

ANIMAL PROTECTOR

New Volunteer Orientation

2026



Volunteer Handbook



ABOUT US



We are a local nonprofit, no-kill shelter located in New Kensington, PA founded 60 years ago. We care for the abused, abandoned, and stray dogs and cats of Allegheny Valley.

Our shelter is run by an all-volunteer Board of Directors and a small staff. We strive to adopt our animals into responsible homes while educating the community on the importance of spaying and neutering companion animals.



<https://www.animalprotectors.net/>



VISION & MISSION

Vision

To always be a trusted and caring no-kill animal shelter that the community looks to for animal rescue, education, and resources.

Mission

To find safe, loving homes for abused, abandoned, and homeless animals in the Allegheny-Kiski Valley and to educate the public about responsible pet ownership.



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OUR LEADERSHIP



Danielle Baughman
Shelter Adminstator



Molly Farneth
Kennel Manager



GENERAL INFORMATION

Phone Number: 724-339-7388

Address: 730 Church St., New Kensington, PA 15068

Website: www.animalprotectors.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/animalprotectorsofav

Instagram: @animalprotectorsshelter

TikTok: @animalprotectorsapav



PUBLIC ADOPTION HOURS

Tuesday through Friday 11:00 am - 6:00 pm

Saturday and Sunday 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Closed on Monday

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Every day from 7 am to 7 pm



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VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Volunteer Hub: Located right in the front lobby, is the go-to spot for all things volunteer-related! This welcoming space was created to give our amazing Volunteers easy access to the resources and answers they need.

Volunteer Email: volunteer@animalprotectors.net

Volunteer Facebook:

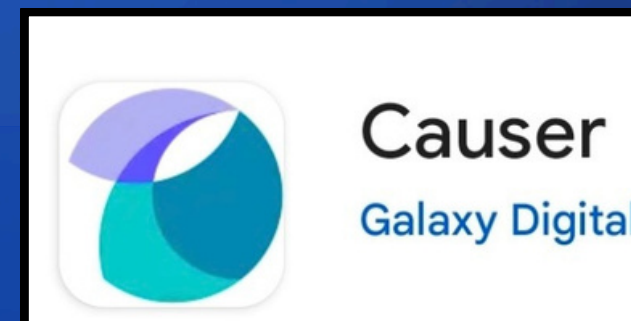
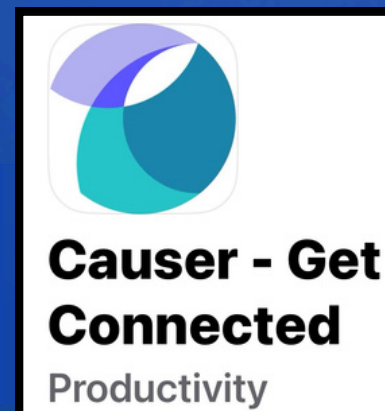
Search for “Volunteers of Animal Protectors” and request to join!

Volunteer Get Connected Website: animalprotectors.galaxydigital.com

Volunteer App: Get Connected
 (“Causer - Get Connected” or “Causer” in the App Store)



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WHAT TO WEAR

Volunteer shirts are available after completing 2 volunteer shifts

Ask a volunteer coordinator

Coming soon:

Volunteer Name Tags will be available within the Volunteer Hub

Please wear them during your volunteer shift

- **Wear closed toe shoes that are comfortable to walk in.**
- **No long necklaces, lanyards, or dangling jewelry when handling dogs.**
- **We recommend changing your clothes before going home to your pets**
- **Always wear clothes that can get dirty or ruined**



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INTERACTIONS & SOCIAL MEDIA

We encourage you to welcome the public and ask them to wait in the lobby for staff to help them.

The relationship between our staff and our volunteers is critical in our daily operations. We foster a culture of kindness and respect. If there is ever an issue, please communicate with a Volunteer Coordinator for support.

**Please only share our ADOPTABLE animals on social media.
Dogs and cats are adoptable once listed on PetFinder.**

Representing: You are representing Animal Protectors and should do so in a positive way.

Responsibility: You are responsible for posting accurate and ethical information.

Respectful: You are required to show respect for your fellow volunteers, our staff, and the community.



