



## **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.