



Volunteer Job Description

Humane Society of Sonoma County’s training methodology and philosophy is force-free and animal-friendly, utilizing primarily positive reinforcement. HSSC does not condone the use of aversive training methods, defined as “any circumstance or event that causes pain, fear, or emotional discomfort.”

We have loads of fun with our dogs, while maintaining healthy boundaries around desired behaviors. Adoptability is key, so we use progressive and positive reinforcement methods to build trust and cultivate willingness. Our trainers are terrific role models who are happy to share their wealth of knowledge.

Position Title: Canine Care Volunteer	Supervisor: Behavior & Training Department
Location: Humane Society of Sonoma County, Santa Rosa	Time Commitment: 2 hr minimum per week/ 6 month minimum
<p>Position Description:</p> <p>The Dog Walker position at HSSC is crucial to the health and well-being of our canine population. Dog walkers exercise, socialize, and offer enrichment in the form of walks, play, play groups, visiting, and training with the dogs. This position requires a moderate amount of physical ability and takes place in all weather conditions. This position is available 7 days a week, 7am -6pm.</p> <p>Volunteers must be able to perform the following essential functions of the job. Those not able to fulfill the listed responsibilities and requirements, pose a safety threat to themselves, other volunteers and the shelter dogs. Please discuss with the Behavior and Training volunteer coordinator if you have any concerns.</p>	
<p>Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise and socialize dogs • Read and follow guidelines provided in dog walking notes for each dog • Report any medical and or behavioral issues to B&T dept • Record each dog walk on computer in dog walking notes • Ability to work independently • Attend ongoing classes to maintain dog walking status 	

Requirements:

- Attend HSSC orientation and educational seminars
- Follow B&T guidelines.
- Commitment to weekly shift of no less than 2 hrs per week, regardless of weather for minimum of 6 months.
- Ability to receive and send email
- Adherence to dress code described in Canine Care Guidelines given to you at the Canine Care Orientation
- Ability to lift 20 lbs
- Must be able to work independently with little to no staff supervision

Benefits:

As you help adoption dogs develop versatility in their dog-to-human skills, you'll also have amazing experiences. Imagine a profound sense of connection and satisfaction once a dog has become well-trained and joyfully bonds with his/her new human.

Feedback/Evaluation

Continual feedback from classes and mentors. Ad hoc as needed or requested by B&T dept.

Training/orientation: Attend General Volunteer Orientation; Attend Canine Care orientation; complete mentor session and attend ongoing classes and trainings.

By signing this, I acknowledge that I can perform the job as described, and agree to uphold protocol and procedures as outlined.

Sign: _____

Date: _____