

**Volunteer Description: Dog Buddy**

**Availability:**

Tuesday through Sunday: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Mondays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Time Commitment:**

One shift a week minimum with a 6 month time commitment.

**Responsibilities:**

- Walking dogs.

- Picking up after the dogs both inside and outside to prevent the spread of diseases, parasites, etc.

- Providing enrichment and socialization under the guidance of shelter staff.

- Supervising play groups - when applicable.

- Light training through positive reinforcement.

- Speaking with the public about the dogs and puppies in our adoption program if volunteering during

 public hours.

**Qualifications:**

- Good to High Level physical condition due to the high level of physical activity.

- Commitment to using the handling and training protocols outlined by the Dog Buddy Training

 program.

- Receptive to feedback and willingness to learn.

- Ability to work independently and follow instructions and posted protocols but ask help if needed.

**Training Requirements:**

- Volunteers sign up for the first 2 hour Dog Buddy training session.

- Volunteers must pass both a written and observational assessment before

- All dog buddies start as a Level 1 Dog Buddy.

- Fear Free Shelter training is expected to be completed to learn proper handling and how to read

 body language and ways to reduce stress and fear symptoms in shelter dogs.

- Receive a 2 hour hands-on tutorial in the kennels with the volunteer coordinator or kennel team

 canine lead, at which point the volunteer may be approved to be a Level 2 Dog buddy.

- Advancement to Level 3 Dog Buddy comes from staff recommendations and observed skill.