



Cork Animal Care Society (C.ACS) Volunteer Welcome Package

Firstly, on behalf of all the voiceless, neglected and homeless animals, may we say **thank you** for volunteering your time to Cork Animal Care Society.

Our strength relies on numbers and, no matter how big or small your contribution of your time and effort, you will be helping us to help animals. We aim to give love, shelter, food, veterinary treatment and affection to animals that would otherwise suffer and /or die.

Because you are donating your precious time and energy to this worthy cause, we have outlined various areas that we need volunteers in. We want to give you choices that would best suit your lifestyle and preferences. We understand that not everybody can offer help on a weekly basis, which is fine as we often need help on an occasional basis. This form is aimed at knowing you better and understanding in what ways you could help.

I know most people would like to help with the animals, but please consider that without fundraising we cannot actually keep saving the lives of animals. People volunteering in the sanctuary should be aware of our fundraising activities and vice-versa.

If you have any questions, contact Emilie@animalcaresociety.ie.

Please tick the areas in which you would be interested in. (We need people for all of them!)

FUNDRAISING (please tick as appropriate):

- 1. Offering your time to work in our charity shop in Togher (shop open Monday to Saturday 10am – 4pm. Please specify which day would suit you and whether morning or afternoon is best; we need volunteers who are reliable and come every week).
Day: _____
- 2. Participating for a couple of hours in fundraising events including flag days, bag-packing, information tables, fun days, etc.
- 3. Helping with the organisation of such events (getting in touch with supermarkets managers, applying for permits, etc). Please give details: _____

- 4. Other fundraising events. We always welcome new suggestions!
 - Sporting event
 - Other: _____
- 5. We need people to take on projects for us. We will provide support and put you in touch with other volunteers who could help you with your project.
 - Coffee Morning
 - Fashion show

- Car Boot sale
 - Pub quiz/gig
 - Community race/walk
 - Baking sale
 - Fashion show
 - Auction night
 - Information night
 - Recycling scheme
 - Other: _____
- 6. Distribution/sale of calendars, Christmas cards, Furry Tales and Meowsings (our monthly booklet of poems and short stories), raffle tickets. Please specify: _____
 - 7. Source spot prizes for our various competitions and raffles.
 - 8. Source donations for animals, such as blankets, cages, food, etc. This could be done through ads on the net or by asking around.
 - 9. Help with administrative tasks:
 - Writing
 - Photocopying
 - Printing
 - Internet search
 - Lost and found animals
 - Adoption
 - Making lists (I love lists!)
 - Other: _____
 - 10. We all have a talent; what's yours?
 - Writing a poem or short story for *Furry Tales and Meowsings*
 - Crafts; please specify: _____
 - Photography
 - Video
 - Music (if so, can you play/sing in public Y/N)
 - Baking
 - Making sandwiches
 - Face painting
 - Other: _____
 - 11. Could your workplace have something to offer (from offering a spot prize, taking in a collection box, advertising, selling Furry Tales and Meowsings, venue for a baking sale, printing, contacts, etc)? Would you mind telling us where you work?

 - 12. Promote our work (become aware of what we do and how we raise money, and spread the word).
 - 13. Education
 - Finding information
 - Making slide shows
 - Contacting schools

- Giving talks (after being trained)
- 14. Your suggestions

HANDS-ON WORK WITH THE ANIMALS (please tick as appropriate):

- 1. Offering transportation of animals, where necessary, or rescue
- 2. Cat trapping
- 3. Hands on work with cats in our cattery in Coppeen (between Crookstown & Dunmanway)
- 4. Fostering dogs or cats. Large / Small / Both – please circle your preferences

1. Transportation of Animals:

We receive many calls from people of all ages and places concerning animals in need and emergencies that need to be attended to. We cannot get to all the animals and it is often the case that people do not want to/or have the ability to travel with an animal, resulting in less of a chance to save a life. We are therefore always in need of people who are willing to collect an animal from or to the vet(s), or a location or transport a cat trap and bring it to somebody in need.

If this is the area which you think may interest you be fill out the following details.

Please, specify if you can help with only transportation, or with rescue as well (in which case we will add you to a special volunteers' list).

Do you have any experience? Please specify.

Do you own any material (traps, etc)? This could be of use if we are stuck, especially during the winter...

Hours you may be available to be called upon?

Latest hour of call?

Specific days which you are available or unavailable?

Preference of animal you would like to help (if any), cat, dog or other?

Areas in which you are able to operate, i.e. Cork City, Suburbs, etc (please specify if you are willing to drive to our sanctuary, which is located in Coppeen, if needed)

Do you have a car Y/N

Any other suggestions/thoughts you may have?

2. TNR. Trap, Neuter and Release. (Cat Trapping programme)

Wild and feral cats are a huge problem in this country and it doesn't have to be this way. If people have cats the first thing we recommend is to neuter them in order to avoid the vast populations that are growing and are unable to be cared for. Wild cats live a lonely, insecure life, where they never really know love and only strive for survival. This could be stopped if people took responsibility for their area and trapped any wild cats and brought them to the vet to be neutered, they are then returned to the wild and will not have vast litters that they have to care for with no support. Cat trapping is a huge area of our animal welfare mission and we can never have enough people who can help us in this area. It is a time consuming venture and more often than not people will not take the time out to do this. Our TNR program is a key area in preventing the masses of feral cats that that live a hidden and unseen life, starving, many sick, dying, tortured and unloved. Please note that this job requires a lot of patience. Your contribution in this area can prevent a huge amount of suffering and misery to cats that have been abandoned through no fault of their own. We will provide training if required.

