

Toronto Humane Society

Canine Enrichment Volunteer

Approved by:
Rachelle Gordon, Supervisor, Volunteer & Community
Engagement

Effective Date: July, 2016

Revision Date:

Purpose

Improve the quality of life for dogs waiting to be adopted by providing physical activity and socialization through human interaction.

Description

Canine Enrichment volunteers report to Supervisor, Volunteer & Community Engagement

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Check canine enrichment list to see which dogs need to be walked
2. Walk 6-8 dogs on average per shift
3. Must follow all standard and event dog walking procedures
4. Review and follow all instructions for handling each dog before walk
5. Walk dogs individually on THS property / surrounding neighbourhoods
6. After walk: record the length of the walk; add observations about that dog before moving onto another dog
7. Adhere to biosecurity protocols and wear appropriate PPE (personal protective equipment) as necessary
8. Adhere to dress code – long pants, close-toed, flat shoes
9. Volunteers act as ambassadors to THS

Qualification/Requirements

1. Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older
2. Experience with dog walking and handling large breed dogs
3. Physical strength is an asset

Training

1. General Orientation to Toronto Humane Society
2. Canine theory workshop: group session focuses on understanding dog behavior and body language; helps volunteer to interact with dogs and handle them safely
3. A test on dog walking protocol and canine theory, and biosecurity and other shelter protocols; volunteers must pass this before receiving hands-on training
4. Handling techniques - a hands-on training session covering shelter protocols for retrieving and returning a dog to their cage, properly attaching and holding a leash, handling skills required to walk in the shelter and outdoors with proper control; volunteers are evaluated during this training session

Commitment

Volunteers are required to attend the same 2 hour shift each week; minimum of 6 commitment required, with regular attendance for this role