

RSPCA Bristol and District Branch and Bristol Dogs and Cats Home



Bristol & District Branch
Registered Charity No. 205858

Volunteering

The RSPCA Bristol and District Branch and Bristol Dogs & Cats Home care for thousands of local animals every year 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 Bristol Dogs and Cats Home

The RSPCA Bristol Branch is made up of the RSPCA Bristol Animal Clinic & Bristol Dogs and Cats Home. The Clinic, the largest branch clinic in the country, administers over 12,000 treatments to animals in need every 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 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.

Our team of registered volunteers get involved in many aspects of the charity from dog walking and home-visiting to events and fundraising. We have an on-site shop as well as a charity shop at 86 East Street, Bedminster. RSPCA Bristol & District Branch and BDCH is a registered charity, No. 205858, whose activities are overseen by a group of volunteers known 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 Government or the National 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 you must be over the age of 18. Many of our volunteers tend to commit to helping on a regular basis, but we welcome any amount of support.

We offer:

- Training and staff supervision where appropriate
- Ongoing support from our Fundraising Manager
- 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.
- Some roles will require applicants to provide references and/or complete a CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) Disclosure form.
- Own transport is an advantage.
- Some roles may require specific experience.

Volunteering Opportunities:**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 at 86 East Street, Bedminster. The role requires a good level of communication skills and a friendly positive attitude.

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 attend a volunteer induction before being able to start walking. It is also important that your tetanus vaccinations are up to date. It may be advisable that you ring the Dogs Home before you visit (on 0117 9776043) as occasionally dog walking may be limited or unavailable on weekends, during busy periods and in adverse weather conditions (extreme heat or snow etc.). Times for dog walking are as follows: **10-11.30am & 1-3.30pm Tuesday – Sunday**

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. Tasks can range from running a stall to marshalling, selling tickets or face painting! We also need occasional 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. You can choose to help with as many or as few of our events as you like, whatever suits you. 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 or in Bristol Volunteering Centres.

These may include ad-hoc opportunities such as site maintenance, laundry volunteer, volunteer photographer or drivers to collect and deliver collection tins or food donations. We also offer a Volunteer Animal Care Assistant role which would require a regular commitment. Applicants would need to attend an interview, induction and training sessions before taking this position. Please see the separate info sheet and application form for more information.

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 for most roles, only things that may be useful. Once completed, please return to:

Volunteer Applications, RSPCA Bristol 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 info@rspca-bristol.org.uk

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