



2013 HANDBOOK



Last Chance Animal Rescue



This Handbook belongs to:

Rescue Ranger

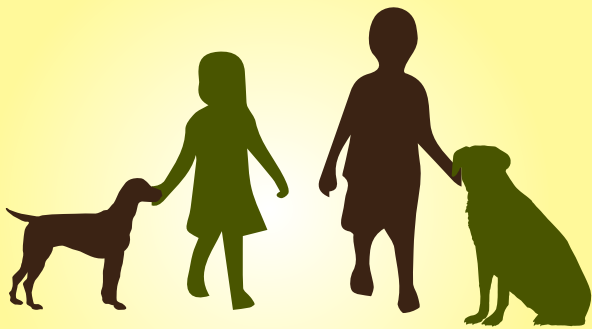


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“When kids volunteer it tells others that they don’t have to be perfect or famous or even grown up to make a difference.”

Kalynn Dobos, Age 7

The Rescue Ranger program is designed to recognize our junior volunteers for their time and commitment to supporting our life saving mission. We are fortunate to have many children who enjoy volunteering with their families as a shared activity.



Our rescue relies on team work and we are inspired by children who are willing to generously sacrifice their time and energy.

The Rescue Ranger Award is earned when a junior has volunteered for at least five events. Once achieved, through special projects like fundraising, children can go on to win additional awards and recognition.



THIS HANDBOOK is to serve as the guidelines for what is expected of our Rescue Rangers and their parents or guardians at all times when they are representing Last Chance Animal Rescue. **Please read it carefully and understand that this handbook is to help us to maintain order and safety for everyone involved.**



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ASK THE RANGERS

Ranger Max, how old do I have to be to be a Rescue Ranger?

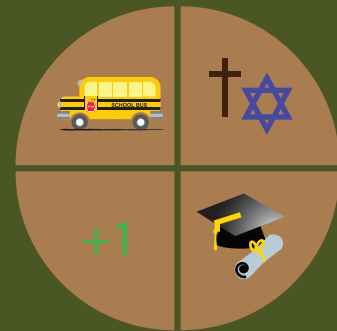


We believe that you are NEVER too young to fall in love with animals! Children of ALL ages are welcome to take part in age appropriate tasks and participate in our life saving mission.

Ranger Felix, can I get community service for volunteering?

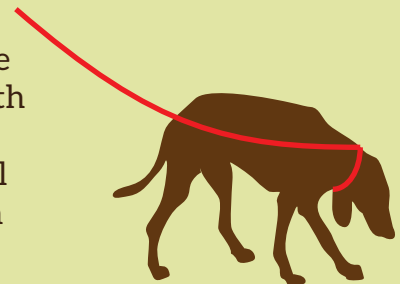


Yes, volunteering with LCAR counts for community service for school, all religious organizations, and even for college honor society scholarships. Also if you foster a dog for a week, you can get community service credit.



Can I walk the dogs?

Although we do not have a shelter, we welcome kids to come to our Adoption Events on the weekends and spend time with the animals. If you are under the age of 16 years old, it is required to have an adult (parent or guardian) with you at all times. Your adult guardian will be able to walk the dog with you. We also have lots of puppies to cuddle!





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How will I know when to volunteer?

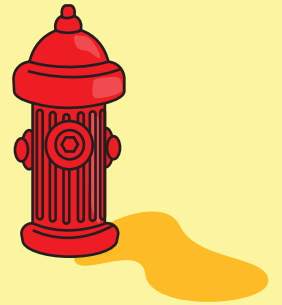


When you register online to become a Rescue Ranger we will ask you for a valid email address. Every week we send out a request for volunteers for our different adoption locations. We ask that you respond to the email to let us know what time and which location you will be able to volunteer. It is important that you respond to our email, so that we have the proper amount of volunteers at each location. If you are under the age of 16, your parent or guardian must be with you at all times.

What are some of the things I will be doing?

There are many ways that the kids can help out... Our Adoption Events give the children the most hands-on experience with the animals however we also have many other opportunities for them to be able to contribute.

