



Bristol and District Branch

Registered charity number 205858

VOLUNTEER PACK



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Volunteering at RSPCA Bristol Branch and Bristol Dogs & Cats Home

The RSPCA Bristol & District Branch and Bristol Dogs & Cats Home cares for thousands of local animals who are in need of veterinary treatment or who have been abandoned, abused or are simply not wanted anymore. Volunteers have an important role at RSPCA Bristol & District Branch and BDCH, without whom life at the charity would be so much harder for both staff and animals.

There are lots of ways you can get involved, and you don't necessarily need specialised skills or experience. Whatever your particular talents, we want to hear from you.

If you are passionate about animal welfare, want to gain experience or just want to meet people, then our volunteering programme maybe just what you have been looking for.

About RSPCA Bristol & District Branch and BDCH.

The RSPCA Animal Clinic treats over 12,000 animals a year and provides a 24 hour veterinary service for lost, sick and injured stray animals, subsidised veterinary treatment for people on a low income, a first aid centre for wildlife casualties and 'well dog' clinics for the animals of homeless people.

Bristol Dogs & Cats Home, an integral part of the RSPCA Bristol & District Branch, provides care, shelter and a re-homing service for nearly 2,000 unwanted dogs, cats and small animals every year. Together these charities give thousands of local animals in need a second chance for a happy life, free from pain or neglect.

We currently have a team of approximately 150 registered volunteers who get involved in many aspects of the charity from dog walking and home checking to event organisation and fundraising. We have our own on site shop as well as a fundraising shop on Gloucester Road. RSPCA Bristol & District Branch and BDCH are registered charities, No. 205858, whose activities are overseen by a group of volunteers know as the Board of Trustees, elected annually at our June AGM.

How do RSPCA Bristol & District Branch and BDCH work with the National RSPCA?

Although we are the RSPCA Bristol & District Branch, we are only affiliated to the National RSPCA and are actually an independently run and funded charity. We receive no financial support from the National RSPCA, Government or Lottery and rely entirely upon the local community to continue our important work.

The RSPCA does however provide support and advice to us in all aspects of our work.

Who can volunteer?

Anyone can apply to volunteer, but we do ask that you are over the age of 18. Many of our volunteers tend to commit to on a regular basis, but we welcome any amount of support

We offer:

Training and staff supervision
Ongoing support from our Fundraising Co-ordinator
Cover under the terms of the Charity's insurance policy
Opportunities to meet and socialise with other volunteers

Other information:

All applicants over 18 years of age are welcome.
Volunteers will need to provide references and some roles will require applicants to complete a CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) Disclosure form.
Own transport is an advantage.
Some roles may require specific experience.

Volunteering Opportunities

Dog Walking

If you would like to get more 'hands on' with the animals, or perhaps you would love to have a dog but do not have the appropriate lifestyle to offer one a home, then dog walking maybe what you have been looking for.

Dog walkers are vital in order to provide the dogs with regular exercise and change of scene to help reduce the effects of living in a kennel. It is also an opportunity to broaden a dog's experience of real life situations, for example, traffic, roads, joggers, cyclists, other dogs and children, and of course to provide the dog with some human interaction.

For those wishing to dog walk, you will need to bring along some photo ID such as a passport or driving license. It is also important that your tetanus vaccinations are up to date. We also advise that you ring the Dogs Home before you visit (on 0117 9776043) as occasionally dog walking may be limited or unavailable. Times for dog walking are as follows:

10-11.30am & 1-4pm Monday – Friday
9.30-11.30am Saturday (but please ring in advance to confirm availability)

Charity Shop Assistant

Do you like meeting people and have a passion for animal welfare? If the answer is yes and you have time to spare on a regular basis then we would love to hear from you.

As a volunteer shop assistant you will help with a range of activities from supervising the on-site shop or sorting, pricing and helping to man the charity shop on Gloucester Road.

The role requires a good level of communication skills and a friendly positive attitude.

Fundraising and Events Volunteers

Apply to be an events and fundraising volunteer and receive regular updates on all our coming events and activities. Fundraising provides a creative and varied host of opportunities to get involved and make a difference.

We have a calendar of events and activities which simply would not be possible without a dedicated team of volunteers. These include open days, collections, fun days and dog shows, Christmas fairs and external shows such as the Bath & West.

Tasks can range from running a stall to marshalling, selling tickets or face painting! We also need help with office-based event preparation, flyer and poster distribution and envelope stuffing.

If you do not have time to spare on a weekly basis but want to do your bit for the animals then joining the fundraising and events team is the ideal way. Once inducted, you can choose to help with as many or as few of our events as you like, or even just as a once off experience. Apply today!

Other Volunteering Opportunities

From time to time we have a great variety of other opportunities to volunteer at RSPCA Bristol & District Branch and BDCH which we will advertise on our website.

These may include ad-hoc opportunities such as site maintenance, volunteer photographer or drivers to collect and deliver collection tins or ink cartridges (part of our recycling scheme).

I would like to volunteer – What do I do next?

If you would like to volunteer, please complete the application form as fully as you can, specifying your interests and why you would like to volunteer. There are no required qualifications or experience only things that may be useful.

Once completed, please return to:

Volunteer Applications
RSPCA Bristol & District Branch Office,
48 Albert Road,
St Philips,
Bristol BS2 0XA

If you are applying for a regular placement we will endeavour to find a position which will suit you, however we cannot guarantee a position.

If your application is successful we will contact you and make arrangements to come and meet us and for an informal interview, where appropriate.

If you have any questions at all about volunteering, please do not hesitate to call us on 0117 3003962 or email jill@rspca-bristol.org.uk

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to hearing from you.