

Cat Volunteer Levels

Volunteer Levels

Level 1 - No wristband provided. Level 1 volunteers will not touch or handle any cats, but will support the program through help in other, much needed, areas while learning more about APA's cat program, its residents, and mission. Level 1 volunteers wash laundry, dishes, litter pans; help with janitorial tasks like sweeping and mopping; help with administrative tasks like creating adoption folders; restock supplies; and other tasks that do not involve handling cats. Level 1 Volunteers may not clean cat kennels if a cat is housed inside, nor clean enclosures if cats are housed inside. During this level, you are learning about APA, seeing how things operate, where everything is, watching, learning, and getting ready for Level 2! All volunteers spend a minimum of 5 hours at this level and complete Cattery Boot Camp before graduating to the next level. Any volunteers without a wristband on will be assumed to be Level 1. All CSR volunteers are Level 1 volunteers.

Cattery Boot Camp - In this informal, fun, hands-on training session with a Volunteer Mentor, you'll learn how to read cat body language, how to safely and humanely handle resident cats, how to answer questions from the public while you're volunteering, basic cattery protocols, and cattery sanitation procedures.

Level 2, Grey - Black/Grey Wristband. After 15 logged hours in cattery and completion of Cattery Boot Camp, Level 2 Volunteers may now open cat condos, work inside cattery enclosures amongst cats, and work with cattery cats that are not deemed "staff only". This includes cleaning cat habitats inside cattery, refilling water bowls, brushing or grooming cats, and all of Level 1 tasks. Grey Volunteers are doing lots of essential work directly with cats while still gaining lots of knowledge and experience. Grey Volunteers spend a minimum of 25 logged hours at this level before graduating.

Level 3, Yellow - Yellow/Black Wristband. After 25 logged hours, Yellow Volunteers can now volunteer inside the Ringworm Adoption Center and Feline Leukemia Adoption Center, and you are now eligible to become a Volunteer Mentor! In Ringworm and FeLV, there may be unsupervised, solo tasks to complete and you're working with two very special populations of cats at TLAC so you'll want to feel very comfortable around cats, feel comfortable without supervision, and know how to complete cattery tasks. Yellow Volunteers can handle and work with all cats not deemed "staff only" in both of these special locations. Yellow Volunteers spend a minimum of 100 logged hours at this level before graduating.

Level 4, Pink - Pink/Black Wristband. After 100 hours logged, Pink Volunteers can now assist with assigned tasks in Cat Isolation areas and the Barn Cat Program. By now, Pink Volunteers should have an excellent sense of shelter sanitation and good cat handling skills; Pink Volunteers should feel confident working around cats of different temperaments or with health ailments, and be able to work safely around these types of cats. Pink Volunteers may also assist with tasks for "staff only" cats, as assigned. Pink Volunteers are cat savvy, dependable, know APA! well, are committed to the Cat Program, and are ambassadors to new volunteers!

Volunteer Tasks

Some Level 1 Tasks:

- Clean & disinfect carriers
- Clean & disinfect dishes
- Clean & disinfect litter boxes & utensils (NOT scooping)
- Refill hand sanitizer
- Cut paper leaflets (cat behavior, amazon wishlist, offsite locations)
- Make food sample bags (labeling, filling baggies, etc.)
- Make adoption folders
- Clean windows (exteriors only for blue boxes, both sides for playroom and front door)
- Deep clean playroom
- Sweep & mop floors
- Wash & fold laundry
- Take out trash
- Restock toy drawers
- Refill dish & hand soap
- Deep clean empty group & single enclosures
- Restock litter (in cattery & in storage closet)

Some Level 2 (GRAY WRISTBAND) Tasks:

- All of the above, plus
- Scoop litter boxes in condos and enclosures
- Clean condos that contain cats
- Clean cattery enclosures full of cats
- Replace/refresh water bowls and help at feeding times
- Groom the cats (brushing, nail trims, etc)
- Help load cats into carriers for transfer

Some Level 3 (YELLOW WRISTBAND) Tasks:

- All of the above, plus
- You may work unsupervised in the FeLV Adoption Center doing specialized tasks
- You may work unsupervised in the Ringworm Adoption Center doing specialized tasks
- You can now become a Volunteer Mentor

Some Level 4 (PINK WRISTBAND) Tasks:

- All of the above, plus
- You may work in Cat ISO doing basic cattery tasks
- You may be asked to help dispense medication and help with feeding in ISO and other areas
- You may enter the Barn Cat enclosures and provide daily care for our barn cats, including feeding, cleaning, and wellness checks
- You may be asked to help with cats deemed "staff only"