

Volunteer Cat Cuddling at Holly Hedge Animal Sanctuary

The following has been put together to make your volunteering time spent with us as enjoyable and safe as possible. We are very lucky to have a great group of volunteers at Holly Hedge and we hope the induction will help you feel welcome and part of our team.

Please be mindful at all times that the animals in our care may be bewildered or frightened, approach new animals quietly, nervous animals may scratch/bite so please do treat them with caution while they are settling in. We do also advise that all volunteers have a Tetanus vaccination (they last for 10 years).

When you arrive at the Sanctuary:

- 1) Arrive & sign in at reception, using the volunteer sign in book (not the visitor book), please remember that our cat cuddling times are from :
11am-1pm and 1pm-3pm (except Tuesdays when times are from 11am - 1pm).
Always ensure that you are wearing your volunteer ID (once it has been issued). **Please ensure that you sign out when you leave.**
- 2) Please make your way to the main cattery and find a member of the cattery staff to let them know you have arrived.
- 3) When a staff member is able they will come over and let you know which cats need to be sat in with, groomed etc. please ensure that you listen carefully to any instructions that they give you. There is a board on the wall to show you which cats need to have company/exercise or be groomed, please read any notes on here before entering the cat pens.
- 4) Always read and adhere to the information and warning signs on the pens before entering.
- 5) When you have completed the cuddle/play time for that cat, please make sure that you mark the board for the cat to let the staff and other volunteers know.
- 6) Please make sure you wash your hands thoroughly with the cleaning solution available before playing/touching another cat in the cattery.
- 7) It is not always possible for a staff member to get to you straight away; we really appreciate your patience whilst you wait for them to get to you. If you have 10/20 mins on your hands we always appreciate help with other tasks around the site, like the laundry (instructions on the door), washing up animal bowls, sweeping paths and gardening etc.

Points to remember when cuddling cats:

- Feral/scared cats benefit from your company; it helps them gain confidence (just sitting quietly reading a book etc.)
- Cats love the stimulation of being groomed; some are not used to it and little and often will get them accustomed to it.

- Playing; different types of toys are provided including fishing rods, cast enjoying playing but check with a staff member first.
- If you feel a cat is unwell, depressed or just behaving slightly differently please see the cattery staff asap. If they have loose motions sneeze or cough the same guidance applies.
- Please read warning and information signs on gates/paddocks/kennels and equipment, they are there for the safety of yourselves, the staff, visitors, other volunteers and the animals alike.
- Do not enter the isolation block unless specifically asked to by a staff member
- If you have any incident when playing with a cat, such as cut paws or sick/vomit please report to a staff member so that they can give the relevant treatment.
- Do not feed the animals treats or titbits unless you have checked first with a staff member as some animals are on special diets for medical reasons and treats can make them ill.
- Do not let persons under the age of 16 play with a cat alone in a pen, and never leave them unsupervised
- If you don't feel comfortable or confident with a cat you have been given to cuddle/socialise please let the staff member know straight away.
- Please don't give information to the public about any of our animals, but instead direct them to a staff member or to reception.
- If you have a medical condition that we should be aware of please inform us before you volunteer in any role.
- Please report any incidents or accidents that may occur to a member of staff, no matter how small they might be.
- No running at any time when on site.
- No shouting around the animals, as this can scare them
- Please put mobile phones on silent
- Remember to wear suitable clothing, especially sensible footwear. Please don't have jewellery or other items hanging down that an animal could catch or get caught on/swallow.

The fire assembly point is located at the top car park, by the entrance to the Sanctuary.

Please make sure that you understand the guidance notes given above and then sign the form below to acknowledge that you have been given your volunteer cat cuddling induction:

Print Name:

Sign Name:

Date: