

Volunteering with 8-12 year olds

8-12 year olds volunteers

We are very excited to allow 8-12 year olds to serve with an adult volunteer. We recognize the importance of teaching volunteerism at a young age and allowing this age group to give back to their community and animals in need.

To ensure the safety of all involved, please consider our guidelines when deciding if our program is a good match for you and your family.

- The parent or legal guardian is the primary volunteer in a leadership position in this program.
- We ask that no more than 2 children accompany an adult at one time.
- The adult volunteer must remain with the junior volunteer at all times while at the shelter.
- There may be no more than two junior volunteers per adult volunteer.
- The adult volunteer, for the junior volunteer, must fill out a release form before the youth may attend the shift. This is collected at adult orientation.
- For each child we request \$10 to cover the cost of their volunteer t-shirt
- Once your child has turned 13 years, they will be required to go through the teen volunteer process to volunteer independently. Please see the Youth Volunteer page for more information.

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Orientation	Children 8-12 years old are welcome to attend orientation. Parents with children will serve as Animal TLC Volunteers and will be required to stay the entire 2 hours. You know your child best; please only have them attend if they are able to participate in the entire orientation & training.
13-17 year olds	13-17 year olds volunteer independently through our teen volunteer program, please see the Youth Volunteer page for more information.
Animal TLC Program	Parents with children will serve as Animal TLC Volunteers. It is the first step to working with the animals! The Animal TLC program supports the adoptable animals by helping with laundry, dishes, sorting donations, providing enrichment, & other shelter tasks.
Dog TLC	<p>After completing 8 hours of Animal TLC service, the adult volunteer will qualify to sign up for a training in an animal handling position, this could be walking dogs in our Dog TLC program. Due to space restrictions & length of the class, training is for adults only.</p> <p>Below are some of the rules & protocols for walking dogs with your 8-12 year old.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The adult is expected to choose a dog appropriate for interaction with children. This will be covered in depth at training. Please note that not all dogs on the adoption floor will be available to walk with your child.• The adult volunteer is responsible for safely walking the dog from its kennel to the outdoors. The adult is the one who leashes up the dog, and the child must remain outside the kennel at this point.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When the dog is on leash, the adult volunteer must always be the handler. A junior volunteer may attach a second leash to the dog, but the adult's leash is the primary one.• If a play yard is available, you are welcome to take the dog off leash and the junior volunteer may interact freely with the dog at that time.• It is important to remind the junior volunteer that the dog may be unaccustomed to children and volunteers are asked not to hug, wrestle, tease or chase animals in the play yard.
Feline Friends	<p>After completing 8 hours of Animal TLC service, the adult volunteer will qualify to sign up for a training in an animal handling position, this could be socializing cats in our Feline Friend program. Due to space restrictions & length of the class, training is for adults only.</p> <p>Below are some of the rules & protocols for visiting cats with your 8-12 year old.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The adult volunteer is responsible for safely escorting/carrying the cat from its kennel to the visitation room and back. Junior volunteers may interact freely with a cat when in a visitation room• Adult and child pairs may interact with all Green rated cats. This will be covered in depth at training. Please note that not all cats on the adoption floor will be available to visit with your child.• Remind the junior volunteer that the cat may be unaccustomed to children and volunteers are asked to refrain from handling a cat that moves away or hisses.

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Small Paws	<p>After completing 8 hours of Animal TLC service, the adult volunteer will qualify to sign up for a training in an animal handling position, this could be socializing small mammals in our Small Paws program. Due to space restrictions this is an adult's only training.</p> <p>Below are some of the rules & protocols for visiting small mammals with your 8-12 year old.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The adult volunteer is responsible for safely escorting/carrying the animals from their kennel. Junior volunteers may interact freely with a animals once out of the kennel.• Remind the junior volunteer that the animals may be unaccustomed to handling and must use calm, slow movements when handling.
For more information	<p>Additional questions? Please email volunteers@longmonthumane.org Or call 303-772-1232 x278 or x243</p>