

Family Volunteer Program

Criteria & Guidelines

[Updated 7/5/14]



- 1. To be eligible for the program, all children must be in at least 1st grade.** If volunteering in the summer, the child must be going into 1st grade in the fall.
- 2. A parent or guardian must accompany their children at all times.** Children may never be left alone with the animals, in any part of the shelter.
- 3. Each parent or guardian may accompany a maximum of 2 children.**
- 4. Families must sign up for a scheduled, weekly shift.** Shifts are available on first come, first serve basis on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, or Saturday, between 9:00am and 2:30pm. If you are unable to make it to your scheduled time, we ask that you coordinate with another family to see if they wish to take your shift, or, call the shelter staff to let them know you will not be coming.
- 5. An SCHS staff member or a qualified volunteer must be present in the dog areas where families are volunteering.** They do not need to accompany the family volunteers to each kennel or dog, but must be present somewhere close by. If parents or guardians do not see a staff member in the area where they are volunteering, it is their responsibility to inform the front desk, and ask that a staff member be sent to the dog area. If someone is not immediately available, the family volunteers may be asked to wait in the reception area until a staff member is available to supervise.
- 6. Family volunteers may socialize Sweetie Pie and Sasha as well as the cats and kittens in the Purr Palace.** Sometimes, the Purr Palace apartments are used for boarding. Volunteers may never enter an apartment that has a BOARDING sign on it.
- 7. Family volunteers may socialize small to medium-sized dogs that are approximately 1 year old or younger.** Kennels containing these dogs will be marked with an orange paw print sign that says, *Approved for Interaction with Volunteer Kids*. If socializing in the outdoor dog runs, an SCHS staff member must be with the family in the run.
- 8. Parents and guardians are responsible for making sure that everyone in the family washes their hands before starting their volunteer shift – as well as between each dog kennel or cat cage.** This is very important and helps prevent the spread of illness between the animals.
- 9. All family members must arrive dressed in closed-toed shoes, pants, and preferably long sleeved shirts.** If families are not dressed appropriately, they may be asked to go home and change clothing before they can socialize the animals.
- 10. All family volunteers must complete an orientation/training before they can begin socializing the animals on their own.** A qualified volunteer or an SCHS staff member will schedule and conduct this training.