Thank you for your interest in group volunteer opportunities at the Wisconsin Humane Society! Your passion is critical to the work we do in the community and we are thankful for groups like yours who make the life-saving work we do possible. We are excited to work with your team!

Our group volunteer program is comprised of three unique opportunities: support, learn, and engage. We encourage you to participate in all three.

Involvement in these key areas will help your team connect with the work we do at WHS and will make a lasting impact on our ability to care for animals and people in our community. and come away feeling much more satisfied with your volunteer experience. Below is more information on these three parts of our group volunteer program.

**Support**

We encourage all groups to host a fundraiser for WHS at their workplace. This may include hosting a supply drive, giving a monetary donation, or forming a team to participate in our annual Pet Walk. Every donation makes a difference. We’re also happy to take a photo of your group (large whiteboard check available if requested). Your team will be free to share this image on social media and will be featured on our Business Spotlight page.

**Learn**

One of the best parts of group volunteering at WHS is an opportunity to learn about our work and see it in action. As part of your time at WHS, a staff member will share information about WHS and what we do, including an exclusive behind the scenes tour of our wildlife department, veterinary hospital, and animal care areas.

**Engage**

Once the tour is completed you get to help with our best volunteer position, animal socializing! Depending on animal availability, we may meet with a dog, cat, or both to provide some much needed time for them to stretch their legs and get some attention from your team. This might entail the difficult work of petting, tossing a ball for a pup, or engaging a kitten with a wand toy. *If we have other seasonal opportunities such as washing vehicles, spreading mulch, assisting with special events, we will make your group aware of these opportunities as well if they are preferred.*

**Fundraising Ideas**

- **Jeans Day** – Have HR sign off on a jeans day. Charge a set amount for people to donate in order to be able to wear jeans or casual clothing.

- **Penny War** – Each department has a large glass container. Pennies can go in your own jar to tally points, but other coins and dollars take away that amount from other teams if you put it in the other team’s jar.

- **Round up for Pups** – If your company has a point of sale, you can ask your customers if they want to round up for WHS! Do a month-long fundraiser and you will be surprised by the monetary impact you can make.
Cutest Pet Photo Contest – Charge an entry fee for submitting a photo, the winner gets bragging rights and the funds raised go to a great cause!

Inquire about a donation from your Marketing or Philanthropy department – Sometimes the easiest fundraising is asking the right place. Check-in with your marketing team or those who handle philanthropic giving and maybe they will make a generous donation.

Volunteer Grants – Some companies pay non-profits for the volunteer time their employees engage in. Check with your HR team today!

Use social media to host a donation event – Check with your marketing team to see if you can host a donation drive for a weekend on social media. Not only can you get your workplace involved but also your supporters and clients!

Company matched donations – If your company matches donations, see how much you can get your company to match through your fundraising campaign once completed.

Supply drive – collect supplies from our wish list or add this initiative to another fundraiser to double your impact!

Create a WHS Pet Walk team – Form a team to partake in our annual pet walk on the beautiful lakefront of Milwaukee. Attach fundraising goals to this event to make it even more engaging.

FAQ’s

What should we wear? Unless your group is scheduled for a specific task such as washing vehicles etc, whatever you are comfortable in should be fine. Ideally, your team will be hanging out with animals after your tour so if you are very concerned about your clothes less formal generally is better.

How many people can we have to volunteer? Ideally groups of 10 or less work best.

Is the fundraising or donation aspect mandatory? Ideally, yes. The Wisconsin Humane Society is not government-subsidized and is fully funded by the generosity of our community. WHS is not part of a national umbrella organization. We will be investing staff time to make sure your volunteer day is engaging and rewarding for your team and greatly appreciate any fundraising efforts!

Can we volunteer during the weekend? Unfortunately, our staff is only available to assist with your group Monday – Friday.

Can we walk dogs? Due to our diverse animal population, only volunteers who have completed extensive training are allowed to walk dogs. We will do our best to get your team some time with an adoptable animal. If you are passionate about walking dogs you are always welcome to apply to volunteer here.

Next Step

If your organization is interested in volunteering please fill out this survey to get started if you have not already done so. A staff member will be in touch with you regarding what opportunities are currently available. Thank you again for your willingness to support the lifesaving work of the Wisconsin Humane Society!
Resources

- Need help planning your workplace fundraiser? Feel free to contact Billy Zakrzewski at 414-431-6133 or email at bzakrzewski@wihumane.org.
- Need an easy to use online fundraising platform? Look no further! This is great for collecting money for jeans days, competition entry fees, etc.
- If you are planning a supply drive you can find our comprehensive wish list here! You can even shop on our website making your donation even more impactful!

Due to the large number of requests we receive from businesses that are interested in helping, we are not always able to fulfill all requests. In addition, volunteer opportunities that involve direct interaction with animals require specialized training through our volunteer department, as well as a minimum time commitment of 6 months. If you are interested in a volunteer role that works directly with animals and are willing to make a 6-month commitment, please start here!