**VOLUNTEER POSITION TITLE:** In-Kennel Dog Enrichment

**DEPARTMENT:** Dog Services

**REPORTS TO:** Dog Behavior Department, Volunteer Manager

**LOCATION:** 2608 Center St Tacoma WA 98409; work conducted on shelter premises

**RESTRICTIONS:** Volunteers must be at least 16 years of age

**HOURS:** Multiple shifts available Mon-Sun from 9:00am – 5:00pm

**VOLUNTEER POSITION SUMMARY**

This is an entry level volunteer position responsible for providing shelter dogs with care and enrichment. Under the direction of the Dog Behavior Department, this position helps ensure that the shelter dogs are given opportunities to reduce stress and improve well-being by providing physical and mental stimulation, encouraging species typical behaviors (e.g., chewing for dogs), and allowing animals more control over their environment.

**ESSENTIAL DUTIES & FUNCTIONS :**

- Under the direction of the Dog Behavior Department, works with the shelter dogs to provide opportunities to reduce stress.
- Handles shelter dogs using humane positive reinforcement techniques.
- Ensures the dog has a clean kennel by coordinating with shelter staff, if needed.
- Ensure all dogs on the adoption floor have fresh water, replacing water buckets as needed.
- Ensure all dogs on the adoption floor have clean, dry bedding.
- Provide high energy dogs with approved engaging activities.
- Provide shy dogs with “quiet time” by sitting quietly with them in the kennel.
- Ensure the “Doggie Jolly Trolly” is fully stocked.
- Monitors dogs while performing enrichment activities and reports any medical or behavioral concerns to the Dog Behavior Department.
- Brings forward any safety concerns to the Dog Behavior Department.
- Maintains full knowledge of HSTPC dog enrichment 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.

- Please note that this position requires interaction with animals that have been evaluated by our staff at intake. Some shelter animals may have conditions or behaviors that have not yet been observed. Some shelter animals may be unthrifty upon entry.

**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 shelter animals, including strong animal handling 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 in a safe manner, including maintaining control of the dogs in the kennel and on leash.
- 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)
- Communicate effectively verbally and in writing (J)

Orientation and Training:
- Required: General Orientation
- Required: Dog Behavior and Safety Presentation and Quiz
- Required: Dog Enrichment Training Presentation & Quiz
- Required: Dog Enrichment Training with Designated Dog Enrichment trainer
- Completion of Kennel Enrichment Checklist

Tools and Equipment Provided:
- HSTPC approved enrichment toys
- Dog treats

Optional Tools and Equipment:
- Treat pouch for treat distribution

Skill and ability to:

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<th>Skill and ability to</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Seldom 1%-10%</th>
<th>Occasional 11%-33%</th>
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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.