

CAT DEPOT **Connection**



cat depot®

SUMMER
2024



Volunteering at Cat Depot can be incredibly rewarding. It's a mutually beneficial experience that enriches the organization, the volunteers, and the community. Helping cats and contributing to a cause you care about can give you a profound sense of purpose and fulfillment.

Read on to discover how our amazing volunteers make a difference every day. Whether it's through fostering, ambassadorship, adoption counseling, answering phones, assisting with community outreach trips and summer camps, participating in large-scale rescues, or providing general shelter care, their contributions are invaluable.

Additionally, learn about our disaster responsiveness and all the preparation for a Hurricane Season.

Warm Regards,
Susan Hanus
Executive Director

Ahead of the Storm: Cat Depot's Disaster Preparedness

Cat Depot takes proactive measures to prepare for disasters long before they strike, ensuring the safety of both humans and feline residents. Central to these efforts is meticulous planning and coordination, driven by a commitment to safeguarding lives and resources.

Preparation begins with assessing weather forecasts and patterns to determine if evacuation or sheltering in place is the safest course of action. This decision, made days in advance, forms the foundation of Cat Depot's disaster readiness strategy, allowing for timely implementation of necessary measures.

Months before hurricane season, Cat Depot dedicates significant resources to gathering supplies, maintaining facilities, and inspecting equipment. Regular checks on electrical, air conditioning, and generator systems ensure operational readiness, while vital paperwork and cat records are meticulously organized and printed for easy access during emergencies.

Stockpiling essential items such as food, litter, and medication is a top priority. Cat Depot conducts inventory assessments months ahead to compile comprehensive lists of required supplies, ensuring readiness for any eventuality. Equally important is ensuring that Cat Depot's mobile deployment vehicle, the Rescue Rig, is fully stocked and equipped for evacuation scenarios.

Collaboration with the Florida State Animal Response Coalition (FLSARC) enhances Cat Depot's disaster response capabilities. By hosting FLSARC training sessions, Cat Depot provides essential skills

development opportunities for staff and volunteers, covering basic tasks like feeding as well as rescue operations. Completion of these courses enables individuals to obtain FEMA certifications, empowering them to contribute effectively to disaster relief efforts not only here at home but nationwide. Cat Depot's long-standing partnership with FLSARC and central location on the west coast allows us to serve as a training center for other animal welfare organizations.

Cat Depot's commitment to disaster preparedness and relief is unwavering. Each year, the organization refines its strategies to optimize outcomes for the cats in its care and the surrounding communities. By prioritizing proactive planning, continuous improvement, and collaboration, Cat Depot remains steadfast in its mission to protect lives and provide vital support during times of crisis.





Fostering Hope: The Heart of Cat Depot's Life-Saving Mission

Cat Depot's mission to save the lives of cats in need is supported by the dedication and passion of our volunteers. Through their tireless efforts, we continue to make a profound impact on the community, ensuring that every cat receives the care and love they deserve.

At the heart of Cat Depot's operations are our volunteers, who undertake a myriad of tasks essential for the well-being of the cats under our care. From maintaining high standards of cleanliness to assisting with feeding and veterinary appointments, volunteers play a pivotal role in upholding the organization's commitment to feline welfare.

The recent response to hoarding cases in Polk County exemplifies the crucial role volunteers play in emergency situations. Despite facing challenges such as the spread of contagious illnesses, volunteers stepped up to ensure the health and safety of the rescued cats, demonstrating unwavering dedication to their cause.

"The day I spent assisting with the Polk County rescue gave me a different perspective on shelter life from my usual foster care role... The amount of work needing to be done was overwhelming. Cat Depot has an amazing group of dedicated people who want nothing but the best for the cats and kittens in their care. I am proud to have been able to help."

-Sandy Konarske



Beyond day-to-day operations, volunteers also play a vital role in providing emotional support to shy or scared cats. Through specialized training, ambassadors and adoption assistants help these cats feel comfortable and secure, facilitating their transition to loving forever homes.

