

Young Volunteers

Children and youth can be great supporters of animals and the work we do at the Seattle Humane Society. Because of staffing concerns and safety issues, we are unable to offer volunteer positions to people under age 18, however, there are many ways for youth to participate! The following list outlines a variety of options for young people who are interested in helping the animals at the Seattle Humane Society.

Conduct A Pet Food Drive

A very helpful way to volunteer is to organize a pet food drive in your neighborhood or school. Donations of pet food, supplies, toys and cat litter are always appreciated. Many of these items are distributed through our Pet Food Bank for low-income senior pet owners and through Pet Project, which helps pet owners disabled with AIDS.

Knit Blankets For Cats Awaiting Adoption

All of the cats in our care receive a blanket or towel to make their cat cubby more comfortable. The cats especially love knit blankets. This is a great way to learn a new skill, or practice an old one, and benefit the cats on our campus.

Make Captivating Catnip Toys For Our Fabulous Felines

We try to provide a healthy environment for the cats awaiting adoption, which includes giving them plenty of toys. One of their favorites is catnip-filled socks. All you need are baby socks, cotton balls, dried catnip, and a needle and thread. Take a baby sock and fill it with cotton balls and a wad of catnip in the center – a teaspoon or so should work. Then sew off the top of the sock and clip any loose threads. You're done!

Participate In Our Foster Parent Program

If your entire family is interested in helping animals, consider participating in our Foster Parent Program. In this program, volunteer families care for young or ill animals until they are ready for adoption. This is an entire family project, as the animals are in your home for several days or several weeks and may require special feeding or medication.

Coordinate A Coin Drive

Collect coins from family, friends and neighbors. The Seattle Humane Society has an account with CoinStar machines in QFC stores where deposits can be made. Visit the Coinstar website (www.coinstar.com) to find out how to donate your jar of coins through the Coins that Count program. Or you can monitor a coin collection at a business. When the can is full, bring it to the Seattle Humane Society and replace it with a new one.

Host A Fundraiser

Young people are often our most creative fundraisers! You can get involved in a variety of fundraising projects and then donate the proceeds to the animals. We have had children hold bake sales, yard sales, craft sales, participate in walk-a-thons, and much more! Feel free to use your imagination to come up with a fundraising idea.

Hold a Cat Toy Drive For Our Cat Enrichment Program

Although the cats in our care receive toys, blankets, and treats on a daily basis, we're always trying to provide them with as much stimulation as possible. Enrichment can be provided through food (canned food, treats), furniture (scratching posts and stepstools), toys (balls and flyers), activities (clicker training), olfactory stimulants (catnip), and/or auditory stimulants (music and nature sounds). These physical and psychological stimuli provide numerous benefits, such as increasing the cats' overall well-being and their ability to get adopted. The following items are needed for the Cat Enrichment Program:

- Toy Shoppe brand playables furry mice (12 pack)
- Multi-colored lattice balls (4 pack)
- Toy Shoppe brand mini safari mice (10 pack)
- Catnip stuffed toys
- Toy Shoppe brand ticklers
- Shaker's brand interactive cat toys
- "Heard that Bird" cat toy with wand

Ready To Get Started?

If you are under 13, we encourage you to choose one of our suggested projects or come up with one of your own. If you need additional information, please call the Seattle Humane Society's Education Office at (425) 649-7554. If you are between 13-15 years old and would like to volunteer, check out our Humane Teen Club page online (<http://seattlehumane.info/Explore/education/teens>) or contact the Education Office. If you are 18 and older, contact the Volunteer Office at (425) 649-7557 to sign up for the next volunteer orientation at the Seattle Humane Society. The animals will thank you!

13212 S.E. Eastgate Way – Bellevue, WA 98005-4408 –
www.seattlehumane.org