

cat adoption team

Need community service hours for school?

**Love your pet and want to help people keep their pets?
Do you believe food equals love?**

Read on about a project that you can do right in your neighborhood!

The Project(s):

- 1) host a cat food and litter drive: in your class; at your school or church; with your club or team
- 2) challenge friends or team mates to meet or beat your food drive goal

What is the Cat Food Bank?

In response to our community's need for assistance, the Cat Adoption Team launched the Cat Food Bank in June 2008 (the first organized pet food bank in the Portland area). The Cat Food Bank make sure cat owners who are experiencing financial difficulty don't have to choose between paying the electric bill and feeding a beloved family pet.

On the first Sunday of each month, the Cat Food Bank will give a month's supply of food to feed up to four cats and litter to owners who qualify (receiving public assistance, unemployment, etc).

By supplying owners with essential needs for their pets, we can help them avoid having to turn their pets into a shelter because of financial burden.

How much food is given out each month?

In June 2008 when the Cat Food Bank opened, we gave out 375 pounds. In September 2009, 2,425 pounds of food was handed out in 2 ½ hours making the total food given out a staggering 18,206 pounds. An average of 1,956 pounds has been given out in the past four months.

Where does the food given out come from?

The Cat Food Bank is 100 percent donation driven. Every day generous animal lovers drop off cat food or litter at CAT's Sherwood shelter or one of the many community drop off locations. CAT urges cat lovers to show their love of cats with donations of unexpired, unopened cat food and scoopable litter. They also donate money to the food fund for CAT to use to purchase food at a discount for the Cat Food Bank.



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Why food drives are necessary:

By helping us replenish the supplies at the Cat Food Bank, you will make a direct, positive impact on the cats and kittens in homes in our community by helping owners keep their beloved pets in homes rather than in shelters. By assisting to help raise food donations and awareness, you can take pride in knowing that you personally helped a local family keep the kitty they love. You are also helping keep cats in homes and out of shelters!

How you can start your community service project to help feed cats:

1. Contact your school's administrator to inquire if they would be willing to let you host a food drive at the school.
2. Let us know that you can help by contacting CAT's Cat Food Bank organizer at kathyc@catadoptionteam.org.
3. CAT can supply you with informational materials on our Cat Food Bank and brochures about our shelter and organization, as well as statistics regarding animal welfare in our community. Donations of unexpired, unopened dry and/or wet cat/kitten food as well as litter are needed.
4. CAT may also be able to supply you with a food bin or a barrel; however, we encourage you to make your own and be creative! This can be a fun way to increase awareness of the cat food drive; by inviting other students to participate in creating food boxes or bins.
5. Set up the food collection bins in a high-traffic area. Then work to raise awareness about the need for collecting cat food and where the collection bins are located. Some suggestions are using announcements, flyers, or e-mails. Using flyers can be a great way to get people involved in the food drive. Other students could be engaged in each making a flyer as part of an art assignment. Be creative!
6. When the collection bins are full, or when your food drive is over, contact us to let us know that you will be bringing the donations to CAT.

The Cat Adoption Team is the largest cat-only, no-kill shelter in the Pacific Northwest and is a 501c(3) nonprofit funded by voluntary donations from the public..

