

Asaya Matsumoto

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

“Woof! Woof! Woof!” greeted the dogs as I walked in the Arlington Animal Shelter. I knew I was in the best place on Earth because they keep cute little animals safe and sound. I finally had arrived and I was ready to make a difference by volunteering!

The first thing I had to do was socialize with a fluffy Saint Bernard puppy. Socializing animals is an important job because if they are going to be adopted they need to get familiar to the human touch and it prevents them from getting lonely. I played with Bob the Bernard for one hour in his playpen. Bob the Bernard wagged his tail as fast as a cheetah can run, which showed me how happy he was to be playing with me. Sadly, I had to move on to my next amazing volunteering adventure.

Next, I visited Grumpy Cat’s cage. I always try to visit Grumpy Cat to cheer him up so he doesn’t look so mean. You know, no one wants a grumpy old feline for a pet so I try my best to help Grumpy Cat out. When I got to his cage I realized that his toys seems very dirty. I asked how long it was since the last toy cleaning and they said they hadn’t cleaned his toys in a month! So I grabbed all of his toys and went to the disinfecting room and cleaned all of Grumpy Cat’s toys. When I gave him back his toys his *grumpiness* turned into *happiness*, but of course I had to move to my next job.

The last job of my volunteering day was to help the animal photographer take pictures of the new animals so they can be added to the adoption website. My role was to get the animals looking at the camera so I held up a treat above the camera. After we took their photo I would give them a treat. This was a tough job because all animals have different interests and they don’t like to sit still for a long period of time. But in the end, they all looked adorable anyway.

Today was a great day of volunteering. I was able to spend time with Bob the Bernard, made Grumpy Cat happy, and helped get the new faces of the animals on the website, but it was time to go. As I was gathering my things I heard a strange ringing sound – *ding, ding, ding*. What’s that noise? Then I realized that it was my alarm clock and it was all just a dream! Then a great idea popped into my head and I yelled, “Mommy! Can we go to the Arlington Animal Shelter today?”