

THANK YOU!

E-mail: brookingsregionalhumanesociety@hotmail.com

Hours: MTTHF 12pm-6pm
Sat 11am-4am
Closed Sundays & Wednesdays
Phone: 605-697-7387



Thank you for choosing to volunteer at Brookings Regional Humane Society! Your invaluable help allows us to keep our animals healthy, happy, and moving towards their forever home! In addition to giving our animals a better quality of life while they are in our care, your hard work allows our staff to work on critical medical tasks, adoption processing, and grant and fundraising projects! There is no unimportant job! Our mission to shelter, protect, educate, and promote animals depends on every day volunteers! Thank you again!

Welcome to BRHS

In order to help facilitate volunteers, we've come up with some frequently asked questions and information about what to expect while volunteering and what we expect of volunteers. If you have additional questions, just ask the staff!

FAQ

Do I need to schedule my volunteer hours? Are there set times to volunteer?

Yes, we currently take volunteers on a pre-scheduled basis:

Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri: 1:00-3:00pm or 4:00-6:00pm and Sat: 11:00-1:00pm or 1:00-3:00pm.

We do not take volunteers on Sundays or Wednesdays.

Sign up for volunteer hours via our website! Since we only schedule 2-3 volunteers during any given shift, if you have a service group or larger number, please contact the shelter directly to schedule.

You may only sign-up for 1 shift per day unless you have preauthorization from a staff member. If you sign up for more than one shift per day without authorization, your second shift will be deleted and your hours may not count.

Am I required to volunteer a minimum amount?

Nope! But we sure love to see volunteers regularly! We do require a minimum of 8 hours of general volunteer work to walk dogs.

What should I wear?

Lots of what we do at the shelter involves cleaning up animal messes so we recommend wearing something you don't mind getting bleach on or getting dirty! And closed toed shoes!

Do you track our volunteer hours?

After you fill out and turn in a volunteer app, we enter your information in a tracking spreadsheet. We keep track of hours that volunteers are signed in. Please sign in to the nearest quarter hour (:00, :15, :30, :45), as it makes things a lot easier for our data entry! If you are doing volunteer work for a community service project, court ordered, etc, we are happy to tell you the hours we have verified and sign off on paperwork. It is your responsibility to provide paperwork. We cannot store your tracking sheets/documentation at the shelter.

How old do I have to be to volunteer?

Almost any age can volunteer! If you are under 18, you must have a parent/guardian sign your volunteer application, and if you are under 16, you MUST HAVE AN ADULT (18+) PRESENT while you volunteer. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old to be eligible to walk dogs and it is a case-by-case basis.

What we expect

Since there is never a dull moment at the shelter, our staff have a lot going on to ensure everything is running smoothly and the animals are getting top level care! Because of this, we expect our volunteers to be self-motivated and detail oriented! We're happy to answer questions and show our volunteers around but we also encourage our volunteers to use the resources provided to complete tasks (task list white board, volunteer handbook at the sign in desk, and room task cards on the volunteer supply shelf). If you are unsure how to do something or run out of listed tasks, let a staff member know and we'll reevaluate what our current volunteer tasks needs are.

What to expect

Volunteers should expect to get a little dirty and do tasks that may seem small or trivial, but every single thing is important. Some common tasks include:

- Sorting grocery bags for holes- we use lots of plastic bags to pick up poop, change litter boxes, and more! When they have holes in them, we end up with bigger messes like litter spilled over the floor or poop on our hands!
- Washing/drying/folding/putting away laundry- because we house so many animals in small spaces, cleanliness is very important to their health and comfort. We change their bedding daily and it adds up to a lot of laundry!
- Cleaning different rooms and areas- disease management and tidy rooms are very important to our animals' health! We can reduce illness and keep our pets healthy and comfortable by making sure they have a clean space.
- Picking up poo around the outside of the shelter- nobody likes picking up poo, but it's an inevitable part of an animal shelter. It is mandatory that if you are taking dogs out for breaks or walks to pick up poop as they go so we don't end up with a big mess!
- Putting away donations- our wonderful community donates all sorts of items to our shelter and they have to go somewhere! Getting donations sorted, labeled, and put away in the right place helps everything run smoother and allows us to utilize those items to their full potential!
- After you have 8 hours of volunteering done, you can also walk dogs and take them out on potty breaks!

Interest in getting more involved?

If you are looking to get more involved or have special skills you think would benefit our organization, please talk to a staff member! We are always searching for help with special events, fundraising planning, and foster homes!