

Volunteer Position Description *Small Animal Socializer*

DESCRIPTION

Reports to: Volunteer Coordinator

Commitment: 6 month minimum commitment, 2 hour shift/week (same day and time)

Shifts can vary based on volunteer availability and space at the shelter

PURPOSE

Small animals include rabbits, rats, mice, hamsters, guinea pigs, birds, turtles, chinchillas, ferrets and other small, scaly 2 or 4 legged creatures. Small Animal Socializers are a vital part of keeping adoptable small animals happy and healthy while they are with us. The purpose of this role is to give adoptable small animals daily interaction through play, petting, grooming and allowing them time out of their enclosure.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide proper care including housing, husbandry, exercise, and socialization according to EBHS policies and industry standards for EBHS animals
- Notify staff of animal medical needs/concerns
- Notify the staff of any small animal behavior needs/concerns
- Following shelter sanitation protocol
- Record all socialization time and interaction as directed
- Represent the organization in a professional and courteous manner
- Attend and participate in meetings, training programs, and continuing education.
- Follow safe handling procedures as they pertain to animals and cleaning agents
- Utilize force free, fear free, and science based training methods when handling animals and educate other volunteers and the public about these methods.
- Work respectfully with and alongside staff and volunteers

QUALIFICATIONS

- Parent/Youth Teams: 12-15 years old. Parent or legal guardian must be present at all times while volunteering. Volunteers 16-17 years old must have parent or legal guardian consent
- Small animal handling experience preferred
- Must be comfortable handling small animals including rats, mice, birds, rabbits.
- Able to work with minimal supervision
- Excellent oral, written, and organizational skills with attention to detail
- Must attend New Volunteer Orientation and pre green training. Green cat socializer training will take place after 16 hours of volunteer service.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

- Physical demands include:
 - Lifting and moving animals, kennels, and other equipment.
 - Frequent movement, including but not limited to; standing, walking, stooping, carrying
- Working conditions include:
 - Possible exposure to dangerous, diseased, frightened, and injured animals.
 - Possible exposure to zoonotic diseases.
 - Possible exposure to potentially harmful chemicals
 - Working with strong cleaning agents on wet surfaces.
- Emotional demands include:
 - Euthanasia.
 - Animal abuse.
 - Animal neglect.