

Paws for Hope Animal Foundation - Pet Pantry Program

One 3-credit practicum in-person opportunity available to support Pet Pantry Program the Paws for Hope Animal Foundation Community Hub, located in East Vancouver. The Pet Pantry Program provides pet food and essential supplies to individuals and families experiencing financial hardship. Students will work alongside staff and volunteers to support day-to-day program operations, client engagement, and community outreach activities. The student must be available for a minimum of 8 hours during the Pet Pantry operating hours (Tuesday to Thursday, 10:00am–3:00pm). Email cover letter and resume to Kathy Powelson at kathy@pawsforhope.org.

About Paws for Hope Animal Foundation

Paws for Hope is a community-based organization dedicated to supporting vulnerable people and their companion animals through programs that strengthen and preserve the human-animal bond. Grounded in a social justice framework, Paws for Hope recognizes that systemic barriers such as poverty, housing instability, health challenges, and inequitable access to services can place both people and pets at risk.

The organization's primary focus is keeping pets with the families who love them by providing practical support, advocacy, and critical services. Through access to veterinary care, temporary foster care during times of crisis, resource navigation, and community partnerships, Paws for Hope helps reduce barriers that can lead to the separation of people and their pets. These supports promote the well-being of both people and animals and ensure that companion animals remain a source of comfort, connection, and stability during challenging times.

By addressing the needs of people and pets together, Paws for Hope helps create healthier, more compassionate communities where families can stay intact and thrive.

About the Community Hub

The Paws for Hope Community Hub is an innovative, integrated animal welfare centre designed to keep pets and people together by providing accessible, community-based support services under one roof. Located in East Vancouver, the Hub will serve as a

central location for veterinary wellness clinics, temporary boarding for cats and small animals, foster family training, community programming, pet food and supply distribution, and partnerships with social service organizations.

Built on Paws for Hope's One Health approach, the Community Hub recognizes that the well-being of people and their pets is deeply connected. By bringing together animal welfare, social services, and community resources in a single accessible space, the Hub will reduce barriers to care, strengthen support for vulnerable pet families, and expand access to critical services during times of crisis.

As British Columbia's first integrated animal welfare centre of its kind, the Community Hub will increase organizational capacity, improve service delivery, and ensure that more families can access the support they need to stay together with the pets they love.

Practicum Student – Pet Pantry Program

Location: Paws for Hope Community Hub, East Vancouver

Credits: 3-credit (150-200 hours)

Anticipated start date and end date: Sept to Dec (W1), Jan to April (W2), May to August (S1&2)

Practicum Opportunity

Paws for Hope is seeking a compassionate, organized, and community-minded practicum student to support our Pet Pantry Program. The Pet Pantry provides pet food and essential supplies to individuals and families facing financial hardship, helping to ensure that companion animals remain healthy and cared for while staying with the people who love them.

This placement offers an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in community outreach, program delivery, client support, volunteer coordination, and nonprofit operations within an innovative animal welfare organization.

Key Responsibilities

- Assist with the organization, inventory management, and distribution of pet food and supplies.

- Welcome and support community members accessing Pet Pantry services.
- Help maintain accurate inventory and program records.
- Support donation intake, sorting, and storage.
- Assist with volunteer engagement and coordination during pantry hours.
- Contribute to outreach efforts and resource sharing with community partners.
- Participate in program evaluation and data collection activities.
- Provide general support for Community Hub operations as needed.

Learning Opportunities

The practicum student will gain experience in:

- Community-based program delivery
- Social justice-informed service provision
- Client engagement and support
- Nonprofit operations and administration
- Volunteer coordination
- Resource distribution and inventory management
- Program evaluation and impact measurement
- Understanding the intersection of human and animal welfare

Qualifications

- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Ability to work respectfully with individuals from diverse backgrounds and lived experiences.
- Organized, reliable, and comfortable working independently.
- Passion for animal welfare, social justice, and community support.
- Ability to lift and move pet food and supplies (up to approximately 25 lbs) is an asset.

What We Offer

- Meaningful hands-on experience in a growing nonprofit organization.
- Supervision and mentorship tailored to practicum learning goals.
- Exposure to innovative programs that support both people and pets.

- An opportunity to contribute directly to keeping families and their companion animals together.

We welcome applications from students with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and identities. Paws for Hope is committed to creating an inclusive and equitable environment for staff, volunteers, students, and the communities we serve.