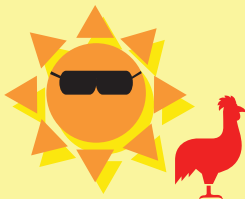
During the day, the kids are expected to make sure that the dogs and cats water bowls are always full of clean water. If you see a poop or pee accident please proceed to get paper towels and clean up immediately. If you and your guardian are walking a dog, you **MUST** take a poop bag with you and clean up after the dog.



At the Adoption Events, the event leader will give you and your guardian a brief orientation of who we are and what our mission is. It is also a good idea to read through our website so you can get a feel of what we do and why we do it. Thousands of dogs are killed every day in shelters throughout the world. We are trying to save as many as we can.



We also encourage you to cuddle with the puppies. Children are not allowed to hold the puppies but are asked to sit on the ground with the puppies in their lap.



If you volunteer in the mornings you will be asked to help with setting up the pens and tables and feeding the dogs.

If you volunteer in the afternoons, you will be asked to help the event leaders break down the event at the end of the adoption event, including cleaning all bowls, folding up pens, crates and tables and putting them away.



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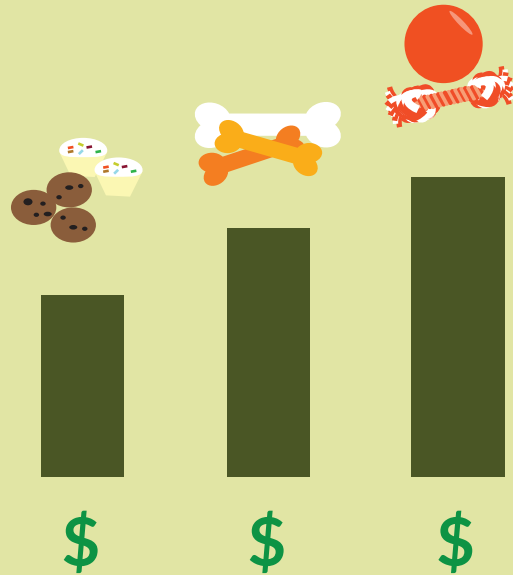
Who do I see when I get to the event?

Look for a volunteer and ask them who the Event Leaders are. Then you can introduce yourself and your guardian to the Event Leader and confirm with them what hours you are available to help out. If you have any concerns or questions, please communicate them to the Event Leader so they can be properly addressed.



Can I raise money for you?

Yes, fundraisers are always welcome. You can have a bake sale, or make dog biscuits or dog toys. We are a 501(c)3 organization, which means we are a charitable organization. Please have your parent or guardian send an email to RescueRangers@LCARescue.org to let us know what you plan on doing.



What If someone asks me a question and I don't know the answer?

Never guess. Always consult with an Event Leader or an adult volunteer. Take the opportunity to learn the answer. Rescue Rangers are the future of the animal welfare movement and we feel that providing them with the tools to make a difference is an important step.



Do you have a shelter where we can see the dogs?

No, all the animals go home with foster families and if they do not get adopted during the week then they will come back the following week for another opportunity to find their forever family.

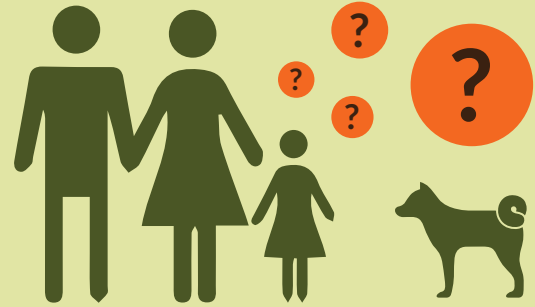




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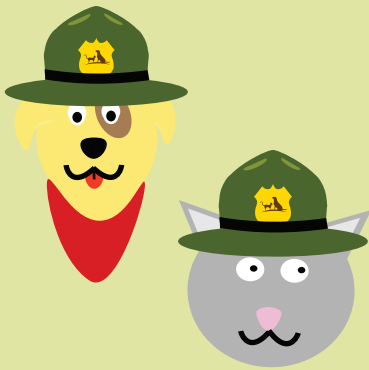
How can my family become a foster family or adopt one of the animals at the event?

You should begin by discussing your desire to foster or adopt with your parent. If your parent agrees, then they should find an Event Leader and ask for an application.



How can I get my friends or school involved in saving lives?

There are so many ways to get your friends and school involved. We have lots of ideas for you but what we really want to know is **WHAT'S YOUR IDEA?** Talk to your parent, teacher, school administrator and then send an email to RescueRangers@LCARescue.org.



Can my Scout Troop get involved in saving lives?

YES! There are **MANY** opportunities for civic organizations to get involved and be a part of our life saving mission. From collecting food and toys for the animals, to helping out at our weekly Adoption Events....Have your troop leader send an email to RescueRangers@LCARescue.org.

What should I wear when I come to volunteer?

You should dress comfortably in khaki's or jeans with some type of sneaker or closed toe shoe. Rescue Ranger Shirts are for sale at the events and will need to be worn at all times while volunteering. Many times you will be outside with the animals so please come prepared for the weather and don't forget your sunscreen!





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ADOPTION EVENTS

You and your children have been given the privilege of taking part in our life saving mission. While we want everyone to have fun and enjoy their experience with us, you must remember that this is a very serious business and that you are here representing the organization.

We must always think about **SAFETY FIRST**.

Children under 16 years of age **MUST** be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times.

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to watch the child at all times.



It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to make sure that the child is safe at all times.

Children are at the events to assist with the animals. If you see that your child is hungry, tired, bored or losing interest please take them home.

Children should not be running around the store, sitting in the aisles, or hindering the store's shoppers in any way.

Children who are volunteering are expected to wear their Rescue Ranger shirts at all times.





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ADOPTION EVENTS

Always assist in making Last Chance Animal Rescue appear clean and welcoming.

No inappropriate or foul language will be tolerated.



Be aware and alert of potential dangerous situations that may arise while working with people and animals.

Be able to remain calm and show good judgment.



Understand the role of the volunteers and accept the boundaries between the role of the volunteers and the role of the Event Leader.

Show respect to the Event Leader who is charge throughout the day.

HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE!

React quickly and appropriately when handling animals.

Monitor animals and report any health or behavioral concerns to the Event Leader.

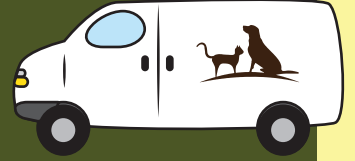




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WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE EVENT

If you are arriving before the event to help with the arrival of the weekly transport, please look for the person in charge and let them know that you are there to assist.



SIGN IN

Please arrive 5 to 10 minutes before your shift is to start and go to our "sign in table." On the table you will need to sign in with your name and the time you arrived.

CHECK IN WITH EVENT LEADER

Once you have signed in, please complete a name tag, and check-in with the Event Leader. The Event Leader is the "manager" for that day. If you do not already have a Rescue Ranger Shirt you can purchase one from the Event Leader at this time. You will be required to wear it while you are volunteering. If you are interested in becoming an Event Leader, please let email Jude@LCARescue.org.

ADOPTION PROCESS

If someone inquires about adopting a dog, get an event leader to help with the process.

SIGN OUT

At the end of your time with us, please let the Event Leader know that you are leaving so they can make sure that the area is covered. If another person is coming to take over your duty as a dog care specialist, it is always nice if you can give them a quick rundown as to what has been accomplished with the dogs/puppies and anything you might have learned about the dogs/puppies that day. The more information you learn and share, the better chance we have of fitting the dog and puppy in the right home! Please make sure you SIGN OUT with the time you are leaving!



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Once the Event Leader knows who you are they will assign you to one of the following duties:

GREETER

We want this person to welcome people to our adoption event and let them know what we have going on and how it all works. You can hand them a brochure as well and let them know that we have a wonderful website that is always up to date.