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CONTROLLING DISEASE



- **Read signs**
- **Handwashing between kennels at a minimum**
- **When handling sick animals, we require that you wash your hands between animals.**
- **No sharing of toys, blankets, etc.**
- **Dogs in the isolation area (Kennel A) only go out side door**
- **Cat Medical and Dog Medical are approved Volunteers only**
- **Keep the yards/floors clean**
- **Clean up messes promptly**
- **Report to staff any medical issues you may see**



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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



1 In Shelter Cat Care

2 In Shelter Dog Care

3 In Home Fostering

4 Laundry & Cleaning

5 Office Support

6 Events & Fundraising

7 Grants

8 Community Outreach



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GLIMPSE INTO CAT VOLUNTEERING



Cat Cleaning

Our morning cat crew comes between 7 am and 10 am. They focus on scooping litter, cleaning kennels, and socialization with our cats.

Cat Socialization

Come by any time of the day and spend time with our cats. You can hang out in the free roam room and spend time with our cats in kennels who do not get as much socialization

Cat Enrichment

Enrichment is a powerful way to stimulate our cat's brains, especially in kennels. Some examples are treat puzzles, toys, cat nip, & more!



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GLIMPSE INTO DOG VOLUNTEERING



Dog Walking & Cleaning

Our dogs have 4 outs a day. Helping with these outs allows our dogs receive longer time outside and helps our staff a ton.



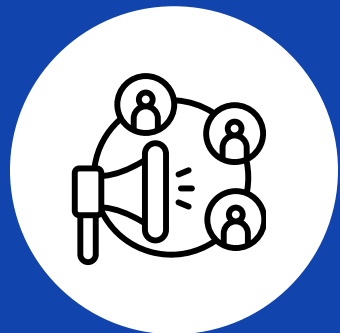
Doggy Day Outs

Taking a dog offsite to explore the world. These are so beneficial for our dogs to get a break from kennel stress.



Enrichment

Extra time outside, time playing in the enrichment room, in kennel treats / toys, and more!



Events

We highlight our animals at as many events as we possible can, which means we need volunteers who are willing to take dogs out to our events!



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GLIMPSE INTO FOSTERING

We cover all food and medical costs!

Dog Fostering

Some of our dogs have an extremely hard time living in a kennel. We try to get these dogs into a foster home asap!

Cat Fostering

We strive to place our longer stay cats into foster homes so they can experience love and life outside of a kennel

Medical Fostering

Sometimes we have animals near their end of life and we try to find a foster to give them a comfortable place to live out the rest of their days.



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GLIMPSE INTO CLEANING VOLUNTEERING

- Laundry, Laundry, Laundry
- Dishes
- Sweep/Mop/Vacuum
- Donation Sorting
- Misc Cleaning



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GLIMPSE INTO OFFICE VOLUNTEERING



Front Desk

Welcome visitors, process adoptions, communicate with staff about meet & greets, educate the visitors about our animals/shelter/etc.

Saturdays are most needed!

Upstairs Office

Organize paperwork, donation tracking, & support other upstairs office work.



<https://www.animalprotectors.net/>





Fundraising Events

Larger events that are meant to generate monetary donations for AP. Fully organized and run by volunteers.



Event Planning

All events are fully volunteer ran! We are always looking for more volunteers to help lead, plan, and run these events to continue to bring new ideas and energy to help make them as successful as possible.

Join our Development Committee!
They meet virtually once a month



Community Engagement Events

Taking our animals out into the community in partnership with a local business to bring awareness to AP and our animals.



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GLIMPSE INTO EVENT VOLUNTEERING



GLIMPSE INTO GRANTS VOLUNTEERING

Grants are very impactful to help us be able to continue saving animals lives!

Meet every Monday at 10:30 am

- Identify grant opportunities
- Fill out grant applications
- Follow the money & make sure it is recieved!



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GLIMPSE INTO COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Kids Programs

We love hosting kids at the shelter or doing school projects involving our animals. We'd love to partner with more schools, scouts, etc to continue this!

Business Network

We would like to go out into the community and partner with more local businesses. Do you know any who would host us or collaborate on a fundraiser?

Corporate Volunteering

When corporations choose to partner with us on volunteer days, it is so helpful for us! We would like to partner with more companies who allow their employees to volunteer during work hours!



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HOW DO WE STAY CONNECTED?

