



VOLUNTEER POSITION DESCRIPTION BEHAVIOR

TITLE:

Play Group Leader BH-PG

MAJOR OBJECTIVE:

Playgroups provide dogs with exercise and social interaction with other dogs.

The benefits of playgroups include:

- Freedom: Off-leash and out of kennel time for dogs is invaluable for burning off energy and reducing stress so dogs are more relaxed during training and when meeting potential adopters.
- Learning: Interaction with their own species can help dogs to gain social skills that may improve their ability to play and interact with other dogs after adoption.
- Better understanding center dogs: Time spent in playgroup is time spent observing dogs; knowing more about our dogs allows us to do a better job finding the perfect home.
- Fun: Everyone enjoys seeing dogs have so much fun!

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Works with Intake Supervisor and Center Behaviorist to make a list of dogs who will be in the playgroup and the order that they will be introduced to and removed from the group
- Prints the list and distributes copies to the assistant and runners/observers
- Indicates on the list any dogs with special concerns
- Has a brief discussion (at beginning of session) with, runners, and observers to discuss introduction of dogs, order of introduction, and behavioral issues
- Manages play group tool-kit
- Checks tools to be sure ready for use
- Checks the yard to ensure that all toys have been removed before playgroup starts
- Responsible for controlling interactions/deciding when to break up fights between dogs and carries a walkie-talkie to alert staff if assistance is needed.
- Reports on the canine attendees' behavior and provides a summary to staff, which includes a list of dogs in the suggested order of introduction for the next day's leader

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Comfort working with dogs
2. Minimum 18 years of age

TRAINING:

1. Attend MSRPAC's volunteer general informational session and round robin dog socialization session
2. Interview with Volunteer Services Manager or designee

TIME AND PLACE:

Shifts available Monday thru Friday.

COMMITMENT:

Minimum of two hours per month for six months

SUPERVISION:

Direct supervision by the Center Behaviorist and/or Intake Supervisor, Director of Operation. Indirect 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!