

**The Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County**  
**VOLUNTEER POSITION DESCRIPTION**

<b>VOLUNTEER POSITION TITLE: Dog Walker</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT: Dog Services</b>
<b>REPORTS TO: Kennel Lead, Volunteer Manager</b>
<b>LOCATION: 2608 Center St Tacoma WA 98409; work conducted on shelter premises and approved THS dog walking routes</b>
<b>ELIGIBILITY: Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age</b>
<b>HOURS: Multiple shifts available every day from 7AM-7PM.</b>

**VOLUNTEER POSITION SUMMARY:** Dog walkers take adoptable shelter dogs on walks along the approved THS walking routes. Under the direction of the Kennel Lead, this position helps ensure that the shelter dogs are given time away from their indoor kennels to receive exposure to fresh air.

**ESSENTIAL DUTIES & FUNCTIONS :**

- Under the direction of the Kennel Lead, works with the shelter dogs to take them on outdoor excursions.
- Handles shelter dogs using humane positive reinforcement techniques.
- Ensures the dog returns to a clean kennel by coordinating with shelter staff.
- Evaluates shelter dog's overall health and behavior to determine eligibility to walk in accordance with Dog Behavior and Safety training.
- Monitors dogs while on walks and reports any serious medical or behavioral concerns to the Kennel Lead.
- Brings forward any safety concerns to the Kennel Lead.
- Maintains full knowledge of HSTPC dog walking practices and procedures.
- Serve as a model for humane treatment of shelter animals to clients, volunteers and co-workers while actively promoting the Humane Society's mission.
- Performs other duties as assigned.
- This position is performed outdoors and operates in inclement weather.
- Please note that this position requires interaction with animals that have been evaluated by our staff at intake. Animals may have varied health, temperament, and/or appearance.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

*To perform this position successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty well. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.*

- Ability to work with animals in a shelter environment.
- Ability to accurately determine your physical limits when selecting dogs to walk.
- Strong animal handling skills.
- Strong observational skills.
- Outgoing, polite and professional manner.
- Team player, able to multi-task and communicate effectively.
- This position requires volunteers to actively engage with shelter dogs and have full control over them when walking.
- Must support the mission, programs and activities of the Society and act as an advocate for the organization.

**Desired Experience:**

Former dog handling experience which adheres to the Humane Society's philosophy of positive reinforcement training and humane handling techniques.

## Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

### Knowledge of (B/basic; J/journey; E/expert):

- Speak, read, and write in the English language (J)

### Orientation and Training :

- Required: General Orientation
- Required: Dog Behavior and Safety Class
- Required: Dog Walker assessments with a designated Dog Walker trainer

### Tools and Equipment Provided :

- THS approved leashes/leads/harnesses
- Biodegradable plastic waste bags
- Dog treats

### Optional Tools and Equipment :

- Treat pouch for treat distribution

### Skill and ability to:

	Never	Seldom 1%-10%	Occasional 11%-33%	Frequent 34%-66%	Constant 67%-100%
Stand					X
Walk					X
Lift <10 lbs					X
Lift 10-25 lbs					X
Lift 26-50 lbs.				X	
Lift 51-75 lbs.			X		
Lift 76-100 lbs.		X			
Twist				X	
Reach				X	
Push and Pull				X	
Climb			X		
Sit	X				
Vision					X
Hearing					X

**Interested in this volunteer position? Please submit an application to volunteer with the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County by visiting our volunteer portal [www.thehumanesociety.org/getinvolved](http://www.thehumanesociety.org/getinvolved). Applications are accepted at limited times throughout the calendar year and placement is assigned on an as-needed basis.**