

Independent Volunteering Criteria

For your safety and the safety of animals at DRHS, we require that all individuals 16 and older volunteering independently or those 18 and over who are supervising other volunteers possess several key abilities. Volunteers interacting with animals must:

- Be able to enter and exit the kennels in a safe manner
- Be able to bend and squat
- Be able to maintain good balance while handling animal
- Have a high level of manual dexterity and quick reflexes
- Have good vision both directly and peripherally
- Have an immune system that is strong enough to withstand possible exposure to zoonotic diseases such as ringworm and mange
- Be able to cope with a loud environment
- Be comfortable getting clothes wet or dirty
- Be able to understand, remember and follow instructions and procedures provided in English; and the ability to ask questions when appropriate
- Be able to understand DRHS policies and positions regarding companion animals, wildlife, exotics, and other key animal welfare issues
- Be willing and able to appropriately and accurately represent DRHS policies when interacting with the public or otherwise representing DRHS
- Be able to cope with regular changes to policies, procedures, personnel and animal populations
- Be able and willing to interact calmly and respectfully with other volunteers, staff and the public
- Be able to judge an animal's reaction to you and to change your actions, tone of voice and demeanor appropriately in response to the animal's behavior and body language
- Be able to observe and evaluate health and behavioral problems that are revealed during animal socialization
- Be able to cope with and manage unexpected animal behavior according to current policy or protocol