



Love cats?

give a little time
MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

Completing your DofE Volunteering section with Cats Protection

Information for participants

What is Cats Protection?

Cats Protection (CP) is the UK's leading feline welfare charity. Our vision is a world where every cat is treated with kindness and an understanding of its needs.

It is an ambitious vision. However, we truly believe it can be achieved because of our passion, our professional approach and simply because cats are among the UK's most popular companion pets.

We help around 200,000 cats and kittens every year thanks in no small part to our network of over 250 volunteer-run branches and 34 adoption centres.

At CP, we welcome volunteers with open arms! Young people will help us to achieve our vision now and in the future.

Why do your DofE volunteering with Cats Protection?

This is your chance to make a difference by giving your time to help cats and kittens in your area. Every pound raised for CP and every minute of your time will help make a massive impact to cats and kittens' lives.

During your DofE programme, you will volunteer for as little as one hour a week for a minimum of three months, but this can change depending on your role and how much time you can give. In this time, you will develop new skills, expand your knowledge and make a significant contribution to improving the lives of cats and kittens. You will also become more confident in working with new people, make new friends and be part of a dedicated team of volunteers.

Your experiences and the recognition that you gain will also be useful for UCAS personal statements and National Records of Achievement.



Level	Minimum time	Notes
● DofE Bronze Age 14-24	3 - 6 months	You need to do one of your Volunteering, Physical or Skills sections for six months and the others for three months.
● DofE Silver Age 15-24	6 - 12 months	If you have not achieved your Bronze level, you need to extend your Volunteering or the longer of your Physical or Skills sections to 12 months.
● DofE Gold Age 16-24	12 -18 months	If you have not achieved your Silver level, you need to extend your Volunteering or the longer of your Physical or Skills sections to 18 months.

We have a number of interesting and impactful ways you can spend your time:



Retail volunteers

Our retail volunteers help raise the funds needed for us to help cats and kittens in need – whether they have a passion for cats, retail or both! They identify, price and sort saleable items from donated stock, and prepare new window and in-store displays. The money raised goes directly to helping our feline friends. Making a difference can mean raising as little as 18p, which is enough to feed a cat in our care for a day.



Fundraising volunteers

Our fundraising volunteers are part of a fun team that helps raise funds to help cats in need. They help plan and deliver exciting and varied fundraising events, such as craft fairs, cake sales, sponsored abseils – and anything in between!



Social media volunteers

Social media and cats go hand in hand, and our social media volunteers use their passion and knowledge of social media to promote the activities of local volunteer groups and teams through various channels. This is a volunteer role that can be done from home, on the train or even from the sofa!



Cat Care volunteers

Across Cats Protection, our feline friends looking for new homes are cared for either at our adoption centres, by volunteer fosterers in their own homes or in purpose built pens in their gardens. Our cat care volunteers are part of a passionate team that look after and meet the needs of cats while they are in our care. This is an exciting role for cat lovers, as our cat care volunteers get to spend time directly with the cats when cleaning their pens, helping with feeding and when enriching their lives before they find their forever homes.



Getting started

Take the first steps of your volunteering journey today and find out how to start your DofE programme with Cats Protection (CP):

- 1. Choose your level** - decide which level of DofE programme you would like to do (this will depend on your age, time commitments etc.)
- 2. Talk to your DofE Leader** - contact your DofE Leader.
- 3. Choose your activities** - decide with your DofE Leader what you are going to do for each section of your DofE programme. Whichever level you are doing, you will create your own personal programme with the help of your DofE Leader, so that you are both clear how volunteering with CP can count towards your DofE Award – you just have to choose one activity for each section. See www.DofE.org/sections for loads of inspiring ideas.
- 4. Do the activities** - get started! Remember to record what you are doing on eDofE (DofE's online record keeping system) and ask your CP contacts to sign off each section as you complete them.
- 5. Achieve your Award** - when you have completed all the sections of your DofE programme, submit your DofE Award in eDofE to your DofE Leader.

Find out more...

Visit your local shop or centre and have a chat with the manager or give them a call

T: 080800 19 19 19

W: www.cats.org.uk/find-us or

W: www.cats.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering/find-an-opportunity

Or, speak to your DofE Leader or visit the DofE website at www.DofE.org

 www.facebook.com/theDofE

 www.twitter.com/DofE

*Thank you
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