

Dog Enrichment & Life Skills Volunteer

Mon-Fri: 10a-12p, 12-2p, 2-4p, 4-6p
Sat & Sun: 9-11a, 11a-1p, 1-3p, 3-5p

DESCRIPTION

Title: Dog Enrichment & Life Skills Volunteer
Reports to: Volunteer Coordinator
Commitment: 6 month commitment, 2 hours per week

PURPOSE

To enrich and enhance the lives of our shelter dogs by providing opportunities for them to engage in natural behaviors, peak their curiosity and encourage them to think, sniff and problem solve; all while keeping a calm and quiet kennel environment. Volunteers will be working with our shelter dogs in their kennels, both indoor and outdoor, while the volunteer remains outside of the kennel. Some of the kennel exercises volunteers will learn include quiet the kennels, 4-on-the-floor, targeting work and more. These life skills will help prepare our shelter dogs to live successfully in their forever homes.

***This volunteer activity is the pre-requisite to the Dog Walking position within EBHS. Those who wish to move on to Dog Walking must complete 20 hours of Dog Enrichment & Life Skills volunteering and complete an observational handling session, shadowing session and quiz.**

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Make and distribute different forms of enrichment to all shelter dogs. Please note, peanut butter is used in various forms of enrichment that we provide
- Provide mental stimulation and prevent boredom through in kennel exercises
- Learn and put into practice instructed training exercises
- Be able to recognize and interpret dog body language
- Following shelter sanitation protocol
- Represent the organization in a professional and courteous manner
- Attend and participate in meetings, training programs, and continuing education
- Utilize force free, fear free, and science-based training methods and educate other volunteers and the public about these methods
- Work respectfully with and alongside staff and volunteers
- All other duties as assigned

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Able to work with minimal supervision and/or with a team
- Able to adapt quickly and work in a fast paced environment
- Excellent oral, written, and organizational skills with attention to detail
- Must attend New Volunteer Orientation and Dog Enrichment & Life Skills Training

WORK ENVIRONMENT

- Physical demands include:
 - 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