



VOLUNTEER POSITION DESCRIPTION PROGRAMS & SERVICES

TITLE:

Helping Paws Volunteer PS-HPPP

MAJOR OBJECTIVE:

To provide pet visits to the patients at assisted living homes and rehab centers. Touching an animal has been shown to lower blood pressure, to have a soothing effect on humans and to lift patients' mood – and center residents get time away from the shelter environment!

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Visit partner facilities with a staff-approved dog (or certified staff/ volunteer- owned dog) and give patients the opportunity to meet and interact with the dog.
2. Handle the dog in a responsible, attentive manner.
3. Share information about the dog's breed, age etc. and about the center's cause.
4. Remove the dog from the situation if it shows signs of distress or aggression.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Comfort working with dogs
2. Comfort working around our older, wiser elders
3. Dedication to the center's philosophies
4. Provide own transportation and a valid driver's license
5. Proof of vehicle Insurance policy with \$50,000/\$100,000/\$300,000 coverage.
6. Minimum 18 years of age

TRAINING:

1. Attend MSRPAC's volunteer general informational session and round robin dog socialization session
2. Minimum of 15 hours dog walking experience in the dog walking program
3. Two shadowing sessions with a qualified volunteer
4. Interview with Volunteer Services Manager or designee

TIME AND PLACE:

Shifts available throughout the week

COMMITMENT:

One Helping Paws excursion per month for six months

SUPERVISION:

Direct supervision by the Volunteer Services manager or coordinator.

BENEFITS:

1. Continuing Education
2. Recognition events
3. Volunteer newsletter
4. 10% discount at Critter Corner Pet Store
5. Personal fulfillment
6. Licks, wags and purrs!