Facebook

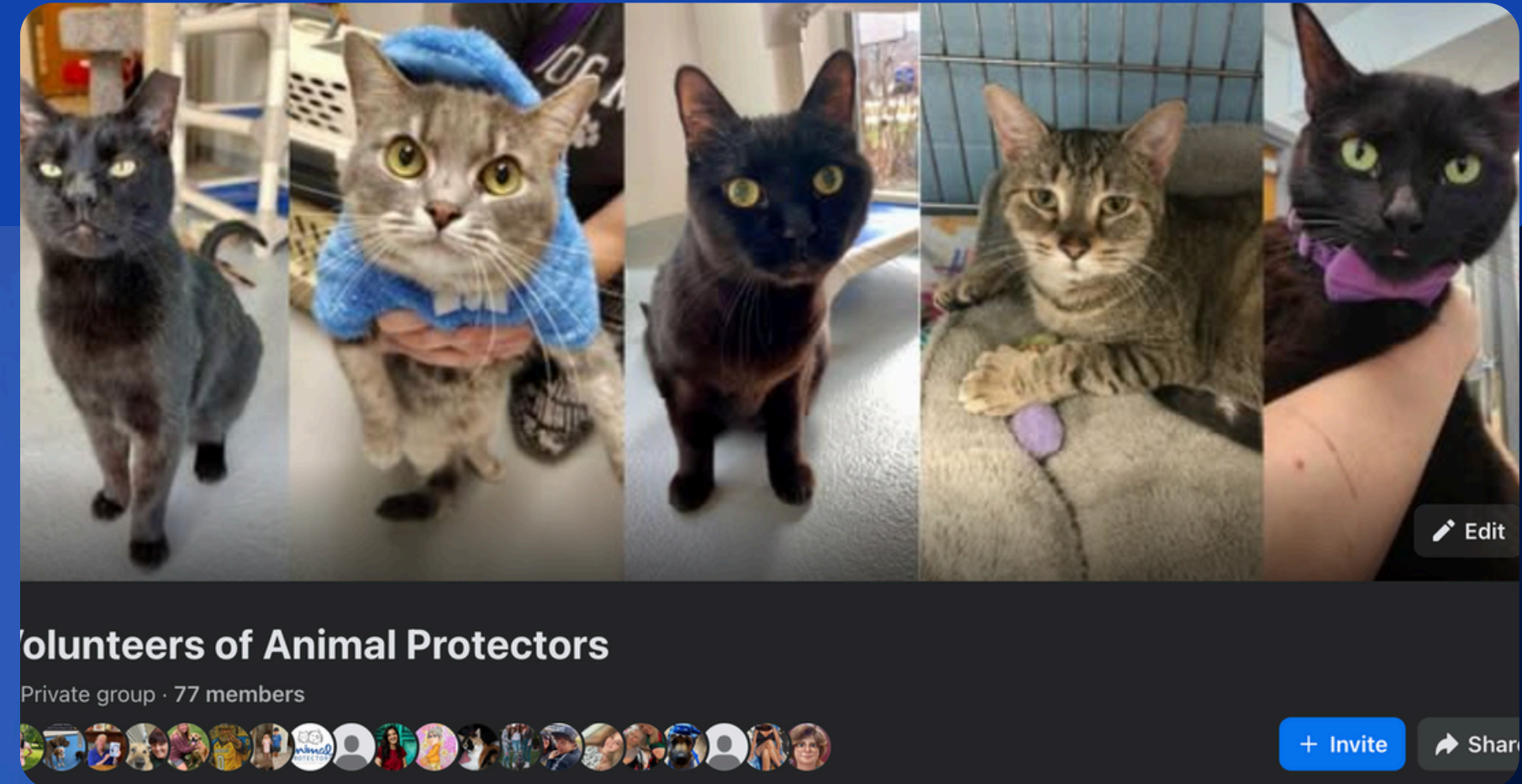
•Search for & ask to join our “Volunteers of Animal Protectors”

Newsletter

We send out a monthly newsletter to share updates, recap the adoption from the previous month, and share upcoming events

