

Testimonial for Atlantic County Animal Shelter

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I am so glad I was able to do my massage internship at Atlantic County Animal Shelter. It was a wonderfully welcoming environment, open to any new idea that would help the animals. The director and staff were very supportive of me. I relied on their sensitivity and intuition to direct me to animals who would most benefit from massage. This helped me time and again to gain invaluable experience and underscore the fact that massage clearly helps animals cope better in a shelter situation.

I see the benefits every time I massage an animal. The seven cats I massaged the other day were all hiding in the back of their cages before the massage. After the massage, they were purring. When I checked on them a short time later, they were in the front of their cages. Some were grooming themselves. Others were eating or drinking. All looked much happier and more alert.

The dogs I massage continue to amaze me by how quickly they catch on to what I'm trying to do. They recognize massage as something special, different from petting, and they communicate their understanding very clearly. Some will get up after awhile and flip over, so I can massage the other side. Others actually put out their arms or legs or other body parts they want me to massage next!

I am very grateful to ACAS for allowing me to get to know their remarkable animals and to see first hand how massage works to calm them, keep them social, and, ultimately, make them more adoptable.

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