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WELCOME AND THANK YOU

Welcome to the Hart County Humane Society Volunteer Program. Thank you for choosing to spend your time working for the benefit of the homeless, abandoned and unwanted animals in our community. Since our beginnings, our volunteers have dedicated thousands of hours of service to form the Hart County Humane Society from the ground up. Volunteers have put in many hours walking dogs, socializing cats and puppies, participating in special events to raise funds, being foster parents and buddies, and all of the other many tasks that are required. Volunteers are our life blood, and we could not exist or function without them.

We hope that you become a part of our family. This manual and our training have been created to educate you on the Hart Humane Society, our services, policies, volunteer opportunities, and also to make sure you have fun and feel safe no matter how you choose to get involved. If you have any questions or concerns at any point during your time volunteering at HHS, please contact your supervisor, a committee member or your volunteer coordinator.

Thank you again for joining the Volunteer Program. You are doing a great service to the homeless, abandoned and unwanted animals of Hart County. The animals themselves may thank you in their own way. Know that you are their world and they appreciate every minute you spend with them and for their benefit.

HART COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY MISSION STATEMENT AND HISTORY

Hart Humane Society History

The Hart County Humane Society was formed in 2006 in response to the tremendous amount of public outcry by the citizens of the City of Hartwell and Hart County. Due to the fact that Hart County has no animal shelter or animal control, roaming packs of dogs and feral cat colonies litter our landscape causing attacks on people and pets while unwanted litters of puppies and kittens are routinely deposited on back roads. One of the goals of the Hart County Humane Society is to draw attention to this problem and to seek a solution with our local government. We invite you to help us attain this goal by joining with us to make Hart County and Hartwell a more inviting and safe place to live. Once our shelter is in place, we will become a support group to help the shelter with needed items that may or may not be in the budget. We will continue to raise funds in our community to help the shelter as needs arise. Our commitment is to keep our unwanted animals happy and healthy, and to find loving homes.

Who Are We?

Hart County Humane Society, Inc. is a Georgia registered non-profit organization with tax exempt status under IRS section 501(c) (3). We have an animal shelter license with the Georgia Department of Agriculture. We rescue homeless dogs and cats, shelter them in the homes of member of our organization, and at a small local kennel facility, and offer the animals for adoption. Our organization is a Pet Smart adoption partner, and we participate in adoption events at the Pet Smart stores in Anderson, SC, and other Pet Smart stores nearby, and at local community events in Hartwell, GA. We promote spaying and neutering of pets through a Low Income Spay/Neuter certification program by agreement with local veterinarians to do the surgery at a reduced rate for qualified applicants for a small fee.

Who We Are Not!

We are not a shelter. We are not a facility with a location or a paid staff. We are not animal control. We receive no funding from any government agencies or groups. We have no jurisdiction or authority to seize animals from private property or citizens, even if they are being neglected or abused, if the owners do not want to surrender their animals.

We are Grateful

Also, a very special thank you to the doctors and staff at the Animal Hospital of Hartwell, Three Trees Veterinary Services, Royston Animal Hospital and Lavonia Animal Hospital who have given so much "heart" to the Hart County Humane Society.

HART COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY CONTACT INFORMATION

Donna Madkiff – President706-436-0965
Pam McGovern – Vice President.....706-376-8278
Judy Peebles – Secretary.....706-3765319
Margaret Kiemele - Treasurer.....706-376-6404
Donna Bridges – Volunteer Coordinator.....706-376-4147

Website – www.harthumane.org

Email – hartcohumane@yahoo.com

HART COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY SERVICES

The Hart Humane Society adopts out mostly dogs, cats, puppies and kittens, though occasionally we get calls about injured wildlife and other animals. Every animal that comes to us requires different instructions and care. To qualify to adopt an animal from the Hart Humane Society, the potential owner will go through an Adoption Interview to make sure that the animal and the owner are a good fit for one another. We screen applicants to adopt a pet with an application form, interview, veterinarian reference, and home visit. We want all of our pets to be adopted into homes where they are with the family inside at night and during family time. Our adoption fee is \$125 for dogs and \$75 for cats. All animals offered for adoption have been spayed or neutered, and are up to date on vaccinations and parasite preventives. Cats have been tested for FIV, feline leukemia and heartworms. Dogs have had a microchip implanted, and have been tested for heartworms and treated if positive. Adopters are required to sign a binding adoption agreement which will cover different subjects and will be discussed at the time of adoption.

Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program

For homes that cannot afford to have their own pets spayed or neutered, the Hart Humane Society offers a subsidized program for households to get their pet(s) spayed or neutered for little cost. A small part of this cost is paid by the pet's guardians and the balance is paid by direct donations and fund raising. Applications can be found on-line, at any of our local caring veterinarian's offices, at the Library, the Police Department, and the Sheriff Department or by calling the Hart County Humane Society.

Our Foster Program

Each year our foster families save the lives of hundreds of animals by giving them a second chance. Our foster parent program is made up of community volunteers who take animals into their homes, give them care and help them find their "forever homes." The Humane Society provides food, crates and medical care for the animals. The only expense to the foster family is their time and love.

Our Volunteer Opportunities

Foster Care

Our foster homes provide medical a nurturing environment and sometimes medical rehabilitation for the animals in their care so they may mature, heal, socialize and become available for adoption. The Humane Society pays for all medical treatments and medication, food, and supplies. Fosters provide love, a good temporary home, and the responsibility for making sure that the animals are taken to adoption events. This opportunity requires a dedicated individual or family with ability to house animals that require additional time to help them thrive and become available for adoption. Fostering is ideal for someone that is unable to commit to a pet of their own but can temporarily house and love an animal until it is adopted.

Public Relations and Fund Raising

The outreach volunteers are responsible for raising much needed funds for the Humane Society. This committee is responsible for developing and planning fund raising ideas and events. They represent and promote Hart County Humane Society at community events. They staff information tables and answer the public's questions about our mission and services in the community. This requires good interpersonal skills and a commitment to specific events.

Kennel Assistant

These volunteers enjoy a great deal of physical contact with the animals. The main duty of the kennel volunteer is to make sure the animals are well cared for and comfortable. Basic duties include: exercising animals; cleaning cages and kennels; washing dishes, hands on socialization to build confidence for some animals; minor grooming; feeding and giving water; providing toys. Volunteers must have good physical strength and ability to work independently.

A.M. Assistant - Helps with kennel cleaning, dishes, feeding of the animals, and other specific projects. Provide enrichment (toys, Kongs). Socialize and exercise, and walk animals. A commitment of at least two hours a week is required.

P.M. Assistant - Helps with maintaining a clean kennel environment, exercise and walk animals, provide clean water, and other specific projects. A commitment of at least two hours a week is required.

Dog Walker/Play Pal

Dog walkers come in the morning, afternoon, and evening and walk the dogs. They spend a little time with their animals just giving them the special love and attention they deserve, whether it is just a play time or brushing their coats.

Foster Buddy

Foster buddies are assigned an animal or choose the one they feel is a best fit for them and become their special pal. They focus on increasing adoptability and rehabilitation of shelter animals. You will learn how to re-build trust between humans and dogs, to desensitize the dog to humans entering his or her kennel and donning a leash, train loose on leash walking, and also train/reinforce basic manners.

Foster buddies can eventually can take their dogs on the "Tails on Trails", where they take their animal on special off-site sessions for exercise and socialization. This provides exercise and community exposure for the shelter dogs.

A foster Buddy also accompanies their special animal to our special events and adoption events so that they have every chance to find that perfect "forever home."

The Foster Buddy program is one of our most rewarding experiences. You can be a personal advocate for your special friend. You become that voice for the animal that previously had no one to speak for him.

Humane Education Volunteer

The Hart County Humane Society believes that attitude can be positively influence through education. As an Education Volunteer, your job will be to inform audiences (primarily children) about the Humane Society services and heighten awareness of ways people can help animals. Our education program emphasizes responsible pet care, respect for local wildlife, and compassion for all species. Humane Educators must be very reliable and communicate clearly and enthusiastically with both children and adults. Good judgment, a sense of humor, and a deep concern for the humane treatment of all animals are also essential.

WHATS NEXT?

After your volunteer application is filled out and you have attended a volunteer orientation, your next step would be to let us know the area your interest lies. We will team you up with another member or a group to get you started on your training! Our Humane Society meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at the Adult Literacy Center by the Library at 6:30 pm. It is important that we have your input so please try to attend.

Hart County Humane Society thanks you for giving us some of your precious time and for making such a difference in an animal's life. To quote Margaret Mead -

"Never doubt a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

