



# Matchmaker Volunteers Needed

Each year, the local animal shelter kills thousands of companion animals. In response, animal welfare advocates joined in 2009 to begin creating a *No Kill* community, where adoptable, healthy cats and dogs are placed in homes while the pet population is reduced through spaying and neutering. From that effort, the nonprofit **Project Purr** was formed. We rescue cats and kittens from EBR Animal Control, provide them with veterinary care and place them in good homes. Project Purr also has a program to trap, neuter and return wild cats which has proven to manage feral cat colonies and reduce the birthrate of homeless kittens.

We are in urgent need of volunteers to help out with the many areas involved in running our animal rescue group. One of the important key roles needed is that of a **Matchmaker**.

## **What is a Matchmaker?**

A Matchmaker acts as an Adoption Counselor and is the person who attends the off-site adoption locations and represents Project Purr by being the liaison between our foster cats and the public. The Matchmaker becomes familiar with each cats' personality, and then builds a relationship with potential adopters to assist in finding cats which are a good match for that person's home and lifestyle.

## **What are the Qualifications needed to become a Matchmaker?**

- Must be age 21 or older
- General knowledge of cats
- Ability to handle cats safely, compassionately, and humanely
- Ability to read cat behavior and safely work with animals and the public
- Ability to relate to and educate others
- Ability to work independently, but seek direction when needed
- Ability to make independent decisions within established policies and guidelines
- Able to squat, bend, twist, lift, or stand for long periods when working directly with cats and kittens
- Patience

## **What Does the Matchmaker Do?**

Attend adoption day events:

- Get to know as many cats as possible in adoption center
- Keep cages neat, clean, and homey
- Offer the litter box if it appears needed; clean any spilled litter in cage, and clean litter box afterward
- Play and cuddle with the cats
- Work with potential adopters on finding the right cat to fit their household
- Know and adhere to adoption day guidelines, including educating potential adopters on the rationale for those guidelines
- Once the kitty selection is made, become familiar with cat's paperwork, attitude and behavior; know what kind of environment in which the cat would thrive, and whether the cat is on medications or a special diet
- Educate potential adopters on socialization, behavior and general care of cats
- Process the paperwork for the adoption

**Training:** Matchmakers are trained in all aspects of the adoption process by shadowing an experienced adoption counselor for a minimum of 10 clock hours.

## **What Are Some of the Benefits of Matchmaking?**

The rewards from adoption counseling are considerable and long-term: there is joy in helping once homeless cats find loving homes. Adoption Counseling is also an excellent opportunity to talk "cats" with different people, as well as an opportunity to educate the public regarding issues such as cat behavior and general issues such as pet overpopulation. *One of the greatest rewards Matchmakers have is the absolute joy of watching a cat and a human fall in love with each other. When that match happens it seems magical.*

If this sounds like something you would enjoy doing, you can send your interest request by <choosing> **Adoption Services Director** (or) email: [adopt@projectpurrBR.org](mailto:adopt@projectpurrBR.org)