

## Gratitude From SBCAS



**This week is  
National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week!  
Check out these 10 facts you may not know!**

### **10 Things Animal Shelter Workers Will Never Tell You:**

**It's not smiles and playtime all the time. Some people probably**

think working at a shelter is super fun! I mean, you get to cuddle with cute puppies all day, right?

What you might not realize is that this job can also be really emotional and sometimes difficult when dealing with animals in need. Here are some things you might not have realized about working at an animal shelter.

### **1. They Cry, A Lot.**

Shelters often take in animals who have been neglected or abused. It can be downright heartbreaking to see how much these animals have suffered. What's important, though, is the compassion these workers have in restoring the happiness in these animals' lives.

### **2. With All The Pain, There's Also A Lot of Joy**

Like seeing an animal become more social and open up more. Or when an animal is able to stand up and walk after a terrible leg injury.

### **3. Owner-Surrenders Happen More Often Than You Think**

Pet owners have the option to surrender their pets to an animal shelter, and they do, for a multitude of reasons. These pets are often left scared, confused, and it can be hard to gain their trust. These are some of the animals that truly put shelter workers to the test.

### **4. All Those Cages. Such A Cruel Environment, Right?**

Not really. For some animals, being in the shelter is far better than where they were before. It is baffling to think about and see how much basic care and compassion has been missing from these animals' lives.

### **5. Shelter Workers Get Emotionally Attached!**

And how can they not? They devote so much of their time to make sure animals are cared for. It's only natural that they would develop emotional attachments.

### **6. They're Constantly Busy Balancing Their Job Duties**

From feedings and daily walks, to doing meet and greets with potential adopters, there's a delicate balance that shelter workers have to find between caring for the animals and assisting the public.

### **7. Rescue Transports and Adoptions Are Central To Their Mission**

The fact is, there are too many cats and dogs in animal shelters. If every person who was looking for a pet went to a shelter to adopt instead of purchasing from a breeder, then the number of animals in our shelters would significantly decrease. But even adoptions, aren't enough, so building relationships with other shelters that have the ability to pull animals from crowded places into their facilities is crucial to saving lives.

## **8. Volunteers Are Essential**

Shelters are underfunded, and often understaffed for the amount of animals they take in. Donations of both time and money are important aspects in keeping an animal shelter fully functional. Shelter workers are always trying to find the balance between caring for the animals and assisting the public, and that's where volunteers can help the most. Volunteers can socialize animals, spend quality time with them, and even find adopters through their social media.

## **9. Spaying/Neutering Makes A Huge Difference**

It's not only easy to spay or neuter your animal, it can seriously help with the overcrowding of shelters. There is nothing worse than finding a box full of puppies abandoned at a shelter.

## **10. The Real Reward Is When An Animal Finds Its Home**

Whether they see the animal adopted from their shelter, or they receive updates from rescue partners that amazing homes have been found for animals, that's the true reward. This always makes shelter workers remember why they do what they do. It's an amazing feeling, and can give them the strength to carry on their work.

And yes, shelters workers LOVE updates and visits from their former residents. SBCAS says, "THANK YOU," to all of our hard working staff and volunteers, non-profit partners, and shelters nationwide who continue to save lives daily!



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