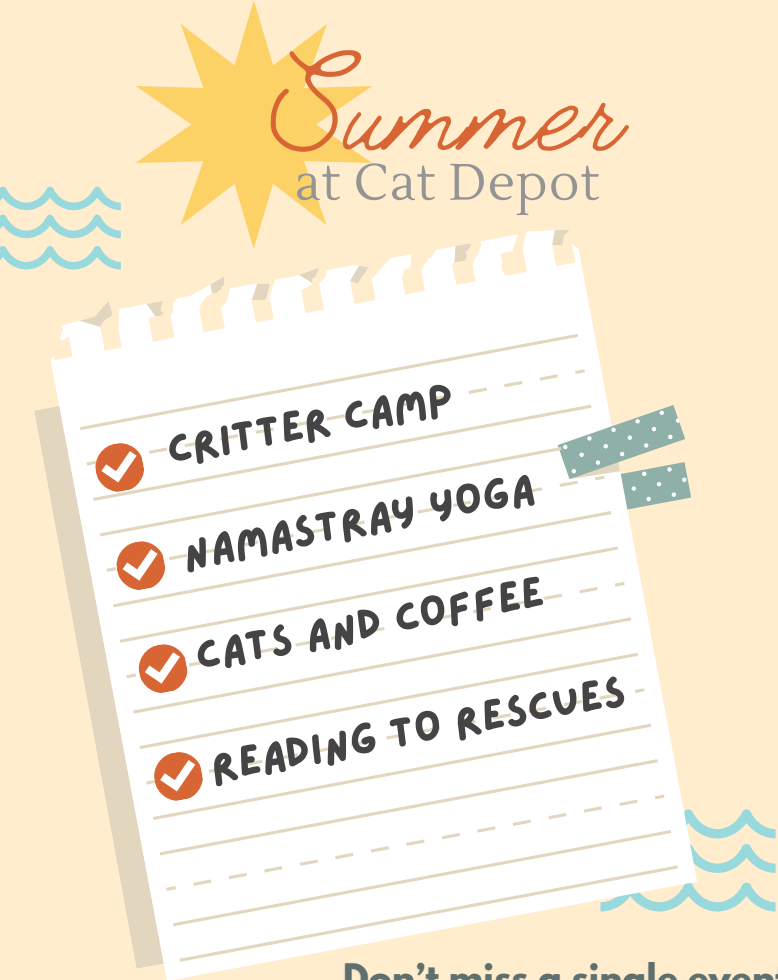
The importance of foster volunteers cannot be overstated in Cat Depot's mission. By opening their homes to cats in need, these individuals enable the organization to save more lives, particularly during Kitten Season when the demand for foster care is high. Their selfless dedication ensures that vulnerable kittens and cats receive the care they need to thrive and eventually find permanent homes.

Cat Depot's commitment to engaging volunteers of all ages is exemplified through initiatives such as the teen volunteer program. By involving teenagers in cat care activities and socialization efforts, we seek to instill a sense of responsibility and cultivate compassion towards animals in future generations.

Moreover, Cat Depot offers diverse opportunities for volunteers to contribute to our life-saving mission, ranging from operating the Community Food Bank to participating in fundraising and community outreach activities. By welcoming individuals of all backgrounds and interests, Cat Depot ensures that everyone has a chance to make a meaningful difference in the lives of cats.

**Become a
volunteer now
by scanning the
QR code**





SIX DIFFERENT WEEKS!

Every day, children will make a different craft, take part in cat trivia, stretch to animal-themed yoga, and learn a different lesson about cats or complete a science activity related to cats.

Don't miss a single event! catdepot.org/our-events/

"In Honor of" Paw Prints

Pets come into our lives and change us forever—they are family. We'll always treasure the memories shared and hold on to them deeply. The love of a pet is truly unlike any other.

Today you can honor and share the memory of your beloved pets who have crossed the rainbow bridge by giving the gift of life to a cat in need through a donation to Cat Depot.

Through the purchase of an engraved paw print that will be permanently placed on the walls of the Cat Depot adoption center, you can not only honor your pet's legacy but also save the life of a cat in need.

Visit our website at catdepot.org/other-ways-to-give for more information.



www.catdepot.org

Cat Depot's mission is to save lives, find loving homes, and provide resources and education to improve the destiny of homeless cats.

Photography: Peyton Davis, Claudia Harden, Ellie Levine, Laura Towle, Georgia Sanacore, Carissa Warfield