



Volunteer Dog Handler

Summary: OMHS dogs often arrive at the shelter after facing a variety of unfortunate circumstances. These experiences sometimes result in the dogs displaying undesirable behaviors that are valid points of concern.

Examples of common behaviors OMHS dogs may display include pulling, lunging, jumping and even biting in scenario where they feel uncomfortable or scared. Many of the dogs at the OMHS are large breed dogs who may be reactive to things like bikes, motorcycles, cars, people, strangers, dogs or even birds and squirrels.

OMHS dog handlers mainly interact with dogs outside of their kennels on walks or in our outdoor dog pens. The goal of dog handling at the OMHS is to provide dogs with a much-needed relief from their kennels while helping them work through the undesirable behaviors they've developed over the years.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Observing and assessing behavioral patterns in shelter dogs
- Utilizing various dog-training techniques to correct behaviors of concern
- Communicating behavioral concerns to shelter staff
- Providing shelter dogs with opportunities to exercise and destress as needed.
- Monitoring dogs during assigned play and socialization times to prevent accidents or injuries.
- Promptly reporting injuries, accidents, or medical issues to management.
- Maintaining accurate records of each dogs' progress with regards to behavioral concerns
- Following all OMHS protocols
- Respect and maintain confidentiality of OMHS volunteers, partners, and donors

Requirements

- Must genuinely enjoy working with dogs even when they are stressed, ill or in pain.
- Must be comfortable working in an environment where dogs are in kennels.
- Must have experience and be comfortable working with large breed dogs 50 pounds and up.
- Must have familiarity with basic dog training techniques.
- Must have hands on experience training dogs in foundation skills.
- Must be able to perform physical duties including repetitive standing, walking, bending and twisting.
- Must be able to grasp, hold and manipulate objects.
- Must be dependable and punctual and have an observant, alert, and patient disposition.
- Be courteous and personable when dealing with the public
- Be self-directed, willing to take initiative, and detail-oriented

- Be willing to work as part of a team
- Must complete a criminal background check

Training & Supervision

- Attends general volunteer orientation
- Attends in class dog training lessons
- Attends hands on dog training sessions
- Attends additional training as required

Time Commitment

- Must commit to a minimum of 6 months in the role.
- We ask that you commit to at least one 2 hour shift each week on a scheduled basis.
- Everyday there are 3 shift times.

Dog Handler Volunteer Benefits

- Free parking if needed.
- Access to ongoing training.
- Volunteer work experience working with shelter dogs.

We can't do it without you! Thank you for being part of our team.