

## Who are we?



*Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc.* provides companionship and an improved quality of life to Fairfax area residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities through regular pet visitation by trained volunteers and their approved pets.

The program benefits both residents and the visiting volunteer teams.

**Residents** benefit from the medically-proven calming effect of touching animals. Loneliness, depression, and withdrawal can be relieved in varying degrees by the comforting presence of a friendly animal.

**Volunteers** add a new dimension to their own lives and discover that sharing a pet and an hour or two of their time on a regular basis can provide deeply satisfying rewards.

**Pets** enjoy the extra attention and can make new friends by participating in group visits.

## There are four steps to becoming a Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc. volunteer:

### How can you volunteer?

**1) Orientation:** All prospective volunteers are required to attend a one-hour orientation session where the principles of the program are explained.

**2) Temperament Evaluation:** Pets are required to pass a temperament evaluation. The purpose of the evaluation is to assess the pet's temperament and behavior suitability for visiting in long-term care facilities.

**3) Health Certification:** Pets must have a current veterinary examination and FPOW health certificate completed to determine appropriate health and vaccination status for visitation.

**4) On-Site Training:** An experienced volunteer will conduct an on-site training session at the facility chosen by the volunteer.



Once the above steps have been completed, volunteer teams may begin their regular visits.

Volunteers are encouraged to make visits with their pets on a weekly or monthly basis at their designated facility. The length of a visit is usually an hour, but can be shorter or longer depending upon the pet.

### Who should volunteer?



Volunteers of all ages are encouraged to participate in this program. Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc. volunteers include individuals, students, families, and retirees. Minor children must be accompanied by an adult and can not be pet handlers within the facility.

Many more volunteers are needed to meet the growing needs in Fairfax County. Currently 12 long-term care facilities are participating in the Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc. program, and others are awaiting expansion efforts.

The success of the program depends on the involvement of more community volunteers like you!



**Yes! I would like to volunteer. Send me more information on...**

\_\_\_ Visiting with my pet \_\_\_ Helping in the office Other: \_\_\_  
\_\_\_ I can not currently volunteer, but I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail To:**  
Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc.  
Fairfax Area Agency On Aging  
12011 Government Center Pkwy, Suite 708  
Fairfax, VA 22035-1104  
Phone: (703) 324-5406  
TTY: (703) 449-1186

Visit us on the web at [www.fpow.org](http://www.fpow.org)!

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What types of pets are allowed to visit with the program?

Although most pets are dogs, the program welcomes cats and rabbits.

### Can I bring my puppy to visit?

Dogs of all ages are welcome, however we do require that all dogs are under the control of the owners at all time.

### Am I required to visit a certain amount each month?

No. Every little bit helps, so you can visit as much as you wish or just an hour a month.

### Does Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc. have any paid staff?

No. The organization is run by volunteers and with assistance from the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging.

### How can I contribute?

1) Please send your tax deductible gift, payable to:

**Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc.**  
**Fairfax Area Agency on Aging**

12011 Government Center Parkway, Suite 708  
Fairfax, VA 22035-1104

2) Through the **United Way**.

Please designate agency #8907.

### How will my contribution be used?

Contributions are used to support FPOW activities in four main areas:

- Volunteer recruitment
- Volunteer appreciation
- Educational training
- Administrative expenses

### Does Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc. have a website?

Yes. Please visit us at [www.fpow.org](http://www.fpow.org).

Providing pet visitation to area nursing homes since 1987.



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