**Animal Shelter Volunteering**

Approximately 6.5 million animals enter shelters annually according to the ASPCA. Caring for and homing shelter animals is a collaborative effort, so volunteers are needed to fill many different types of roles. Hands-on behavior modification, animal handling at off-site adoption events, educational outreach, groundskeeping, veterinary transportation, photography, administrative work, and everything in between are crucial to the success of animal shelters and the animals they care for and rehome.

Many shelters and small businesses have struggled to stay open during the pandemic, so volunteers are appreciated now, more than ever. Avalon is no different. Our passionate, but minimal staff, has continued to work hard and adjust to the changes this pandemic created. The birds here really have helped each of us to stay grounded and connected during this isolating time and can be amazingly uplifting.

When you first meet our birds, they may seem quiet or reserved, but as they get to know you, they open up and their lovely, diverse personalities shine. If you or someone you know are considering giving your time to volunteer or have been cooped up and stressed like so many others and need a fulfilling outlet, please see what help is needed below.

**Volunteer Tasks & Responsibilities**

* Changing newspaper trays
* Changing food and water bowls
* Updating, cleaning, and rearranging toys for our birds’ cages
* Sweeping up the seeds and food they like to toss around
* Cleaning or fixing broken cages/wheels/play stands
* Socializing rescues in our comfortable visiting room
* Refilling food bins
* Working at fundraising events
* Collecting clean/used sheets, towels, rags, and other supplies for Avalon’s rescues
* Pet photography to highlight the birds on our website
* IT help with updating our website
* Pest control assistance

**You are a good fit for this type of volunteering if** …

* You are at least 16 years old
* You can commit to a consistent volunteer schedule or specific tasks
* You can bend, lift, and spend up to multiple hours on your feet
* You work well with people as well as animals
* You communicate effectively in person and via email and text
* You enjoy hands-on work

**How do you get started?**

* Contact Avalon via phone: (970) 663-5004 or Email: avalonstore@frii.com
* Provide the following information: Name, Phone Number, Email address, Volunteer Interest, and Days and Times you are available.