



H.E.L.P.
the Animals inc.

www.helptheanimalsinc.com
765-962-6811
Tuesday - Saturday 12PM-5PM

Hello, and Welcome to Open Paw Volunteering!

Open Paw is a revolutionary animal-and-people education program founded in January of 2000, designed to help stop the surrender and euthanasia of unwanted dogs and cats. Every year, millions of dogs and cats are surrendered to animal shelters, most of them for easily predictable, easily preventable reasons like chewing inappropriate objects, barking or clawing, or lack of housetraining.

It's not that their guardians were bad or lazy; it's just that most people don't know what to expect from their new dog or cat, and most don't know how to train their new animal to express their animal behavior appropriately in home. Furthermore, once the animal goes into the shelter, even in a very good shelter, they often become de-trained in many ways. This means that the new guardian is faced with behavior difficulties when they adopt the animal, and the guardian doesn't know where to go to find out how to deal with the problems. Many then feel forced to surrender a beloved animal back to the shelter.

Open Paw is a unique program designed to address these issues through the education of people and animals. Our primary goal is to educate animal guardians and prospective guardians. Our second goal is to turn every animal shelter into a pleasant, friendly, quiet place where members of the community can go to learn about animals, and about basic training and behavior. And thirdly, we want to change the way shelters are set up, so that animals learn or retain animal and people social skills, housetraining and basic manners while they're in the shelter, instead of losing those skills. Thus, pets leave the shelter much better able to live successfully in a domestic environment.

We want to turn every animal shelter into a Dog and Cat University, where not only animals, but people, can learn.

And our Dog and Cat Universities are where you come in. As a volunteer, the single most important thing you'll do is help the animals to form positive associations to all kinds of people. This will help make them more calm, quiet and friendly when people approach the kennel, which will help them to get adopted, and will make them better socialized to people once they're out in the "real world," which will help keep them in their homes permanently.

We teach our volunteers training techniques. Specialties include working with animals that have special behavior needs, doing adoption counseling, bathing/grooming and facility operations.