



## East Bay SPCA Overview & Volunteer FAQ

### **Our Mission**

The East Bay SPCA is committed to the welfare of cats and dogs in the communities we serve. We strive to eliminate animal cruelty, neglect and overpopulation by providing programs and education that support people and companion animals.

### **What does “SPCA” stand for?**

SPCA stands for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The East Bay SPCA is not affiliated nor receives any funds from other SPCA's, humane societies, or the ASPCA.

### **More than a Shelter!**

Not only do we save lives, we work to improve the animal's lives while they are in our care and help make them more adoptable. We do that through services such as vet care, training, and behavior modification along with companionship and socialization. We also support the people in the animal's lives and promote animal welfare through our Humane Advocacy, Fostering, and Humane Education programs, as well as our affordable Veterinary Care and Pet Ownership Education.

### **Why Adopt?**

Shelters provide a temporary place for domesticated animals without homes. We like to say when you adopt an animal you are saving two lives! Each space that opens in a shelter provides a safe place for another animal.

### **Shelters in Our Community**

There are two main types of shelters. Open admission shelters are required by law to take in every animal brought to them including animals who may not be adoptable. Municipal shelters are contracted with a city or county and are an example of an open admission shelter.

Limited admission shelters can control the number of animals they accept. The East Bay SPCA is a limited admission shelter. Because we do not receive any funding from any government agency, we are not required to take every animal that comes to us. We set our own policies, which means we never have to euthanize an animal for time or space.

### **Euthanasia and the meaning of “No Kill”**

The East Bay SPCA is opposed to the euthanasia of healthy, adoptable animals. While “no kill” is a popular phrase in today's animal welfare environment, we do not find its use responsible. We discourage the use of the phrase “no kill” as it is often misunderstood and hides the problems of safety, overpopulation and responsible ownership that our communities face. Instead, we want to be very clear to our supporters and the public how we make the difficult choice of euthanasia when it is absolutely required.

The East Bay SPCA will euthanize an animal whose poor health cannot be solved humanely by our highly skilled medical staff or consulting specialists or an animal whose condition puts other shelter animals or workers at risk.

We also will choose euthanasia when an animal has negative behaviors that are beyond our ability to correct, such as unmanageable aggression toward other dogs or people. This is especially true if the animal presents a safety hazard to potential adopters or the community.

In fact, keeping such animals while thousands of healthy, adoptable animals are euthanized because there is no place to keep them could be considered an unconscionable decision. To see our animal statistics tables, please visit our website. You can learn more about our [shelter statistics here](#).

### **East Bay SPCA Animals**

Nearly 4,000 animals are adopted out of our shelter per year! Most of our adoptable puppies, dogs, kittens, and cats come from shelter transfers with municipal shelters all around the Bay Area and Central Valley. After animals arrive to the shelter, they all receive a medical examination, vaccinations, spay/neuter, microchip, behavior evaluation, flea treatment, and nail trim. We also receive owner surrenders and strays on a case-by-case basis.

### **Can I volunteer if I have a changing schedule?**

Yes! We have volunteer opportunities that do not require a regular schedule, such as our Volunteer Ambassador, Administrative Assistant, or Facilities Assistant roles. In addition, we have limited space available for Feline or Canine Animal Care or Shelter Care volunteer “subs”.

### **I have volunteered at another SPCA or Humane Society before. So, does my training count here?**

All shelters operate independently from each other and have varying protocols for safety and best practices. Your previous experience will surely help your transition as a volunteer with the East Bay SPCA, however you will need to complete the same training and onboarding as any other volunteer would.

### **Can I fulfill community service hours at the East Bay SPCA?**

We work with people to fulfill court mandated community service, on a case-by-case basis at our discretion. Community service volunteers primarily help with tasks like laundry, mopping, and dishes. There is no animal interaction.

### **Can I volunteer with a group?**

Currently, we do not have any regular group volunteer activities.

### **Are there ways I can volunteer from home?**

Consider becoming a [Foster Volunteer!](#) Our network of Foster families help us provide special care for very young animals, those who are sick or injured, or those who need a quieter and more relaxed atmosphere in order to thrive. We also encourage you to consider helping out in [other ways](#).

### **What you get in return!**

East Bay SPCA volunteers make an immeasurable positive difference in the lives of animals and they'll certainly show their appreciation when you are here to volunteer! Because of the dedication, time, hard work, and support volunteers give to the organization, we strive in return to provide a variety of opportunities for specialized training, leadership, and continuing education for our volunteers.