

## **Small animal handler**



**Job Objective:** To assist caregiver staff with providing much needed one-on-one attention and love for shelter small animals. The more attention and activity the pets receive, the happier they become, thus improving their chances for positive adoption. To follow our standards of care and low-stress handling.

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

**Job Description:** responsibilities can include:

- Hold, pet or play with small animals and reptiles
- 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.
- Communicate with animals in a gentle, non-threatening manner
- Assist the public with questions regarding pets
- Clean kennels and litterboxes
- Make sure all have water and hay
- Sweeping the floor
- Laundry
- Clean windows
- Lifting up to 25 pounds
- Follow sanitation guidelines
- Help with adoption visits as needed or requested by staff
- Other duties as assigned
- Follow staff direction
- Monitor for signs of illness/behavior issues

**Training required:**

- Information session
- Classroom training with the behavior specialist or 1 on 1 mentor sessions
- 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 duties

**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 the animals.

**Days and hours needed:** 7 days a week

- Monday – Friday 12 to 7 pm.

- Wednesday – 12-5 pm.
- Saturday – Sunday 12- 5 pm.

**Time Commitment:** minimum of 8 hours per month to remain an active volunteer.