

JV Cat Mentoring

Learning the Ropes (session 3 of the program): 60 minutes

Session three of the JV program is the first time JV's will be entering/exiting kennels to work hands on with the animals. This first experience working hands on with the animals should be thought of as "learning the ropes" and understanding the basics of how cat comforting works at HSHV.

Cat Area Tour: 15 minutes

1. Show JV's where and how to check out a key for the communal/condo areas.
2. Take them on a tour through the cat area and point out who they can visit with as Paw 1 JV's. Please keep in mind that the names of the rooms will most likely be new for all of them and therefore will be a part of the learning process.
 - a. Condos that have a "JV Approved" cage card
 - b. Kitten room
 - c. Meow Meadows and Purrs Plaza
 - d. Uptown and Downtown Cats
3. Review the order in which they will need to visit the rooms. Let them know that they don't have to visit kittens but if they would like to, they will need to always visit with them before they visit with adult cats.
 - a. Kittens (without a "I have a cold sign" sticker)
 - b. Condos/other communal/ Uptown and Downtown

Hands on Practice – 45 minutes

1. Choose one area to start in with the JV's. Note: This will depend on how many JV's you have. If you are training a group of 4 JV's or less (and the room isn't too busy), you may wish to start in the kitten room. If you are training a larger group, you will train in the communal rooms. If both communal rooms are open, you can begin with everyone in one room together and then split them between the two. Kittens are a priority for session 3.
2. Discuss how to enter the room/kennel.
 - a. Reading the cat's cage cards and cage signs before entering
 - b. Using a towel properly (for kitten visits only)
 - i. "burrito" wrap and placement for in kennel visits
 - c. Keeping the door closed except when entering/exiting
 - d. Entering quietly, slowly and properly introducing yourself to the cat/kitten
3. Allow JV's to start visiting.
 - a. During this time, please remain in the room or where you can provide constant supervision. JV's should not be left unsupervised during this first training session.
 - b. Provide positive feedback during this time as well as any tips/guidance to keep visits going well
 - c. As time permits, switch JV's to other rooms/animals to provide more than one experience

Group Discussion and Follow Up – 15 minutes

1. Return to the room at designated time given by staff member.
2. Report any concerns to the instructor AFTER class when in a private setting or by emailing volunteers@hshv.org.