

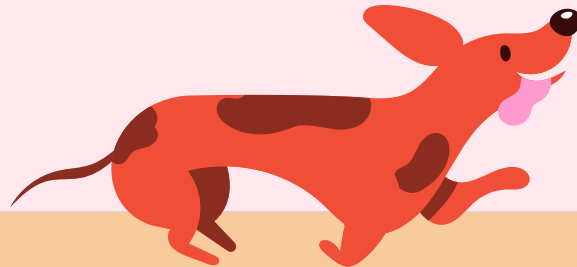
Ark-Valley Humane Society Volunteer Orientation



Welcome!

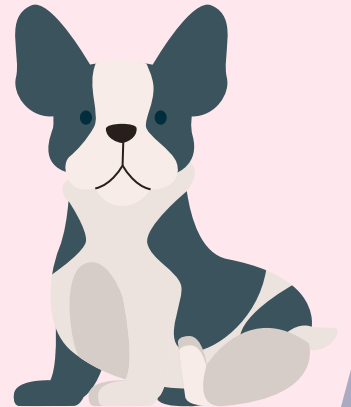
Thank you for your interest in volunteering for
AVHS!

We're excited to have you join our program. We
rely **heavily** on our volunteers and truly couldn't
do what we do without you.



The Onboarding Process

1. Complete Volunteer Application (congratulations!).
2. View 2023 Volunteer Orientation PowerPoint.
3. Sign up for Cat/Dog Training at the shelter.
4. After you complete the training(s), you are ready to begin volunteering!



Meet Your Volunteer Coordinator!

Heather Mills

Heather began working at AVHS in 2021 as an Animal Care Technician. She has lived in CO for over 20 years and has worked with animals most of her life as a horse trainer, competitor, and vet tech. She owns 2 dogs. Piper, who came from a friend's litter, and Jubie, who was adopted from AVHS in 2022.





Our Team



AVHS Staff



- 9 Employees
- Staff rotates through 3 areas:
 - Office (includes cats and crematory)
 - Dogs
 - ISO (medical).
- Each staff member works 4 to 4.5 days a week.





Dr. Annie Cordova

Although we do not have a Vet on staff, Dr. Annie comes to the shelter once a week to perform spay/neuter surgeries and tend to the medical needs of our animals.

Dr. Annie also assists with our community spay/neuter and TNR programs.

What We Do

Adoptions

Assess behavior and complete medical items to make animals available to the public for adoption.

Support

Provide community support through various programs and resources, like our pet food and supply pantry, and emergency pet boarding.

Strays

Partner with the public and Law Enforcement to intake strays and work toward reuniting them with their owners.

Cremations

Provide on-site cremation services for public walk-ins and veterinary clients alike.

Surrenders

Intake pets whose owners are no longer able to provide care, with the goal of making them available for adoption.

Transfers

Work with other shelters to lighten their animal population by transferring in dogs and cats.

Community Programs

Spay/Neuter Program

Provide low cost spay/neuter for owned cats, pitbull type dogs, and qualifying low-income pets

Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR)

Assisting to limit feral cat population through humane trapping, spaying/neutering, and either rehoming or returning

Emergency Pet Boarding

Provide free/low-cost boarding to pets whose owners are in dire need of time to create a safe situation for both themselves and their pets.

Pet Food and Supply Pantry

Assist community members in need by providing necessary pet care supplies and pet food on an as-needed basis.

Behavior Intervention Training

Subsidized dog training vouchers for sessions with a R+ trainer to teach owners how to modify problem behaviors in owned dogs. The problem behavior must be something that would prevent the dog from remaining in the home (ex. reactivity, guarding, etc).

Community Pet Emergency Fund (CPEF)

Assistance in the cost of life-saving veterinary care for owned pets in Chaffee County, along with veterinary care for pets belonging to displaced owners.

Pet Microchipping Services & Pet ID Tags

Helps reunite stray animals with owners and can keep them from entering the shelter



Our PAWS Culture (a snapshot)

- **Professionalism** - We provide compassionate customer service, free of snap judgment and bias.
 - **Accountability** – We recognize and celebrate our individual strengths.
 - **Well-Being** – We, as individuals, have a voice.
 - **Sustainability** – We extend our culture to our volunteers as they are part of our team!
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Our GOLDEN RULES

1. Every situation and animal is unique.
2. We give each other the benefit of the doubt.
3. We communicate respectfully.
4. We are responsible for our own stress management.
5. We voice our concerns to our supervisor in writing.
6. We practice kindness towards ourselves, each other, the public, and the animals.
7. We celebrate our successes!



