

Volunteer Job Description: Community Cat Caregiver

Position Title:

Community Cat Caregiver

Location:

Assigned Colony Location (within Oakdale, CA). in coordination with the ASTRO Foundation

Reports to:

Director of Adoption Services

Position Summary:

Community Cat Caregivers play a critical role in the well-being of local feral and free-roaming cats, ensuring they are fed, monitored, and cared for in their designated colony. Volunteers will feed cats at a specific location each morning, monitor their health and behavior, and report any concerns to the ASTRO Foundation staff. Caregivers must obtain a Colony Caregiver ID through the city and follow all local ordinances regarding community cat care.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Feeding:**
 - Provide food and fresh water to the cats at a designated colony location each morning, following the established feeding schedule.
 - Ensure feeding areas are kept clean and food is provided in a way that minimizes waste and disruption to the environment.
 - **Monitoring Health and Behavior:**
 - Observe the cats for any signs of illness, injury, or unusual behavior, such as limping, weight loss, or signs of pregnancy.
 - Keep an eye on the size of the colony and report any new cats that appear at the location.
 - **Reporting:**
 - Promptly report any health concerns, injuries, or new arrivals to the Community Cat Program Coordinator or ASTRO Foundation staff.
 - **Compliance with City Ordinances:**
 - Follow all city ordinances related to community cat colonies, including location guidelines and proper management of the colony.
 - Maintain the necessary Colony Caregiver ID, which must be obtained through the city. Volunteers will need to comply with any city regulations or training required for this ID.
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Qualifications:

- **Cat Care Knowledge:**
 - Basic understanding of cat behavior and health, or willingness to learn.
 - **Reliability:**
 - Must be committed to feeding and monitoring the cats on a consistent schedule, usually in the mornings.
 - **Attention to Detail:**
 - Ability to observe subtle changes in cat behavior and health that may indicate a problem.
 - **Ability to Work Independently:**
 - Volunteers should be comfortable working independently while staying in contact with the rescue staff.
 - **Compliance with Regulations:**
 - Willingness to obtain a Colony Caregiver ID through the city and comply with all local ordinances regarding community cats.
 - **Physical Ability:**
 - Must be able to lift food and water containers and navigate outdoor environments in various weather conditions.
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Training and Support:

- **Colony Care and Monitoring:**
 - Training will be provided on best practices for feeding and monitoring community cats, including identifying common health concerns and assisting in TNR.
 - **City Ordinance Guidance:**
 - Volunteers will receive information on the city's requirements for Colony Caregivers, including how to apply for the Colony Caregiver ID and adhere to relevant ordinances.
 - **Ongoing Support:**
 - Astro Foundation staff will be available to answer questions, offer guidance, and respond to any concerns that arise during colony care.
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Time Commitment:

- Volunteers are expected to feed and monitor cats each morning (or on an agreed-upon schedule), typically for 30 minutes.
 - Commitment to at least one colony location on a regular basis is preferred.
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Benefits:

- Directly improve the lives of community cats by ensuring they receive consistent care and monitoring.
 - Help control the population of feral and free-roaming cats by partnering with the ASTRO Foundation's Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program.
 - Build relationships with other animal lovers and contribute to humane community cat management.
 - Opportunities to learn more about cat health, behavior, and colony management.
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How to Apply:

To become a Community Cat Caregiver, please visit www.astrofoundation.org/volunteer to complete the volunteer application, or contact us at info@astrofoundation.org or (209) 604-2649 for more information.

The ASTRO Foundation is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all volunteers and to promoting responsible and humane care of community cats.