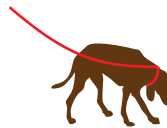
DOG CARE SPECIALISTS

DOG WALKERS

All children, regardless of age, need to get permission from the person that is in charge of the event before walking ANY of the dogs.



Children that are 16 and under MUST be accompanied by their parent or guardian while walking the dog and the parent or guardian must maintain control of the dog at ALL times.



DOG RUNNERS

Some dogs have too much energy for the Adoption Events and need to have a good run to calm their tensions...This position is for age 16+ only.

DOG SOCIALIZERS

PUPPY PEN SUPERVISORS

CAT/KITTEN CAGE SUPERVISORS

This is the main volunteer duty we have for you all to do at our events. The dogs and puppies will be under your care while you are there with us. If you are helping with the unloading of dogs, please watch for fosters pulling up to the curb to drop off dogs. Please take a leash or two out with you, in case they do not have one, to walk the dog inside to their designated crate. Please take a minute to get to know the dogs by reading the write ups as this will help you to answer questions the public might have. Further explanation of caring for the dogs and puppies will be given on another attachment.



It is important to remember WHY you are here... Talking about the animals and the mission is vital to our success... Sharing with people the reasons why you help and encouraging them to get involved as well...



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TIPS FOR HANDLING THE ANIMALS AT EVENTS

Talk to the animal in a normal voice.



No screeching, screaming or yelling



Approach the animal quietly.

Walk, don't run.

Be kind to the animal.

Make a fist and let her sniff it before you touch him/her.



Pet the animal gently, on the back, from head to tail. No petting tail to head.

NO hitting or kicking allowed.







NO jumping on the animal.

NO riding the animal like he/she is a horse.

NO stepping on the animals toes. 

NO pulling tails or ears.



-  Children should NOT sit on the floor in front of an adult dog.
-  Children should NOT be in the pens with adult dogs.
-  Children should NOT go near an animal when the animal possesses a toy or treat.
-  Children should NOT go near an animal when it is eating.
-  Children should NOT be eating food in front of any of the animals.
-  Children are not allowed to hold the puppies but are asked to sit on the ground with the puppies in their lap.



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HEALTH RISKS

I do not want you to read this article and become fearful of handling animals. All of our animals have been examined by a vet and have been vaccinated, wormed and given a health clearance for adoption. Many of these conditions mentioned here are the same that you can get vacationing in the tropics or going to the gym. Many of these same conditions you can get vacationing in the tropics or going to the gym. We derive a lot of joy from animals. They are our non-judgmental companions that give us unconditional love. But we must NEVER forget that they are ANIMALS... and there is always going to be an inherent risk associated with handling them. On occasion, they can give us germs and parasites that make us ill. Diseases passed from animals to man are called zoonoses or zoonotic illnesses. Because of good hygiene and veterinary care, animal-transmitted diseases are rarer in the United States than they once were. The following is a list of some of the diseases pets can pass on to human beings. They are ones that come to my mind as I write this article. It is not meant to be all-inclusive. Living life to the fullest has its risks but a little caution on your part is all that is required.

HOOKWORMS AND ROUNDWORMS

Hookworms and roundworms (*Ancylostoma* and *Ascaris*) are common nematodes of dogs and cats. When a human accidentally eats something contaminated with worm eggs from a pet's stool, the eggs hatch in the intestines and begin migrating throughout that person's body. Worm larva can also burrow through intact skin. Because these parasites were designed to live in dogs and cats, they become lost in the human body - often in the liver or eyes. When this occurs, the disease is called visceral larval migrans. This disease occurs most often in children due to their poor hygienic practices. In the eye the larval nematodes cause inflammation and blindness. In the liver they can cause chills, fever, malaise and an elevated white blood cell count. To prevent this disease, have your pet's stool checked yearly for parasites and feed a monthly heartworm preventative that also kills nematodes. Both popular brands of heartworm preventative for dogs contain ingredients that keep your pet free of intestinal worms. Pyrantel pamoate is a very effective medicine to remove hook and roundworms. It is sold on the pet aisle at WalMart.

