



Small Animal Socializer

Reports To: Volunteer Director

Commitment: 2 hours per week (same day and time) for a minimum of six months

PURPOSE

Small Animal Socializers help keep our smallest shelter pets happy, enriched, and comfortable during their stay with us. Animals may include rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, rats, mice, ferrets, birds, and other small two-or-four-legged friends! The purpose of this role is to provide positive daily interaction through gentle handling, grooming, play, enrichment, and supervised time outside of enclosures when appropriate. This helps reduce stress and promotes overall well-being of our small animals while they are in our care.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide proper care, including housing, husbandry, exercise, and socialization, in accordance with EBHS policies and industry standards.
- Follow all departmental procedures, protocols, and safety guidelines.
- Maintain cleanliness, organization, and overall upkeep of the shelter while adhering to sanitization protocols.
- Practice safe handling procedures when working with shelter pets and cleaning agents.
- Utilize force-free, fear-free, science-based handling and training methods.
- Communicate any medical or behavioral concerns to staff promptly.
- Work respectfully and collaboratively with staff and fellow volunteers.
- Attend and participate in required meetings, training programs, and continuing education.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be 12-15 years old with a parent or legal guardian, or 16 years or older to volunteer independently.
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision and/or as part of a team.
- Small animal experience preferred but not required.
- Comfortable working with a variety of small animal species.
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail.
- Willingness and aptitude to learn about domestic, exotic, and wild species.
- Must attend New Volunteer Orientation and Small Animal Socializer training.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Physical Demands

- Frequent movement, including standing, sitting, bending, and reaching.

Working Conditions

- Possible exposure to frightened, injured, or sick small animals.
- Potential contact with zoonotic diseases.
- Use of cleaning agents and disinfectants.
- Floors are slippery when wet.

Emotional Demands

- Encountering neglected or abused small animals.
- Witnessing animal medical or behavioral emergencies.
- Exposure to situations involving euthanasia.