



Adult Volunteer Opportunities

Time Commitment: 8 hours per month

Animal Handling Positions

- Dog Handler (Weekday Evenings)
- Cat Handler (Weekday Evenings)
- Small Animal Handler
- Enrichment Assistant
- Kennel Helper
- Groomer
- Behavior Assistant
- Adoption Ambassador
- Animal Transporter*
- Photographer
- Special Event Assistant*

Customer Service Positions

- Customer Service Greeter
- Special Event Assistant*

*Positions available as needed

To safely and effectively serve as a volunteer in all volunteer positions, volunteers need to possess the following capabilities:

- Ability to receive, incorporate and sustain instruction and feedback.
- Excellent communication skills. Bilingual is a plus.
- Customer service experience a plus.
- Possess problem-solving capability.
- Ability to be aware of potentially dangerous situations when working with the animals; ability to remain calm with animals who are upset, behave sensitively and confidently, and show good judgment and act appropriately in these situations.
- Ability to cope with unexpected animal behavior without assistance and euthanasia.
- Ability to cope with a highly emotionally-charged environment and in the presence of animals who are homeless, abandoned, injured and/or abused.

Animal Handling Positions

- **Dog Handler:** Dog Handlers are responsible for walking dogs, preparing and distributing enrichment items, cleaning runs and play areas as necessary.

- **Cat Handler:** Cat Handlers are responsible for socializing and providing enrichment to cats.
- **Small Animal Handler:** Small Animal Handlers are responsible for grooming the small animals and providing enrichment and other special activities.
- **Enrichment Assistant:** Enrichment Assistants are responsible for preparing and creating enrichment items such as stuffed Kongs, busy buckets, scent sticks, etc.
- **Kennel Helper:** Kennel Helpers are responsible for assisting staff with maintenance of the shelter to include items such as cleaning kennels, washing dishes, washing windows, doing laundry, organizing shelves, etc.
- **Groomer:** Animal Groomers are responsible for brushing, bathing, trimming fur, etc. Animals deemed safe for grooming will be identified by ASD staff.
- **Behavior Assistant:** Behavior Assistants are responsible for the socialization, enrichment and training of animals, including other special activities.
- **Adoption Ambassador:** Adoption Ambassadors are responsible for advocating adoptable dog(s) at the shelter and showcasing them in surrounding areas to attract potential adopters.
- **Animal Transporter:** Animal Transporters are responsible for transporting animals to local rescue organizations in the State of Maryland in their personal vehicles.
- **Photographer:** Photographers are responsible for capturing photos of adoptable animals at the shelter for use on the shelter's site, social media outlets, and print materials.
- **Special Event Assistant:** Special Event Assistants are responsible for assisting staff with the coordination of special events both on and off site. May involve the direct handling of animals.

To safely and effectively serve as a volunteer in animal handling positions, volunteers also need to possess the following capabilities:

- Ability to multi-task (example: open cage door while handling animal).
- High level of manual dexterity to leash/harness animals and handle small tools.
- Ability to walk animals unaided on paved walking trail and sometimes muddy and slippery terrain.
- Ability to leash/harness and pick up an animal.
- Ability to handle strong, energetic dogs.

- Ability to stand or sit for significant periods of time.
- Comfortable bending, squatting, and kneeling.
- Ability to move safely around the building and to be able to read notes on animals' paperwork.
- Ability to read an animal's behavior to identify if they are fearful or in pain.
- Ability to maneuver well in tight spaces.
- Must not have strong allergies to animals or to chemicals, such as those used in grooming or cleaning, that can't be managed by medication.
- Ability to deal with strong and unpleasant odors, fleas, feces and possible wounds or injuries to animals in our care.
- Ability to cope with a very loud environment.
- Ability to reach cabinets and cages at least six feet in height, using a step stool as needed.
- Ability to push carts and barrels of potentially heavy laundry; load and unload washer and dryer; fold clean laundry and put away.
- Ability to lift 50 pounds comfortably.
- Experience handling a variety of animals a plus.
- No known concerns about tolerating exposure to zoonotic diseases such as ringworm and mange.

Customer Service Positions

- **Customer Service Greeter:** Customer Service Greeters are responsible for greeting patrons in the lobby area, directing them to the appropriate areas, explaining the adoption process to prospective adopters.
- **Special Event Assistant:** Special Events Assistants are responsible for assisting staff with the coordination of special events both on and off site. May involve the direct handling of animals.