

Job Title: Dog Walker/Socializer

Purpose of the position:

Dog walking/socializing volunteers help keep our shelter dogs exercised and socialized through walking/running/playing, positive reinforcement training and spending quiet time with them. This vital time spent with dogs helps reduce their stress, which makes them more adoptable and shortens their length of stay at the shelter.

Supervisor(s):

- Community Engagement Director, Erin Ellis
- Shelter Volunteer and Foster Programs Manager, Samantha Laroche

Volunteers ages:

- 8yr + (volunteers under 16yrs of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian)

Duties and responsibilities:

- Walking/running dogs on HSTT approved trails or in approved outdoor yards
- Positive reinforcement training (Train to Adopt which is training provided by HSTT)
- Relaxation exercise called quiet time
- Volunteers must be able to be self-sufficient in the shelter
- Volunteers must adhere to all rules and policies
- Once trained, volunteers are responsible for knowing where dog items are kept and how to document time spent in the shelter

Training requirements:

- HSTT general orientation
- HSTT dog training
- First supervised walk

Skills and qualifications:

- Dog handling experience in any capacity is a plus, but HSTT will teach you what is needed to help and handle the dogs at the shelter

Time commitment required:

- Two hours per month for six months, minimum
- Once trained, volunteers can decide when they would like to come in and work with the dogs

Dress code required:

- Close-toed, close-heeled shoes
- HSTT provided aprons
- Nametags (issued by HSTT)
- Clothing must cover the volunteer's body appropriately and no offensive images, language or slogans are allowed

- HSTT reserves the right to ask a volunteer to change if the clothing is seen as offensive
- Long sleeves are needed for adults working with more difficult/stressed dogs
- Long pants and long sleeves are recommended for safety

Expectations of volunteers:

- Adhere to all safety requirements discussed in training to ensure the safety of both people and animals
- Act in a courteous manner with staff, fellow volunteers and members of the public at all times
- Interact in a positive, kind, and purposeful manner with all dogs
- Refer all questions from the public to the Adoption Specialists
- Be self-sufficient
- Must have the ability to read common dog body language
- Only handle dogs within your ability level
- Any volunteers under the age of 16yrs must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times
- All volunteers, including supervising parents/guardians, must be fully trained in order to socialize, walk or train HSTT dogs