

Is starting or joining a brigade right for you?

To help determine the right level of involvement for you, consider these questions:

- Are you a natural organizer or leader?
- Do you have energy and drive?
- Do you enjoy working with people?
- Would you enjoy the satisfaction of taking on and completing a series of projects?
- Are you interested in filling an important niche in the humane community by offering support to existing shelters and programs?
- Can you make a commitment of time – a minimum of six hours a week for at least six months (preferably longer) – to coordinate projects?

If you can answer an unqualified “yes!” to each of these questions, then starting a Best Friends Brigade in your community may be right for you.

Even if you answered “no” to any of these questions, you still might want to participate by joining a local Best Friends Brigade. Consider these questions:

- Do you have some time to give, but you cannot make a regular weekly commitment?
- Do you have a special skill or interest that you'd like to put to work helping the animals? It could be that you love carpentry or organizing things, have a special skill related to animals (such as grooming or training), have a hobby that could help the animals (such as sewing, gardening, or creative talents), or have office skills, legal expertise, or computer skills to contribute.

If you answered “yes” to these two questions, joining a brigade might be perfect for you.



Best Friends
ANIMAL SOCIETY

Best Friends – the nation’s largest sanctuary for homeless pets.

Best Friends – the nation’s largest network of people who care about animals.

Best Friends – working with you and with humane groups across the country to bring about a time when there are No More Homeless Pets.

Best Friends – because kindness to animals helps build a better world for all of us.

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Best Friends Brigades



Start or join a brigade in your community!

 **Best Friends**
ANIMAL SOCIETY

No More Homeless Pets Where You Live

The solutions to the problem of homeless dogs and cats are right there in your own community, and you can be a part of making it all happen!

Maybe you'd like to help, but you are not sure which group to join or you don't want to commit to just one. Maybe you're ready to take on a serious project. You may even have contemplated starting your own humane group.

If you have been thinking about getting involved or wondering what you can do to help the animals, launching a Best Friends Brigade may be just the thing for you.

Animals have many friends in any community, and while many people want to help, they need an easy way to get involved, something that fits into already busy schedules. By starting a Best Friends Brigade in your community, you can create opportunities for many more people to get involved in helping, too.

Brigade projects are satisfying because the team members complete a significant project, from beginning to end, one that really makes a difference. And there is nothing quite like the feeling of knowing you've helped to make the world a better place!



What is a Best Friends Brigade?

A Best Friends Brigade is a team of people working to help animals in their own community on a project-by-project basis.

The brigade volunteers get together in teams and tackle specific projects. Over time, they typically help different groups and shelters with a variety of projects, depending upon the interests, talents, and availability of the team members.



The projects can range from construction work, to cleanup days, to creating promotional materials and programs for pet adoptions, to getting needed things donated, to organizing an event.

The duration of the projects varies, too. Some may be one-day projects, while others may take a few weeks to complete.

Is brigade help needed?

Just keeping up with the daily work involved in animal rescue and sheltering is a constant challenge for shelter managers and staff.

In the already packed schedule of shelter staffers, organizing special events or doing a major cleanup often needs to take a back seat to pressing daily tasks. Also, money is generally tight and has to be earmarked for vet bills and



food rather than for remodeling or putting together a promotional campaign.

The many larger projects, whether it's painting the shelter or organizing a promotional campaign for pet adoptions, are not what most volunteers have in mind when they decide to volunteer at their local rescue group or shelter one afternoon a week.

A team of volunteers who can come in, manage themselves, and complete a sizable project for the shelter can be a huge asset. It also works well for many volunteers who cannot make a routine weekly commitment. And the scope and type of project can be tailored for your community and team.

For more information on starting or joining a brigade, visit the Best Friends website:

**[www.bestfriends.org/
nomorehomelesspets/brigades](http://www.bestfriends.org/nomorehomelesspets/brigades)**

Or contact the brigade manager:

**brigades@bestfriends.org
(435) 644-2001, ext. 254**