

Volunteering With Us - Frequently Asked Questions

What types of volunteering opportunities are available with TCR?

Do you have a physical shelter where I can help with the cats?

I live in central Toronto and can't travel far - how can I help?

I live in the suburbs - can I help there?

I'm interested in trapping, but I don't have a car. Is it really necessary?

What type of administrative opportunities are available?

I'm a creative type - can I put my talents to work for TCR?

Is there a colony in my neighbourhood I can help with?

Is there a minimum age to volunteer?

Is there a minimum amount of hours I need to volunteer? What kind of a time commitment is required in volunteering?

Will volunteering with TCR count for my high school volunteer hours?

Do you take co-op students?

I have an idea for a fundraiser I want to put on - who should I contact?

What expenses am I expected to incur?

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What types of volunteering opportunities are available with TCR?

Driving

Trapping

Feeding Stray/Feral Cats

Assessing Stray Cats

Store Volunteers

Fundraising

Grant Writers

Administration

Foster Homes

Temporary Foster Homes

Do you have a physical shelter where I can help with the cats? No, TCR does not have a shelter. We have over 200 foster homes providing our cats with love and care until they find their forever home. Some of our cats are fostered at Pet Food Stores around the GTA. We are always in need of **Store Volunteers** to help with the care of the cats in the stores. Other ways to help the cats are to join either the **Fundraising** team or the **Grant Writing** team.

I live in central Toronto and can't travel far - how can I help? If you want to help in a hands-on way but can't travel easily outside of the city, there might be a colony in your area which needs feeders. Throughout the year we also set up a TCR table at many events (Gay Pride, Vegetarian Food Fair, Cabbagetown Festival) and we are always in need of volunteers to help. At the moment we have a partnership with only one store downtown. (No stores downtown, but can help with one off events, join the **Fundraising** or **Grant Writing** committee)

I live in the suburbs - can I help there? The Pet Supply Stores in the suburbs which we partner with are located in Mississauga, Brampton, Vaughan, and Kitchener. **Store Volunteers** are always needed to help caring for the cats in the store. Another great opportunity for those who live in the suburbs is **Fostering, Administration** or **Grant Writing**.

I'm interested in trapping, but I don't have a car. Is it really necessary?

Yes, it is necessary to have a car so that you can both trap and transport a cat to the vet. **Feeding Stray/Feral Cats** in colonies is much easier without a car.

What type of administrative opportunities are available?

We are often in need of volunteers to help with the phone line. If you have some experience with stray/feral cats, we could use your help responding to callers on the 'Help For Cats' line. Alternatively, you may wish to help out with the general line of the TCR Hotline. Training in all areas is provided so that you would be familiar with TCR's policies and procedures. Many people who are interested in administration find that their skills are needed in the area of **Grant Writing**.

I'm a creative type - can I put my talents to work for TCR? There are occasionally opportunities to help with screen-printing TCR T-shirts. We are always looking for people who have talents to make cat-themed items (cat toys, cat beds) for our **Fundraising** craft sales.

Is there a colony in my neighbourhood I can help with?

Volunteers are always needed for **Feeding Stray/Feral Cats** one or two days a week in one of the following colonies.

- Parkdale/King West
- Near Downsview Park
- Finch/Dufferin
- Bloor / Sherbourne
- Ronson (Kipling/401)
- Oakwood / Vaughan

Is there a minimum age to volunteer?

We have many high-school students who are fulfilling their volunteer hours by volunteering as **Store Volunteers** helping to clean cages and cuddle cats. If you are interested in helping the kitties simply because you want to do something helpful and are not looking for volunteer hours, many teenagers hold garage sales and donate the money to TCR as a way to help out.

Is there a minimum amount of hours I need to volunteer? What kind of a time commitment is required in volunteering?

No, there is no minimum number of hours but some roles require more time than others. Many volunteer opportunities are one day a week while others require as much as you want to put into it. It just depends on how much time you have available and what your interests are.

Will volunteering with TCR count for my high school volunteer hours? Yes, we have many high-school students who are fulfilling their volunteer hours by volunteering as **Store Volunteers** helping to clean cages and cuddle cats.

Do you take co-op students?

We may have volunteer opportunities for interns who are interested in marketing or fundraising. Please indicate **Fundraising** on your volunteer application if you are interested.

I have an idea for a fundraiser I want to put on - who should I contact? Many people hold **Fundraising** events (garage sales, concerts, dinners) on their own and donate the money to TCR. If you are planning an event and wish to donate the money to TCR, please call the TCR Hotline to find out how to make the donation. If you have an idea and would like other volunteers to help with it, please complete the volunteer application and indicate that you are interested in **Fundraising**. Our fundraising coordinator will speak with you about your idea.

What expenses am I expected to incur?

Driving -TCR is not able to reimburse drivers for the cost of gas but a tax receipt can be given for a portion of the expense. Drivers should keep an annual tally of the kilometers that they drive. At the end of the year, the tally including the total kms driven for TCR can be mailed with a note to the TCR PO Box and you will get a tax receipt for a portion of your gas expense (2009 was \$0.52/km).

Foster Homes - Unfortunately, we are not able to reimburse you for the purchase of any cat food, however, TCR will issue tax receipts for cat food that is purchased by you for TCR foster cats upon your request. Please save all bills/receipts for food and litter, add them up and submit them to the PO Box at the end of the year. Occasionally, TCR may be able to provide food that is donated.