

VOLUNTEER ROLE DESCRIPTION

SHORT TERM CAT FOSTER CARER

Please note this is an unpaid voluntary position

Aim of volunteering role:

The main purpose of this role is to support Gables Farm 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 Farm animals 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 Farm cats and kittens indoors only.

You will be part of a small local foster team, supported by the staff as appropriate.

Tasks:

1. Foster carers will carry out most tasks from their own home. Tasks where local travel will be required include trips to and from Gables Farm, trips to our contracted veterinary surgery in Ivybridge and travel to attend any training required.

Typical Tasks Include:

2. 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.
3. Liaising with the staff as required.
4. Maintaining accurate records about the pets in your care, including behaviour, health, weight, dietary and other information, in accordance with Gables Farm requirements.
5. Organising trips to the veterinary surgery and administering treatments as instructed by the staff and veterinary surgeon.
6. Undertaking training provided, as required.
7. To follow all instructions given on health & safety, including PPE and manual handling.

Time Commitment:

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.

Place of work:

Your own home.

Transport needed:

Due to the location of the Home and veterinary surgery, volunteers need their own transport, which may require an adjustment to the vehicle insurance policy.

Skills/qualifications/experience required:

- Minimum age 21 years.
- Experience of handling and caring for cats in a variety of situations.
- Good communication skills.
- Interest in and commitment to the work of the Home.
- 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.

Training and support:

- Foster carers will work with the Animal Care Supervisors who will provide guidance and support.
- Volunteers may also need to attend occasional training.

Benefits offered:

1. Your time will help Gables Farm ensure our animals have healthy, happy lives and unwanted or abandoned dogs and cats find new homes.
2. Develop your knowledge and skills, and contribute to local animal welfare.
3. Additional flexibility and support will be built in wherever possible.

4. You will receive 10% off all shop items and boarding.

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.

References:

Two references - 1 personal and 1 professional required.

**** Please note there are limited placements available***