

VOLUNTEER ROLE DESCRIPTION

SHORT TERM CAT FOSTER CARER

Volunteer Role Summary

- The main purpose of this role is to support Gables by providing short term care for individuals or families of cats in your own home. Depending on your skills and facilities this may involve caring for sick or injured animals, caring for nursing mothers and litters of kittens, kittens who just need caring for and socialising before being rehomed or offering a break to a cat that is not coping with life in our cattery.
- You will be responsible for meeting the daily needs of Gables cats in your care, including feeding, cleaning, grooming, socialising and administering treatments until the pet is ready to be rehomed.
- You will also need to keep all Gables cats and kittens indoors only – they cannot be let outside.

What will I be doing?

- Providing daily care for foster cats e.g. feeding, cleaning litter trays and food/water bowls, grooming, administering treatments and socialising/handling the cats/kittens.
- Liaising with the staff as required.
- Maintaining accurate records about the pets in your care, including behaviour, health, weight, dietary and other information, in accordance with the monitoring charts and equipment provided.
- Organising trips to the veterinary surgery and administering treatments as instructed by the staff and veterinary surgeon.
- Undertaking training provided, as required.

What skills, qualifications or experiences do I need?

- Minimum age 21 years.
- Experience of handling and caring for cats.
- Good communication skills.
- Interest in and commitment to the work of Gables.
- Commitment and reliability.
- Genuine interest in cats and their welfare.
- A calm personality, flexibility and the ability to follow instruction.
- Be able to work on your own as well as being part of a local volunteer team.
- **If living in shared or rented accommodation, relevant permissions need to be obtained.**

What training and support will I receive?

- Volunteers will work with the volunteer co-ordinator and Animal Care Supervisors who will provide ongoing guidance and support.
- Volunteers will attend an induction, which includes health and safety training.
- Volunteers may also need to attend occasional training.

What benefits are offered?

- Development of your knowledge and skills.
- Volunteering is a great addition to your CV and you can receive a reference after 3 months of being a part of the team.
- You will receive 10% off all shop items and animal boarding.
- Your time will contribute to local animal welfare and will help Gables ensure our animals have healthy, happy lives and unwanted or abandoned dogs and cats find new homes.

What time commitment is required?

- The nature of this volunteer role requires an on-going commitment that will vary according to the type and number of pets in your care, but will typically be a minimum of 2-3 hours per day. However, the time commitment necessary could be much higher if, for example, you have agreed to take kittens needing weaning, socialising and lots of handling. You will need to be available at times appropriate to meeting the pet's needs.
- Holiday arrangements will be accommodated where practical.

Where will I be working?

- In your own home.

Transport needed:

- Foster carers will carry out most tasks from their own home but your own transport will be required for trips to and from Gables, and our contracted veterinary surgery in Ivybridge.
- You will need to add 'business use' to your vehicle insurance (the cost for which we will reimburse you).

References:

- Two personal references are required.

Please Note:

- *This is an unpaid voluntary position.*
- *There are limited placements available.*

Special Considerations:

- Caring for sick, injured or very young animals on a one to one basis in your own home, especially where round the clock nursing is involved, can lead to the development of high levels of emotional attachment to the animals in your care. For this role you need to be able to provide the high levels of care possibly required whilst maintaining a level of emotional detachment as these care provisions will be short term and the animals will inevitably leave your care for rehoming once ready.
- If you have any pets already in your home they will need to be fully vaccinated and you will need to have a separate spare room to keep the cats/kittens in.
- You will not be able to mix your pets with any cats or kittens you foster.