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**NEWS
RELEASE**

04/ 20/ 2026

More Than 51,000 Volunteer Hours Help Transform the Lives of El Paso Shelter Pets

El Paso Animal Services Celebrates Volunteer Appreciation Week

EL PASO, Texas—El Paso Animal Services is celebrating Volunteer Appreciation Week from April 19 through April 27, 2026, in recognition of the dedicated individuals whose time and compassion make a meaningful difference for pets and people across the community.

Over the past year, volunteers contributed a record-breaking 51,642 hours of service, providing critical support that helped improve the lives of thousands of shelter pets. From daily animal care to specialized assistance, volunteers play an essential role in shelter operations, with several individuals contributing more than 1,000 hours each.

To highlight their impact, El Paso Animal Services will feature a special social media series showcasing volunteer stories, behind-the-scenes moments, and the meaningful bonds formed between volunteers and the animals in their care.

Community members interested in getting involved are encouraged to join the volunteer program. Opportunities are available for individuals ages 14 and older, with roles ranging from dog walking and bottle feeding to pet photography and community service support. Younger animal lovers, ages 8 to 13, can also participate through the Kitty Reading Book Club, where children strengthen their reading skills while helping socialize shelter cats.

Those ready to make a difference can begin by attending a volunteer orientation tailored to their age group:

- WHAT:** Kitty Reading Book Club Orientation – Ages 8-13
- WHERE:** El Paso Animal Services, 5001 Fred Wilson Ave.
- WHEN:** 3 p.m. Sunday, April 26
- WHAT:** Volunteer Orientation – Ages 14+ (No Age Limit)
- WHERE:** El Paso Animal Services, 5001 Fred Wilson Ave.
- WHEN:** 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 19

“Volunteers are truly the heart of everything we do,” said Michael Wachsmann, Interim Director of El Paso Animal Services. “The time, compassion, and dedication they bring each day directly impact the lives of animals in our care. Whether they are comforting a nervous pet, helping an animal find a home, or showing up consistently, their service makes a lasting difference in our community.”

For more information on how to get involved and become a volunteer with El Paso Animal Services, visit ElPasoAnimalServices.org/volunteer/.

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Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**
Among All Members of the Community

Media Contact: Julieanne Newbold
newboldjm@elpasotexas.gov
915.493.4324