Fun Facts

History

1. AVHS is a 501c3 non-profit founded in 1991.
2. We are funded by grants and private donations.
3. We are not affiliated with any other 'Humane Society'.
4. In 2006, we began receiving a Mill Levy or tax from Chaffee County citizens.
5. Our BV shelter was built on donated land by prison laborers.

Statistics-(2022)

1. 1833 animals helped through our programs
2. 458 animals were adopted.
3. Partnered with 14 shelters to transfer in 105 animals for adoption.
4. Live-Release Rate of 98.26%.
5. 63 Foster homes cared for 206 animals.
6. 1183 pets cremated through veterinary and the public.
7. Volunteers logged 1515 hours!!



Volunteer Roles



Cats

Cleaning and feeding cats in our adoptable cat room, or simply just cuddling, enriching, and spending time with our cats.

Dogs

Providing enrichment through food or scent games, socialization, walks, and behavior training.

Transport

Picking up animals from other shelters and delivering to AVHS for transfer.



TNR

Assisting with Trap, Neuter and Return of feral cat populations

Photography

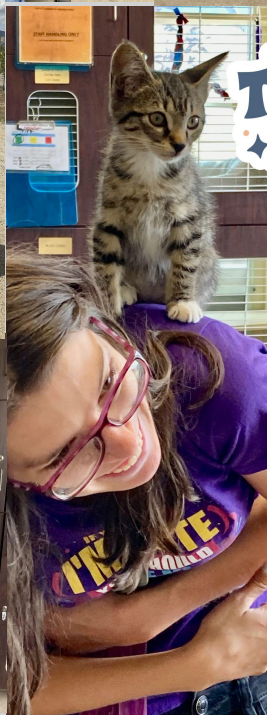
Photographing our animals to provide quality adoption photos for animal profiles and AVHS social media posts (which helps animals get adopted!).



Landscaping

Maintain the Memorial Garden, weed whacking, and general grounds maintenance.

We LOVE
our
Volunteers!



Nuts and Bolts

Dress Code

You will receive an AVHS Volunteer T-shirt after completing your training. Closed toed shoes. The less exposed skin, the less chance of being scratched, etc.

Safety

Wash hands before leaving the shelter. Listen to staff instructions. Keep your pets' vaccines up-to-date. Trust your instincts when interacting with shelter pets!

Communication

The main point of contact for volunteers is the main phone 719-395-2737, which also receives texts. You can also contact Heather directly by email for less time sensitive matters at hmills@ark-valley.org.

Sign In

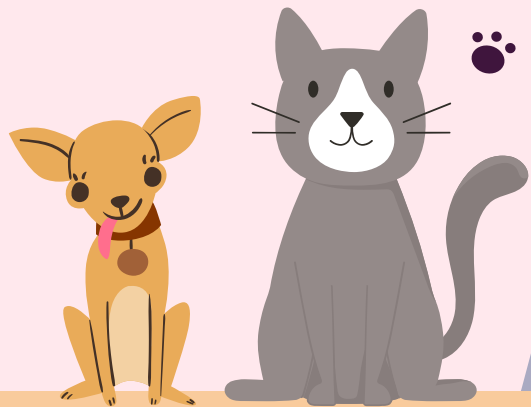
The volunteer iPad is located in the front vestibule. Please sign in when you arrive and then sign out before you leave.

What's Next?

Sign up for a dog or cat training...or both!

These trainings will be done at the shelter by a staff member. They take about 30 minutes each and will include a tour of the shelter. Time spent during the training is counted towards your volunteer hours. You will receive your volunteer T-Shirt and can begin volunteering right away (if you'd like!).

Contact Heather, hmills@ark-valley.org, to schedule your training.



FAQ

- **How flexible is the schedule?**
 - Very! Volunteers can come anytime staff is in the building Monday-Sunday between, 8-11am and noon-5pm. All staff takes lunch from 11am-noon. Volunteers can establish a regular weekly schedule or simply come when they have time.
- **Can I bring my own pet or friends to the shelter to volunteer?**
 - No. Unless discussed with staff, owned pets need to stay home and new volunteers must go through the onboarding process.
- **How long do most volunteers spend at the shelter?**
 - It is up to you! Cat cleaning takes 1-3 hours, depending on the number of cats. Dog and cat enrichment can be as long or as short as you'd like.

Looking to further help AVHS? Consider Fostering!

- Very flexible time commitment.
- Help us learn more about the animal in a home setting.
- Ease kennel stress by accepting animals into your home.
- Help create more room at the shelter to save lives.

If interested in fostering cats or dogs, contact Heather at hmills@ark-valley.org.



Thank You!

Do you have any questions?

hmills@ark-valley.org

719-395-2737 (Office Phone)

www.ark-valley.org

CREDITS: This presentation template was created by **Slidesgo**, and includes icons by **Flaticon**, and infographics & images by **Freepik**

