



## Volunteer Job Description

*Humane Society of Sonoma County 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.

<b>Position Title: Canine Care Volunteer</b>	<b>Supervisor: Healdsburg Manager, Behavior &amp; Training Department Staff</b>
<b>Location: Healdsburg</b>	<b>Time Commitment: 2 hr minimum per week / 6month minimum</b>
<p><b>Position Description:</b>          The Canine Care Volunteer position at Sonoma Humane is crucial to the health and well-being of our canine population. Canine Care volunteers offer enrichment in the form of walks, play, play groups, outings, activities, 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, 6am -6pm.</p>	
<p><b>Responsibilities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exercise and socialize dogs</li> <li>• Read and follow guidelines provided in dog walking notes for each dog</li> <li>• Report any medical and or behavioral issues to B&amp;T dept</li> <li>• Record each dog walk on computer in dog walking notes</li> <li>• Ability to work independently</li> <li>• Attend ongoing classes to maintain canine care skills</li> <li>• Based on experience, engage with dogs throughout the shelter, including walks and enrichment.</li> </ul>	
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**Requirements:**

- **Attend HSSC orientation and educational seminars**
- **Follow all B&T protocol, procedure and 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**
- **Must be able to work independently with little to no staff supervision**
- **Upon training, will be encouraged to provide enrichment and outings**

**Benefits:**

As you help dogs engage in enriching activities, you help reduce their stress. This allows them to develop connections to people and other dogs. You will also have amazing experiences. Imagine a profound sense of connection and satisfaction once a dog has become so well-adjusted that they joyfully bond 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.