

Volunteer opportunities and services provided by the RSPCA Halifax, Huddersfield & Bradford Branch

Work Experience and volunteering in our Charity Shops:

We have 5 shops in the Kirklees area –

- 2 in Huddersfield Town Centre (New Street and Trinity Street)
- New Hey Road, Marsh
- Victoria Street, Holmfirth
- Cheapside, Cleckheaton

We like to explore volunteers' talents and try to make working with us an enjoyable experience. Finding out hidden skills or talents is a bonus for both sides and there are many roles involved with our charity shops ranging from:

- Customer Service
- Visual Merchandising
- Fashion/Brand research
- Photography (eBay and social media)
- Drivers Mates (this is a physical job)
- Sorting stock
- Learning online business (eBay)

If you would like to find out further information about our volunteer opportunities, please visit our website www.rspcahalifaxhuddersfieldbradford.org.uk, email volunteering@rspcahalifaxhuddersfieldbradford.org.uk or telephone 01422 341160.

Volunteering at events:

Volunteering at our events is a lot of fun; you will gain lots of experience helping on our stalls, interacting with our supporters, meeting their canine companions at our fun dog shows and even the opportunity to potentially judge a fun dog show class! As well as working with a lovely bunch of volunteers, you will be helping our local animal centre raise precious funds to help us, help more animals.

What would you be doing?

The Events Crew are kept informed of our upcoming events and other local events we'll be attending and can choose which they're able to help out at. You could be helping run a dog show, taking part in a fundraising collection, speaking to the public at an RSPCA stand or any other activity we're involved in. Our Events Crew are a real family, and you'll always have the support of our staff and other experienced volunteers.

Who are we looking for?

Anyone can join our Events Crew, but these are some criteria you should meet:

- Passionate about the work our RSPCA branch does.
- Friendly and comfortable interacting with other volunteers and members of the public

- Some availability, particularly weekends when most of our events take place.

Volunteering at our events is a great opportunity for those who would like to have interaction with animals. Due to the nature of our charity, some of the animals in our care at our Animal Centre, have had traumatic experiences and our highly trained staff provide a special rehabilitation programme so these animals learn to trust humans again and we help them find their forever homes to enjoy a lifetime of happiness. This means that we have limited volunteer opportunities working with animals in our centre and encourage animal lovers to help at our fun dog shows!

If you would be interested at helping at our events, we would love to hear from you! Please email fundraising@rspcahalifaxhuddersfieldbradford.org.uk

Donate your skills:

We hold many fundraising events each year to raise valuable funds to keep the doors of our local animal centre open. We are always desperately in needs of gifts, new goods, cakes, plants, crafts, and prizes to sell on our stalls – if you have any unwanted gifts, please think of us!

Do you bake? Grow plants? Knit? Make crafts? Make jewellery? Paint portraits?

Please do get in touch if you would like to share your skills with us to make goodies we can fundraise with – we would love to hear from you! Please email

fundraising@rspcahalifaxhuddersfieldbradford.org.uk

Elderly Animal Rehoming Scheme:

Our Elderly Animal Rehoming Scheme was created by our branch in 2003. It is relatively common for healthy elderly dogs and cats (10 years+) to enter the RSPCA Halifax, Huddersfield, Bradford and District Animal Centre, often due to their owner's ill health or death, but few prospective adopters want to take on such an animal, mainly because of the possible financial implications.

To alleviate these animal's stress at suddenly becoming homeless and to facilitate rehoming, we have launched a Scheme to provide support and assistance to members of the public over 18 years of age wishing to home an elderly animal.

Adopters who do not wish to join the Scheme can still adopt one of our Elderly animals at 50% of the usual adoption fee.

The RSPCA Halifax, Huddersfield, Bradford and District Animal Centre will reduce the cost of adoption to only £5 for these dogs and cats but will still undertake to fully vaccinate, worm, deflea, microchip and neuter (unless advised by the vet) and provide behavioural advice.

The animal will be fully checked over by our vet to ensure it is in good health at the time of adoption and will also have been assessed for temperament.

Then for a monthly payment of £5.00 per month to the RSPCA Halifax, Huddersfield, Bradford and District Branch, the adopter receives an ID card which qualifies the animal to benefit from the following at the RSPCA Halifax , Huddersfield, Bradford and District Branch clinic:

- A Booster vaccination and health check once a year

- Routine worming tablets and flea treatment
- Access to our Animal Centre vet during routine clinic times at £5.00 per consultation
- All current and future medication will be offered at a discounted price.
- Prescription diets and senior food will be offered at a discounted price.
- Euthanasia at RSPCA Animal Centre
- 24-hour emergency phone in case the adopter has a personal emergency
- Emergency cover if an owner is hospitalized i.e., temporary 2-week foster care, dog walking and help with shopping for dog/cat food.
- Discount cremation service IF REQUIRED
- Discount grooming from
- Transport to our Clinic where necessary
- Grants for emergency treatment/elective surgery dependant on the buoyancy of the Scheme

Many local vets are participating in the Scheme and will allow members a discount in the region of 15-20%. This applies only to elective surgery and the emergency treatment of accidents, sudden illness, injury, hospitalization, and emergency euthanasia.

In the event of the Scheme member becoming ill or hospitalised, a 24-hour telephone number is available. Arrangements will be immediately made to collect the animal and place it into temporary foster care.

