

## **Cat Companion Volunteer Level I**

### **Position Summary**

Cat Companions provide socialization, exercise and basic care to the cats at the Animal Rescue League (ARL) of Berks County. The cat-human interactions can help relieve stress and provides environmental enrichment to improve the cat's quality of life and can increase their adoptability. There are three main locations you can choose to volunteer, in the main shelter, in our barn with our Working Cat Program and at our PetSmart location in Temple.

### **Supervisor**

Cat Manager and Cat Assistant Manager

### **Essential Functions**

- Provide cats with socialization
- Provide human contact including petting and brushing
- Cleaning cat kennels
- Filling water dishes
- Enriching the kennel environment by providing approved toys and treats
- Changing soiled bedding
- Clean and disinfect toys
- Identify possible medical or behavior problems and report concerns
- Interacting with the public in a helpful and courteous manner
- Give feedback about the cats
- Other duties assigned

### **Requirements**

- Minimum age of 18 years
- Ability to follow instruction from staff, and work with minimum supervision
- Physically capable of handling cats of various temperaments and removing them and placing them back in their kennel
- Willingness to learn about cats and how to properly and humanely interact with them
- Concern for the welfare of cats and support ARL policies and mission
- Serve as an ambassador for the ARL in our community

### **Training & Support**

- Attend a Volunteer Orientation
- Complete mandatory cat training classes
  - Cat Behavior, Body Language & Handling
  - General Medical Class
  - In Shelter Training and Kennel Cleaning
- Mentor with qualified ARL staff member and/or volunteer
- Ongoing trainings as required

### **Dress Code**

- ID tag badge and Volunteer t-shirt
- Closed Toe Shoes
- Long Pants