



ARLNH Volunteer Position Description

Title: Basic Dog Walker

Position Overview: Volunteer Basic Dog Walker for “all” level dogs supports the ARLNH Animal Care Staff in the daily exercise, behavior assessment, and socialization of those dogs that are appropriate to their skill.

Key Responsibilities: Dog Walkers leash/harness dogs from their kennel to walk on the property or exercise in the yard multiple times a day. Volunteers reinforce good behaviors during the outing and help the dog become accustomed to people. Dog behaviors are observed and recorded, or reported, per established protocols. Dog Walkers are encouraged to take the training for and to participate in Kennel Cleaning. Basic Dog Walkers can opt out of euthanasia communication at this level but will not be able to advance to other positions within Dog Walking.

Commitment: Dog Walkers are most helpful to the organization when working a consistent schedule for staff animal care planning. Shifts are two hours long and mid-day shifts, 11 am-1 pm are essential to the rotation of kennels. Significant resources are afforded to Dog Walkers in training and guidance requiring a long-term commitment. Volunteers must be willing and able to meet our minimum service requirement of one regularly scheduled shift at least 2 hours per week, for 6 months.

Note: Volunteers must sign up for the same shift each week

Impact: Dog Walkers impact the quality of life for dogs in ARLNH care by providing additional exercise, socialization, and behavioral observation. The Dog Walker role is an extension of the Animal Care Staff at ARLNH and frees valuable resources to address vast medical, behavioral, and administrative needs, as well as an opportunity for other volunteers to refresh the dog’s kennel.

Benefits: In addition to being part of the ARLNH volunteer community and the satisfaction from providing benefits to our dogs, Dog Walkers receive ongoing training, evaluation, and opportunities for advancement consistent with their commitment to our programs.

Training: Interested volunteers must take an initial Dog Walker Training and meet the basic skill level as determined by their instructor. In some cases, Dog Walkers will need or seek additional initial training before volunteering. All Dog Walkers are encouraged to take Kennel Cleaning Training as well as include Kennel Cleaning shifts to stay current on protocols and to be connected to the entire dog care cycle at ARLNH.

General Skills and Qualifications: Dog Walkers must be physically strong with good mobility, have excellent observational skills, exercise good judgment, and be comfortable with ongoing feedback. Confidence in handling dogs on leash is required.

This is a high-contact position dealing with animals with unpredictable behaviors and requires volunteers to be able to read and understand body language.

All volunteers for Dog Walking positions must:

- Be 18 years or older
- Be able to lift and carry 60lbs, be able to bend repeatedly, and kneel as needed
- Be able to physically control dogs on a leash
- Read and appropriately respond to dog body language and behavior
- Be able to maneuver safely on wet floors and uneven terrain
- Be agile and quick to respond during dog-handling situations
- Be able to respond to emergencies safely and seek guidance from staff
- Understand and support the ARLNH's mission and policies

Clothing Requirements

- Wear closed-toe shoes (no sandal, heels, or crocs)
- No loose jewelry, loose clothing, hats, or sunglasses
- Wear full-length pants

Support: Dog Walking volunteers receive the support of the Volunteer Coordinator as well as ARLNH Staff and Senior Volunteers in their work on an ongoing basis. The Chief Operating Officer has oversight of all animal care.

Communication Requirements: Dog Walkers use and model open professional communication with appropriate Animal Care and Administrative Staff. All eminent safety concerns are to be immediately communicated with the Chief Operating Officer or an appropriate animal care staff person in their absence.

_____ completed training with _____

Print Trainer Name Print Volunteer Name

and attest that all required material has been covered, including the requirements of this job description, including current dog care protocols, and that the volunteer has mastered the necessary skills to consistently perform the duties of this volunteer role.

Trainer Signature Date

_____ am confident in my training for this volunteer role and

Print Volunteer Name

accept the responsibilities and requirements of this job description.

Volunteer Signature Date