If this is your area of interest please fill out the following:

How many hours do you feel you could volunteer a week?

Specific days which you are available or unavailable?

Do you have transportation and are you able & willing to drive to locations?

What area(s) could you cover?

Do you have previous experience? Please give details.

3. Work in our Cattery (Near Coppeen, between Crooktown and Dunmanway).

There can be anything up to 180 cats and kittens, as well as a number of dogs, that need to be tended to and cared for on a daily basis and this, 365 days per year. Cat litter trays must be cleaned & disinfected, cats must be fed, and sometimes cats and kittens may need daily or hourly medical care. Cats may have to be taken to the vet if and when required. Helping to socialise a cat who has never known human company is a very rewarding undertaking. As you can imagine running the cattery is a huge workload and requires people who are dedicated to cat welfare. If you have a true passion for animals, this is certainly an area where you will see the rewards of your efforts. Caring for a rescued animal and seeing the change from scared and starving to happy and healthy makes it all worthwhile and you are seeing the fruits of your labour when you offer to work in this area. It is not the easiest area to volunteer in, but your efforts are

greatly rewarded by the little furry faces, when you see their trust in you bloom and you realise that YOU are helping to save their lives. Do note that we have several dogs at the sanctuary as well.

Note that we require volunteers to be reliable and treat this as a job (rain or shine the animals need to be cared for). Inform us in advance if you cannot come for your shift so that we can organise someone to cover for you.

If this is the area you would like to volunteer in please fill the following:

We can offer a few positions:

- Cleaning and feeding the animals
- Socialising the animals
- Maintenance and DIY
- Taking photos (you must own a good camera), recording news (arrivals, vaccination, neutering, etc) and writing the animals' stories (you need to have access to the internet)

How many hours a week would you like to volunteer?

Specific days/hours you are available/unavailable? If it's not regular, could you at least give us an idea of how often you could be there?

Do you have your own transport? Needed, as our cattery is 45 minutes away from Cork City. Y/N

Please add any other suggestions or comments you may have.

4. Fostering Animals:

We often receive phone calls from the public with any animal welfare issues and emergencies. They often rely on us to be able to take the animal off their hands immediately and this is what we want to be able to do for them. However, we are overloaded with cats and dogs on a regular basis and we are very short on people to help us to keep the animal in care for periods of time until we find a home for them. While we have a cat sanctuary, we don't yet have a dog sanctuary. Therefore, fostering is a very important way that we can help dogs in urgent need of care. We ask fostering volunteers to provide a home for these animals temporarily until they may be re-homed.

Note that this can be a long term commitment and a specific animal might have to be kept for an extended period of time until we can find the right home.

If this is an area you wish to volunteer in please fill out the following:

Are you more interested in cats or dogs or both?

Would you be able to take other animals if needed? Please, specify.

If dogs, do you have a preference for the size of dog you are willing to foster?

Do you have any experience in caring for young animals, especially bottle-feeding kittens?

Do you have any experience with sick animals and are you able to care for them?

Do you have space in case an animal needs to be isolated?

For what periods of time would you be willing to foster an animal, i.e.: one time only (even just one night), maybe on a weekly basis, or long term?

How many animals would you be able to take?

Do you have animals of your own? Please, specify.

We would carry a homecheck first; is that ok with you? Y/N

Please add any other suggestions or concerns you may have.

Tell us more about you:

How did you become aware of the Cork ACS?

Have you previously volunteered with us? Please, specify.

How much time are you able/willing to give overall?

Why are you willing to work with the ACS?

Any other issues we did not address in this form?

Any suggestions you may have?

Your details:

Name: _____

Tel No: _____ Mobile: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Please read carefully and sign below - the purpose of this document is to allow us to work as efficiently as possible with our volunteers to help us help the animals.

As a volunteer I have the welfare of the animals at heart. By agreeing to volunteer my services I agree and undertake to abide by the mission statement of the Cork Animal Care Society.

I understand and agree that volunteering does not bestow rights on me to decide how, where and on what animals Cork Animal Care Society allocates it's funding and resources.

I agree that if any item or equipment, of whatever kind or nature including but not limited to, hardware, software, documentation, cats traps, cages and carriers is (are) provided to me by the charity I will return these items to the charity immediately upon demand.

I undertake to submit any pre-approved re-imbursable expenses I incur within 30 days of incurring them.

I understand that my own safety and wellbeing and that of others is of paramount importance to the Cork ACS and I undertake at all times to not put myself in any position whatsoever that can lead to these being compromised.

I agree that I have been advised to obtain an up-to-date vaccination against tetanus for any activity involving animals.

I agree to give at least 24hrs notice to the Cork ACS volunteer coordinator if I have committed to an area or job and need to cancel so that somebody else may be contacted to help out in my absence.

Should I foster any animals in my home on behalf of Cork ACS, I confirm that I have been advised by Cork ACS to have any / all of my own pets' vaccinations fully up to date.

I hereby indemnify Cork Animal Care Society against any act, claim or demand that may arise against them as a result of any unauthorised or illegal actions on my part whilst acting in the role of volunteer with the Cork ACS.

Volunteer Name

Date

Signature