



## Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter (WPCAS) Volunteer Team Position Description

Revised: January 24, 2019

### WPCAS Community Networking Team

*The Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter (WPCAS) encourages the involvement of volunteers, at all levels of our agency. Volunteers work in partnership with salaried staff to improve the bonds between humans and animals, increase the number of animals with loving homes, keep the community safe, and offer a municipal service of excellence. Our volunteer family is part of what makes our shelter GREAT!*

#### Team Impact

Networking our animals with AWO's and potential adopters allows for more animals to be adopted and placed in loving homes, opening more kennel space for those who need our help and giving second chances to those we help.

#### Key Responsibilities & Roles

Team members advocate for both dogs and cats by working with qualified Animal Welfare Organizations (AWO) to place urgent and harder-to-adopt animals

- Reach out to AWO's to place animals, both dogs and cats
- Keep AWO contact information updated
- Work with WPCAS staff to understand temperament and special needs of animals
- Work pro-actively to resolve special issues or barriers that arise
- Transport animals to qualified Animal Welfare Organizations (AWO)
- Responsibility to accurately represent and accept determinations and directions given by staff.

In addition, some members of this team act as Team Leader(s) who help their team coordinate schedules and assign animals, locate resources, and help solve problems.

#### Location

This team works both in the community and at the shelter  
403 Hickory Lane, Weatherford, TX 76086

#### Time Commitment & Length of Appointment

Volunteers serve flexible shifts, working as a team to place animals as the need arises  
**Shift days and times vary**

**The minimum time commitment is 16 hours per month.** Because this team maintains community partnerships, we ask volunteers to commit to **at least 6 months of service.**

#### Skills & Qualifications

Volunteers in this role represent the agency and serve as positive ambassadors for WPCAS

- Willingness to positively represent WPCAS and follow adoption guidelines
- Advanced skills in animal behavior, diseases, and handling
- Ability to work in a collegial way, with staff and volunteers, toward WPCAS goals
- Willing to acknowledge expertise and accept difficult, sometimes unpopular, decisions staff must make



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### ANIMAL SERVICES

- Complete at least 1 year of service, in another WPCAS volunteer role, with at least 16 hours of service per month

### Training and Support

Volunteers on this team work in partnership with staff to assess the current strengths and challenges of each animal in care in order to make an appropriate placements that will result in the best results for everyone involved. To this end, this team has special access to areas of the shelter to help move animals quickly.

Advanced skills, gained from at least one year working with animals, as well as a realistic understanding and acceptance of the WPCAS euthanasia policy as well as understanding selection methods for our urgent and euthanasia list, are vital to success in this role. In addition, volunteers are encouraged to develop a self-care plan to manage the inevitable emotional ups and downs of working with urgent and harder-to-adopt animals.

For the most part, most volunteers work independently with their team. Also, volunteers will have a **staff point person** they can connect with if they have questions or concerns. We also offer **monthly updates and refresher training** throughout the year. Volunteers are welcome to pursue other **leadership opportunities** at WPCAS after completing their term of commitment.

### Benefits for Volunteers

Volunteering with WPCAS is designed to be a **fun and rewarding experience**. Many volunteers are surprised to find they get as much as they give.

Here are just a few of the **many benefits**:

- Have a positive impact** on the health and wellbeing of animals in need
- Feel good** about giving back to the community
- Meet like-minded people** who want to make a real difference
- Learn more** about how to properly care for and handle animals
- Stay up-to-date** on the many changes that happen in the animal welfare field
- Grow** and hone your customer service skills
- Meet requirements** for student community service hours
- Reduce stress** by working directly with animals in a fun environment

### How to Join in 2 Simple Steps!

- 1) Complete 6 months of service in a beginner volunteer role (e.g., Animal Care Team or Customer Care Team).
- 2) Ask the Animal Shelter Manager or Team Leader what you need to do to apply for the new team.

### Contact Us With Any Questions

Ashley Woolnough, Animal Services Manager

Phone: 817-598-4111 | Fax: 817-598-4118 | Email: [awoolnough@weatherfordtx.gov](mailto:awoolnough@weatherfordtx.gov)

Website: [www.weatherfordtx.gov/animals](http://www.weatherfordtx.gov/animals)