Should the adopter at any time become unable to look after the animal, we will then arrange for it to be returned to us and to be rehomed again via the Scheme.

To find out more about our scheme, please visit our website www.rspcahalifaxhuddersfieldbradford.org.uk or telephone our local Animal Centre on 01422 365628.

Recycling:

We are extremely proud to say that our Branch Is very proactive when it comes to recycling and the environment. We are able to take some of your recyclable items that are not yet part of the usual council recycling collections.

You can donate these items at any of our shops or our Animal Centre based on Wade Street, Halifax, HX1 1SN.

Not only will you be helping the environment by donating your recyclable items, but you will also help us raise vital funds for the animals in our care.

The items we can currently accept fall into 3 main categories: **Pet Food Packaging, Plastic Food Packaging and Ink Cartridges**. Please find more details of the items we can accept below:

Pet Food Packaging:

In the case of wet food sachets, any donations should be arranged through Cathryn Harris on 07761 986317 as we're not always able to take these at all of our shops for health and safety reasons.

Plastic Food Packaging:

We accept very specific types of plastic packaging:

Crisp Packets: Please do not twist or fold crisp packets as they need to be flat to be entered into the machine which is used to process them. We can accept both the individual packets and the multipack bags.

Coffee Products: Tassimo coffee pods, Kenco plastic coffee jar lids, L'or coffee capsules and Kenco Eco refill packs are also items we've been collecting for some time and we're the main recycling centre for these in the region.

Cracker, Cake and Biscuit Wrappers: We can accept all brands of plastic biscuit, cracker and cake wrappers.

Print Cartridges:

We've recently started collecting ink cartridges. Due to the components, these are a valuable item worth recycling, especially in bulk.

The important thing to look for in any cartridges you'd like to donate to us is the presence of a magnetic strip.

Fostering

Foster homes are an integral part of our work and play a special part in rehabilitating our dogs & cats. Foster homes are a valuable asset to our centre, having a team of fosterer's means that we are able to rescue more animals and more importantly provide a calm & loving environment for those who are in need of a little more TLC.

What is required to be a fosterer?

It goes without saying that you'll need to be an animal lover! As long as you have a little spare time and can offer a suitable environment, we'd be happy to hear from you. There is no cost to the fosterer, we provide all the equipment, food, medicine, and any vets bills.

Other requirements include:

- If you have your own pets, they must be fully vaccinated, neutered and happy to share their home.
- If you are in rented accommodation, we must receive written permission from your landlord, confirming that you are able to keep animals at the property.
- You will need to be over 18.

We also host a clinic for our foster animals once per week at our Animal Centre for their regular appointments and check-ups. If you have difficulty with transport, we can offer a van collection service for this.

What type of animal might I be fostering?

Animals are placed with a fosterer in a variety of scenarios. You might be asked to take an elderly cat or dog who require medicine administering, puppies which require more care, an animal which has had an operation and needs to recover, a mummy cat with kittens or a cat suffering from cat flu. You would never be asked to take an animal which has been taken away from someone until they have become the legal property of the RSPCA following court proceedings.

The type of animals you are asked to take on will vary depending on your circumstances and your own animals, e.g., we would not give you a cat with cat flu if you have your own cats who could be infected.

How do I become a fosterer?

There are a few simple steps to becoming a fosterer...

1. First of all, please visit our website www.rspcahalifaxhuddersfieldbradford.org.uk to fill in our fostering enquiry form. Once we receive this we'll get in touch and if you meet our basic criteria, we'll send you an application pack. Or alternatively, please phone our Animal Centre on 01422 365628.
2. Once you have submitted your application and been approved, the Rehoming Team from the centre will get in touch with you for a more in-depth discussion about fostering.
3. You will then receive a home visit from our team, who will visit your home to have a chat with you.
4. The final bit of admin is some online health and safety training.
5. Once your Home Visit has been passed and we have all the relevant paperwork returned to us you will be ready for your first foster placement!

Neutering Assistance

National Cat Neutering Line

RSPCA have a dedicated cat neutering number to help cat owners with financial assistance - **0300 123 8019**. If you are on low income, helping a stray or feral cat who needs neutering, please phone this special number to obtain assistance with neutering vouchers.

What is Neutering?

Neutering is a routine operation carried out at the vets, which prevents female cats from getting pregnant and male cats from making females pregnant. Cats can become pregnant from as young as four months of age – so it is advisable to get cats neutered from four months old.

Why Neuter?

There are thousands of unwanted cats in the UK already, and rescue centres are full to bursting. Cats are effective breeders, producing a huge number of kittens throughout their lifetime. There are no welfare or health benefits to allowing a cat to have a litter of kittens before neutering. Neutering your cat is the kindest way to help reduce more unwanted cats and kittens and help keep the cat population under control.

Your cat will be much happier and healthier when neutered. Neutering your cat could also save you money on vet bills too!

- Female cats - the chance of getting some infectious diseases will be reduced and the likelihood of developing tumours, womb infections and other illnesses is also reduced.
- Male cats - neutered male cats are less likely to end up injured from fighting or stray from home. Un-neutered male cats can spray smelly urine in the house to scent mark – this is to attract female mates or from frustration of not finding a mate.