Email

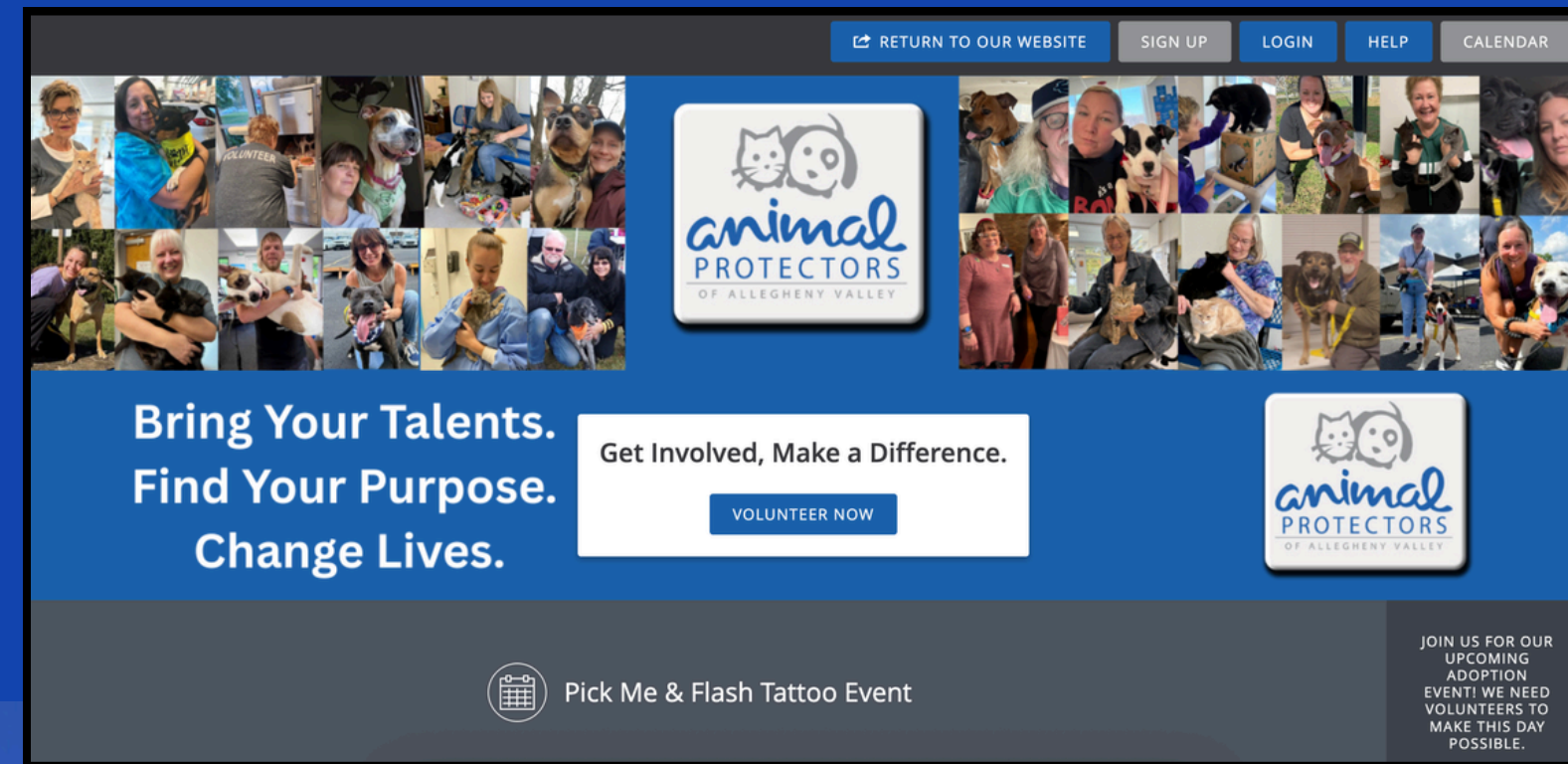
Email volunteer@animalprotectors.net
Rachel & Julie monitor this inbox, so it is a great way to get in touch if needed!



<https://www.animalprotectors.net/>



SCHEDULING & LOGGING YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS



<https://animalprotectors.galaxydigital.com/>

Website:

A LOT more information



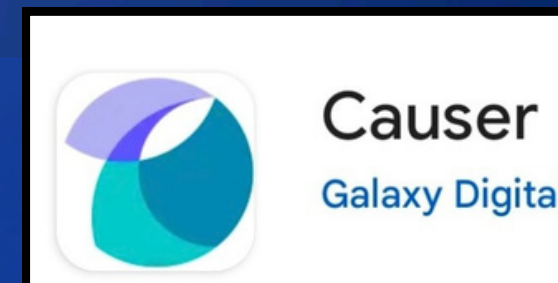
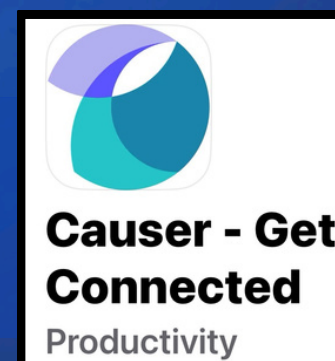
1- You will schedule your volunteer hours to let us know when you will be there.

2- Log your hours! This helps us get grants, so it is very important to log the hours that you serve!

Mobile App



<https://www.animalprotectors.net/>



NEXT STEPS



1- Apply to be a volunteer



2- Schedule 1-on-1 training

Email us with your availability for a 1-on-1 training

volunteer@animalprotectors.net



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Q&A

