

Cat Trainer Job Announcement

Michigan Pet Alliance (MPA) is seeking training instructors to develop new training modules and teach both new and established training modules, including:

- Feline Body Language
- Stress-free Basic Cat Care
- Feline Enrichment and Stress Reduction
- Feline Behavior Assessments
- Feline Behavior Modification and Management
- Clicker Training and Positive Reinforcement
- Creating and Managing a Well-rounded Cat Program
- Creating a Successful Barn Cat Program

Training sessions may either be in-person, hands-on, up to 10 participants or online for up to 15 participants. Training sessions are designed for shelter and rescue organization staff and volunteers.

Individuals should indicate if they are credentialed for cat training and with which organization. MPA does not support “balanced training” and requires instructors to practice and advocate the positive-reinforcement, Fear Free training approach.

Required experience and skills include:

- Expertise in cat behavior and training
- Preferred Fear Free Shelter certification
- Strong people-to-people communication skills
- Preferred two or more years' experience in cat training, behavior modification and related activity in an animal shelter
- The ability to effectively present material in a way that is engaging and holds the audience's attention
- Experience in classroom presentations using visual aids, slideshows and other multi-media elements
- The ability and experience in researching and developing presentations or training modules
- Ability to think on your feet to engage in effective question and answer sessions
- Familiarity with and/or mastery of job-specific terms and concepts
- Ability to travel to a location, set up equipment and deliver multiple all-day sessions
- Ability to administer testing, grade reports and recommend certification

- Participation in continuing education sessions is beneficial to keep up to date on new techniques and breakthroughs in behavioral science research findings
- Experience with basic office and presentation equipment
- The ability to carry a projector and laptop, walk short distances, travel to shelter/presentation locations and work in a shelter environment.
- May need to provide a laptop with PowerPoint or Keynote. Wireless clicker is optional. Laptop may need to have power cord and HDMI port. If presentations have audio, instructor may need to provide external speaker with Bluetooth connection or audio cable

Compensation: \$25 per hour for three years or less experience and \$30 per hour for three years or more experience. Experience includes staff and/or volunteer positions at an animal shelter or rescue organization.

In addition to the session time, MPA will compensate and reimburse for the following:

- Portal-to-portal travel time
- Setup time before and load out time after the session
- Mileage at the standard IRS rate for charities (currently .14 cents/mile)
- Per diem for meals and incidentals at the standard IRS rate for charities (currently \$68/day), for overnight stays only
- Lodging not to exceed the standard GSA rate (currently \$110/night), as needed
- Airfare will be reimbursed, as needed

Contract periods are for three years.

Must have or be willing to obtain liability insurance with the following requirements:

- Michigan Pet Alliance must be named as additional insured
- Certificate limits of liability must be set to at least \$1,000,000 for each occurrence
- Property damage limits must be set to at least \$25,000 for each occurrence
- Limited cat trainer professional liability must be set to at least \$25,000

Job Description: Independent Contractor - Feline Training Instructor

MPA employs certified, independent contractors to create and deliver training modules to staff and volunteers at Michigan animal shelters and home-based animal rescue organizations.

The contractor shall arrange the logistics for identified in-shelter training upon receiving contact information for the shelter/rescue that has requested or been awarded training. Logistics include, but are not limited to, travel, necessary equipment, any accommodations needed, training dates, etc.

The contractor shall meet at the MPA client shelter/rescue or provide online training with designated shelter/rescue organization staff and/or volunteers to train/teach and empower/instruct on the approved feline training modules.

The contractor will assist in the preparation of a brief description of the scope of services for the chair of the Education & Training Committee, which is provided to each shelter/rescue client and which identifies the dates for the services, estimated number of hours and potential expenses.

The contractor will prepare a short, written report after each training session, summarizing the client contact, training location, number of participants, observations, concerns/issues, and recommendations, including follow-up, test scores and students to receive certifications.

The contractor may be requested to prepare content for new educational materials/modules. Such material will be developed in collaboration with the Education & Training Committee. The committee will review and approve the material prior to delivery. The content will become the property of MPA.

The contractor may be requested to prepare model documents and protocols for training, animal handling, enrichment, etc.

The contractor may be requested to participate as a team member or subject expert as part of a Blueprints for Excellence Program.

The contractor may perform other duties as agreed upon in writing.

The contractor shall report to the chair of the Education & Training Committee.