleaning trap tables and preparing food for post-op cats are also part of the job.

TIME COMMITMENT: 9am to approximately 5-6pm

PREP: The prep volunteer prepares the anesthetized cats and kittens for surgery. You will shave (using electric clippers) and scrub the surgical site, lubricate the cat's eyes, and give an injection of pain medication to the females.

TIME COMMITMENT: 9am to approximately 5-6pm

TECH: The tech is responsible for administering vaccines, injections of antibiotics when needed, applying topical flea treatment, and tipping the cat's ear (if it is feral). The tech must also either be familiar with venipuncture or be willing to learn in order to draw a small amount of blood for FIV/FelV testing when needed. All of this is done after surgery, but while the cat is still under sedation.

TIME COMMITMENT: 9am to approximately 6pm

RECOVERY: The recovery person makes sure that the cats are waking up from anesthesia normally, cleans ears, clips nails, and ensures that the ear tip of feral cats is no longer bleeding. This volunteer routinely flips the cats over to stimulate them and monitors their breathing and color. Once the cat shows signs of waking up, you will put him/her back in a carrier or trap.

TIME COMMITMENT: 9:30am to approximately 6pm

INSTRUMENTS: The instrument volunteer rinses and scrubs surgical instruments and creates surgical packs. These packs are then run through one of our autoclaves, which you will learn to operate. This is a bit of a quieter position, which allows you to be away from the hustle and bustle of the clinic operations, while still playing an important role.

TIME COMMITMENT: Approximately 10:30-11am to approximately 6-7pm

DISCHARGE: This volunteer will input all the information from the surgical log, which includes sex of the cat, test results, and any additional medical information. You will also print paperwork out for people picking up their cats and relay any necessary information to them.

TIME COMMITMENT: Approximately 4pm to approximately 7pm