

## **Dog Handler and Kennel Cleaning:**



### **Job Objective**

To assist the caregivers with providing one on one attention and exercise for shelter dogs. The more attention and activity the dogs receive, the happier they become, thus improving their adoptability. To help with the overall mission of having the dogs walked a minimum of 3 times per day. To follow our standards of care and low-stress handling.

**Responsible to:** Volunteer Coordinator, Animal Care Supervisor.

### **Responsibilities include:**

- Safely work in the dog kennel area, paying attention to the level of the animal as well as being able to read cage cards for food, toy or behavior related information
- Walk dogs on leash on the designated paths and areas or socialize in a kennel
- Socialize dogs
- Be able to use both hands simultaneously and be able to react with a high level of dexterity and be able to pursue and/or retrieve animals who have escaped from your control
- Ability to walk unaided on unpaved, uneven, rugged and sometimes muddy and slippery terrain.
- Ability to bend and squat in order to leash/harness and/or pick up an animal.
- Work on behavior modification with positive reinforcement
- Be able to maintain control in a stressful situation and remain safe
- Pay close attention to people in walkways while in the building – using the mirrors and short leashes
- Pick up after each pet eliminates
- Laundry
- Kennel cleaning
- Interacting with the public
- Be able to lift 75 pounds
- Dogs must always be more than 10 feet apart
- Help with adoption visits as needed or requested by staff
- Other duties as assigned and follow staff direction
- Create enrichment toys
- Monitor for signs of illness/behavior issues

### **Training required:**

- Information session
- Classroom training with the behavior specialist
- 1-3 mentoring shadowing sessions with a designated staff member or mentor volunteer
- Ongoing behavior training's – 2 every 6 months while a volunteer
- 8 hours of housekeeping

### **Qualifications:**

Volunteer must have the ability to interact with the public in a courteous and respectful manner, even in stressful situations. He/she must also have the ability to communicate well and follow directives with minimal supervision. He/she must be gentle and patient when working with dogs.

### **Days and hours needed:**

7 days a week during business hours and 12 to 5 on Wednesday's - Time commitment: at least 8 hours a month to remain active.