The eggs of the roundworm of raccoons, *Baliscaris*, are particularly dangerous when ingested by people. If you keep pet raccoons or raise orphans, worm them frequently with pyrantel pamoate and milbemycin oxime. If you have neighborhood raccoons, do not leave dog or cat food outside where it will attract them. Keep your trash cans well covered and seal up attic crawl spaces where these animals can nest.

PROTOZOAN DISEASES

Protozoa are microscopic single-celled organisms. The vast majority of protozoa live free in the environment or as harmless inhabitants of the body but some are capable of causing disease.

GIARDIA

Giardia lamblia is a small motile protozoan that inhabits the intestines of mammals and birds. There are many strains of giardia and it is unclear how many are infectious to people. Giardia is the most common form of non-bacterial diarrhea in people in the United States. Children are most commonly affected. Many cases are silent with no overt symptoms. When diarrhea does occur, the illness normally lasts one or two weeks but chronic cases in frail people have lasted for years. Outbreaks due to contaminated water supply occur from time to time in humans. Metronidazole (Flagyl) is an effective treatment in animals and man.

CRYPTOSPORIDIUM

Cryptosporidium parvum causes diarrhea in dogs, cats, rodents, young calves and people. It is found throughout the world. It is passed from individual to individual through fecal contamination. The disease in animals and man is usually mild and self-limiting. Signs of the disease include diarrhea, abdominal pain and flu-like symptoms that can last up to six weeks. The disease is more severe in very old and very young animals and people. In immunocompromized individuals it may cause chronic inflammation of the digestive tract. The disease is passed through fecal contamination from animals or man. The organism is quite resistant to drying and disinfectants so, it can survive a long time in contaminated waste. Signs in people and animals besides loose watery diarrhea include stomach cramps and mild fever. In healthy people, symptoms last about two weeks.



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HEALTH RISKS

TOXOPLASMOSIS

Toxoplasmosis is caused by *Toxoplasma gondii*, a small single-celled protozoan. About forty percent of the people in the United States have been exposed to the disease at some point in their lives. The complete life cycle of toxoplasmosis occurs only in cats. These felines become infected by preying on infected birds and rodents. Most cats show no symptoms of disease. In these cats, the organism lives within the cells that line the small intestine. Cats are the only animals that shed this ineffective stage of this protozoan called an oocyst. Most exposures of humans to oocysts cause no overt disease. In a small percentage, however, the oocysts proliferates in many organs of the body causing fever, malaise, enlarged lymph nodes, headache, sore throat and muscle pain. In severe cases the central nervous system, eyes and liver become inflamed. Eating raw or poorly cooked meat of an infected animal is another way this disease is passed on to man. If a woman becomes infected during the later two thirds of pregnancy toxoplasmosis may cause severe fetal abnormalities. This is why obstetricians suggest pregnant women not change cat litter boxes.

VIRUS

RABIES

The flagship virus that we all associate with wildlife is rabies. Any species of warm-blooded animal is susceptible to this disease but the most common carriers in the United States are bats, foxes, raccoons and skunks. The disease is passed by a saliva-contaminated bite. Occasionally the disease will leave its wildlife reservoirs and infect dogs and cattle. Excellent vaccines exist to protect your pets from this disease. People like me who work with wildlife can, themselves, be immunized against rabies

BACTERIAL DISEASE

CAMPYLOBACTER

Campylobacteriosis is a bacterial disease caused by *Campylobacter jejuni*, an organism that lives in the intestinal tract of many animals. The signs of this disease are diarrhea, cramping, abdominal pain and fever. The illness typically lasts one week. It is worse in the very young and the very old. Many infections are silent with no symptoms at all. Most people become infected by handling or eating raw poultry. Occasionally it is spread through contact with the wastes of pet dogs and cats

STREPTOCOCCUS AND STAPHYLOCOCCI

These bacteria are found on all animals that typically associate with humans. In the great majority of cases they cause no disease in the animal. However, in pets, eye infections are occasionally associated with Streptococci and skin infections with Staphylococci. Both bacteria can spread from pets to humans on contaminated hands and objects. Infections are generally limited to the skin and eyes.

