ESSENTIAL VOLUNTEER CAPABILITIES
Connecticut Humane Society

Volunteering to help animals is extremely rewarding, but can also present some challenges. Below are the essential abilities a volunteer needs in order to safely participate in the volunteer program.

PHYSICAL CAPABILITIES

- Ability to see to move safely throughout the building, distinguish animal body language and read instructions.
- Ability to hear warnings, such as growling or hissing.
- Ability to effectively communicate.
- Ability to stand and/or walk for significant periods of time.
- Ability to travel unaided on varied surfaces.
- Ability to bend and squat in order to leash/harness, and/or pick up an animal.
- Ability to use a step stool if needed to reach cages or supplies.
- Quick reflexes and ability to safely open a cage door while handling an animal.
- High level of manual dexterity to leash/harness animals.
- Ability to cope with a loud environment due to animal noises.
- Ability to work in the presence of peanut butter, cat, dog and small animal dander as well as cleaning chemicals.

COGNITIVE ABILITIES

- Ability to understand, remember and follow both verbal and written instructions and procedures.
- Basic reading, writing and communication skills.
- Ability to recognize potentially hazardous situations.
- Ability, once trained, to work independently with minimal supervision.
- If lacking the ability to work independently, must be able to work alongside a trained parent or guardian in an appropriate job, as determined by the volunteer department.
- Ability to understand and safeguard against the risk of exposure to zoonotic diseases such as ringworm, or animal bites or scratches.

EMOTIONAL ABILITIES

- Ability to handle constructive criticism.
- Ability to remain calm and maintain a positive attitude.
- Ability to cope in a highly emotionally-charged environment and with situations such as euthanasia decisions.

Your signature on this form acknowledges that you have read this document and understand the requirements for volunteering at the Connecticut Humane Society.

Printed Name: _____   Date: _____

Signature: _____