**Cat Socializer Volunteering Program Overview, at Humane Society Silicon Valley**

Cats and kittens make up more than half of all of the animals we shelter each year. And, our cat socializer volunteer team is invaluable in helping staff feed, clean, care for, and ultimately getting them into forever homes.

In order to better manage the needs of our cat population, we've categorized all of our adoptable cats into 3 "buckets."  They are:

**Emerald Level Animals:** these are our easier cats, and they get adopted pretty quickly!

**Diamond Level Animals:** these cats are more challenging and may require additional training or behavioral support during their stay with us.  They tend to stay up for adoption a little longer and need extra TLC from our volunteers and staff.

**Evaluation Assistant Animals:** These guys do best with a small group of volunteers and staff working on a specialized behavior plan.  Volunteers need to be Evaluation Assistants before they get their own "caseload' of kitties.

**Over the past year, we've noticed that we don't have enough Diamond Level cat volunteers to support the needs of our cat population.  Our emerald level animals are socialized by volunteer student and corporate groups, but our diamond cats are really the ones that benefit the most from your attention.**

**Going forward, we will strongly recommend that you don't stay at the "Cuddler" or CV 201 level, but continue through the training program to help with our neediest populations.**

Cat Socializer Training Classes

**Cat Volunteering 101**-basic cat body language, and a foundational course for many roles. Online here:

<http://volhssv.invisionzone.com/training/training.html/voltraining/cattraining/cv101/>

**Cat Volunteering 201:** learn the processes and guidelines for socializing our **Emerald-level** cats at the Animal Community Center (ACC) in Milpitas. Hands-on, onsite class.

**Cat Volunteering 301:** Learn how to show and introduce **Emerald-level** cats to the public. Powerpoint Presentation and mentor session with adoption staff.

**Cat Volunteering 401:** Learn how to socialize, show and introduce **Diamond-Level cats, too**. Hands-on, onsite class.