

# Visitor Guidelines

## Cat Companion Zoo Buddies Puppy Cuddling

Thank you for visiting our animals! Visitors are allowed to spend time with our cats, zoo animals, and puppies.

If you'd like to volunteer with our adult dogs, provide more animal enrichment, or help around the shelter, you will need to complete Volunteer Training.

## General Visitor Guidelines

1. Visiting hours are Wednesday through Sunday, from 12pm to 5pm. Please limit your visit to 30 minutes so the animals have time to rest in between visitors.
2. Each time you visit, check in at the front desk to learn specific information about our current animals. There is always a possibility that we may not have animals available for visitors.
3. Please wear an orange "Visitor Lanyard" when you are visiting to help our staff easily identify visitors, volunteers, and adopters.
4. Stafford Animal Shelter is a Fear Free® shelter. Please help us reduce fear, anxiety, and stress by maintaining a calm demeanor. When with our animals, talk softly and move slowly.
5. Help us prevent disease outbreaks in the shelter by washing your hands or using hand-sanitizer when switching tasks.
6. All visiting minors must be accompanied by an adult at all times. For minors under 15 years old, we require a 2 to 1 ratio of children to adults.



## Cat Companion Guidelines

1. When visiting cats, please pay attention to the kennel signs to identify which cats can be pet and which cats are happier when left alone.
2. Please do not let any kenneled cats out of their kennels.
3. Do not pick up cats. Let them approach you and always respect a cat's body language. If you have any questions about a cat's behavior, please ask. We are happy to help!
4. When in our Kitten Room, never allow kittens onto the shelter's floor and always wash your hands in-between kitten litters. Kittens' immune systems are still developing.



## Zoo Buddies Guidelines

1. Always have a staff member escort you to our Zoo. We often have a variety of animals with a variety of particular needs.
2. Never pick up our zoo animals. You may sit on the floor with them or bend down to pet them, but they must never be lifted off the ground.
3. Please ask the staff if you can give our zoo animals a tasty treat.



## Puppy Cuddling Guidelines

1. Please remain in the designated puppy area. Puppies' immune systems are still developing and they must remain in sanitized locations.
2. When cuddling with our puppies, choose between petting them or playing with them. If you try to calmly pet a puppy when they are energetically playing, they may accidentally mouth or scratch you out of excitement.
3. If you're visiting multiple types of animals in one visit, please visit cats and zoo animals first. Always save puppies for last. A puppy's scent can be stressful for our cats and zoo animals.
4. If there are multiple litters of puppies on site, you may only cuddle with one litter per visit. This helps keep our puppies safe and healthy.



If you have any questions, please ask our staff. We will be happy to assist you. You can also email our Volunteer Coordinator at [outreach@staffordanimalshelter.org](mailto:outreach@staffordanimalshelter.org).