HELICOBACTER PYLORI

This spiral bacteria is capable of forming ulcers in the stomachs of animals and people. It resides in the stomach and the upper area of the small intestine called the duodenum. We suspect that on occasion, it is spread to humans from cats dogs and ferrets through poor sanitation. In dogs, cats and people the most frequent sign of Helicobacter is intermittent vomiting. Affected individuals may also become nauseous, lose their appetite, and lose weight. Amoxicillin, metronidazole and H2 antacids such as famotidine or cimetidine cure the disease in animals and man.

CAT SCRATCH FEVER (BARTONELLOSIS)

This infection, caused by *Bartonella henselae*, is commonly acquired from asymptomatic (clinically normal) carrier cats. About half of the outdoor cats in the southern United States have been exposed at one time or another to the disease (please read my article on Cat Scratch Fever). We think it is spread by the cat flea. People infected with this disease by a contaminated cat scratch or bite experience fever, malaise and enlarged painful lymph nodes as well as a local inflammation at the site of the wound.



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HEALTH RISKS

TICK BORNE DISEASES

Ticks that feed on wildlife reservoirs of diseases will sometimes transfer them to your pets. If the ticks later leave the pet and bite the owner for their next blood meal they may transfer a number of diseases caused by bacteria, rickettsia and spirochetes.

LYME DISEASE

First seen in Lyme, Connecticut, Lyme disease is an illness caused by a bacteria, *Borrelia burgdorferi*. This group of bacteria are called spirochetes due to their spring-like shape. The most common source of infected ticks are household dogs. In humans, this disease causes a wide variety of signs including rash, painful, swollen joints, fever, enlarged tender lymph nodes and a variety of neurological signs (please read the article in this series on Lyme disease in pets and man). Over the last few years a number of products have come onto the market that are quite good at keeping ticks off your pets. Three of these products are Frontline spray, Revolution and Preventic tick collars. Dogs can also be vaccinated to prevent this disease.

FUNGI

RINGWORM

Ringworm is not a worm and is not always ring-shaped. It is a slow growing fungus that feeds on dead skin cells and hair of all species of mammal. The most common one, *Microsporum canis*, is common on juvenile cats and dogs where it appears as a dry, oval, scurfy patch of broken off hair. Many of these lesions glow brightly under ultraviolet light. The spores of these fungi often contaminate brushes and cloth that have been in touch with the pet. If these spores come in contact with abraded skin, the fungal infection may transfer to the pet owner. Ringworm can be treated with over the counter medications such as Lamisil.

SKIN PARASITES

Fleas and ticks are parasites that transfer readily from pets to people. Because they do not actually “infect” people or pets I do not discuss them in this article.

SARCOPTIC MANGE OR SCABIES

Mange mites are common on large and small, wild and domestic animals. Mange mites are not particular as to the species of animal they attack. Dog and cat mange mites are *Sarcoptes scabiei*. Initially they are most common on the ears, face and extremities but with time the entire body becomes affected. These mites are passed from animal to animal by direct contact. They do not survive long off the host. The mites burrow through the deeper layers of the skin causing intense itching and a red rash. From this the term “seven year itch” was derived. They are easily killed with ivermectin, dips or Selamectin (Revolution).

TIPS ON HYGIENE

Wash your hands frequently throughout the day.

Be sure to wash your clothes when you get home and in between events.

Keep your fingers out of your mouth and eyes.



Please cut these **TEAR SHEETS** out and give them to your school teacher or troop leader, or any adult that you think could help you get more children involved with our life saving mission.

Thank You!



Last Chance Animal Rescue is a non-profit 501 (c)3 organization that runs a children's program called **Rescue Rangers**. We are looking for EVERY opportunity to engage children in our mission to save lives! This program is flexible to make YOUR ideas work for us! PLEASE contact RescueRangers@LCARescue.org if you are interested in organizing a fundraiser, supply drive or awareness campaign with us! www.LCARescue.org



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