

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Do you belong to a group that might want to help our cause by sponsoring a food drive or donating supplies? Do you direct a youth group—church, scouts, 4-H that might enjoy working on a shelter project? Are you a college student missing your pet back home? Come take a dog for a walk or play with a cat! It will do you both good!

Be an Advocate

Spaying and neutering our pets and encouraging others to do so is the #1 way we can reduce the need for animal shelters and help those in existence function more effectively. We share responsibility to put the pressure on our friends, co-workers and families to make this happen. Approximately 5-7 million companion animals enter animal shelters nationwide every year, and approximately 3-4 million are euthanized. (ASPCA) *RCHS has one of the lowest euthanasia rates in WV. We do not believe in euthanizing healthy, adoptable pets to make room for more healthy, adoptable pets!*

Foster an Animal for Adoption

Perhaps you are a traveler and therefore cannot keep a pet at home but you enjoy animal companionship. Consider fostering a dog or a cat, a litter, a senior or an injured animal for a brief period of time. This is very helpful in preparing our residents for adoption and gives them a break from shelter living.

Provide a Forever Home

If you have the proper environment, life style, and love in your heart, adopt a shelter animal. You already have one? Many pet owners agree that two is easier than one and a lot more fun!

Donate

Our doors remain open largely due to private donations. We appreciate all monetary donations, large or small. All donations are tax deductible.

You may wish to donate to:

- ◊ Yelp for Help Fund (*emergency medical care*)
- ◊ Spay / Neuter Fund
- ◊ Adoption Sponsorship
- ◊ General Operations

To make a donation, make your check to RCHS, noting any specific requests, and mail it to RCHS, PO Box 785, Elkins WV 26241. Or you can donate through our website at www.rchswv.org. You will receive a tax receipt and a huge *Thank You* from us!

Estate Planning

We ask you to also consider remembering RCHS in your estate planning. Leaving a gift through your Last Will and Testament or as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy is a wonderful way to leave a lasting legacy.

HOW TO VOLUNTEER

To become a volunteer, visit the Volunteer page on our website at www.rchswv.org to complete the inquiry form. Or stop by the shelter and complete the Volunteer Application. Our staff will schedule a training session for you.

If you belong to an organization and want to learn more about RCHS, invite us to come speak about our work and the volunteer opportunities at RCHS.

*Thank you for your interest
and support!*



Want to help?

Become a Volunteer

**Make a difference for
our pet population and
your community!**

195 Weese St Ext., PO Box 785

www.rchswv.org

304-636-7844

Like us on Facebook!

WHO WE ARE

The Randolph County Humane Society was founded in 1958 by a small group of women dedicated to addressing the needs of homeless and abused companion animals. As a 501(c)3 non-profit, RCHS is a private, open admission animal shelter. Randolph County contracts with RCHS to provide shelter for stray, abandoned, abused, and injured animals that are picked up by the County's Animal Control Officer. The shelter accepts most homeless, lost, neglected, injured, abused, and owner relinquished pets that are brought to us, space permitting.

RCHS houses and cares for more than 150 animals at any given time and over 1,000 annually. RCHS promotes the spaying and neutering of all companion animals as the primary solution to pet overpopulation. It is our mission to provide all of our canine and feline residents the most humane treatment possible with regard to living conditions, medical treatment, socialization, and daily care, and to be their best advocate for placement in safe, loving, and permanent homes.

It costs over \$300,000 per year to operate the shelter. A large portion of that amount must be raised through private donations and fundraising efforts by volunteers. **Volunteer help is critical, both on-site and off.**

BECOME AN RCHS VOLUNTEER

On-Site

- Animal bathing and grooming
- Dog walking, socializing
- Cat cuddling and play
- Laundry
- Dish washing
- Kennel and facility cleaning
- Photography
- Organizing supplies, office work
- Grounds keeping, lawn care
- Repair work—lighting, plumbing
- Carpentry

Off-Site

- Fundraising Committee work
- Sign/poster distribution and removal
- Donating needed supplies:
 - Blankets, towels, newspapers, cleaning materials, cat litter, food
- Funds solicitor
- Animal sponsorship (pay for the cost of spay/neuter and adoption fees for an adoptable animal)
- Work at fundraising events and off-site adoption events
- Serve on the Board

Children must be 15 or older to volunteer unsupervised.

"I could never work at the shelter. I love animals too much. I don't know how you do it."

We hear this statement a lot. You love your pets and can't imagine them without a home and someone to love them. You would want to bring them all home with you. It would be too sad, too up close and personal.

RCHS staff and volunteers love and care about our own pets, too. Our dedication to all animals comes from the same place yours does. That's what drives us to advocate for animals who are less fortunate than your pets and our own. If not we animal lovers, then who will stand for them?

Yes, you will want to bring them all home. Yes, initially, you might feel sad. You will wonder if you can really do this. ***YES, you can!*** After a few volunteer experiences, you will shape your expectations and perspective and realize that you are making a meaningful difference in the daily lives of our residents and will appreciate the importance of our mission. Each week we share happy adoption stories and watch shy, mistreated, and traumatized animals come out of their shells to greet the world with hope, a purr, and a wag. It is very rewarding to play a part in these happy transformations and more often than not, we leave the shelter smiling! We can't deny that we share heartache and discouragement, but we also share great joy! You can be part of that.