

Green Dog Socializer

Objective:

- Meet the basic needs & enhance quality of life for “green” dogs and puppies in Capital Humane Society’s care by providing potty breaks and socialization.
- Assist with creating enrichment items for canines, completing “click for quiet” with kennel dogs, and restocking supplies for all dog handling volunteers.

Locations/Hours of Operation:

- *Pieloch Pet Adoption Center* | 6500 S 70th |
Shift times for this role are
Mon-Fri 11am-12pm, 4pm-5pm, 6pm-7pm & Sat/Sun 10am-11am

Qualifications:

- **Age:** Must be at least 13 years old with a parent/guardian at all times
- **Experience:** No experience required, time spent around dogs previously a plus
- **Knowledge:** Must demonstrate understanding of the importance of respecting animals boundaries & responsibility of being an animal caretaker.
- **Physical:** Green dogs are the easiest dogs in our care to handle/walk although some may still pull slightly while on leash, volunteers should be able to squat, bend, and safely grip leashes.
- **Characteristics:** Must consistently follow verbal/written instructions, possess excellent awareness of surroundings, willingness & desire to learn, communicate effectively with others
- **Minimum Time Commitment:** 1hr shift, every other week, for a minimum of 3 months

Conditions:

- **Indoor:** Noise- barking/whining can be very loud at times
Temperatures- Varied, though usually moderate
Hazardous chemicals- potential exposure (used to sanitize animal living spaces)
- **Outdoor:** Dog socializers spend a period of their shift outside & are exposed to the elements at times. Expect to attend weekly shifts when hot, raining, snowing, etc.
- **Pet hair/dander:** Those with extreme allergies should be aware
- **Biological materials:** Regular exposure to feces, urine, blood, etc. Although transmission is easily preventable & unlikely, exposure to zoonotic illness (i.e. parasites) or canine specific illness (i.e. kennel cough) is possible.

Role specific duties

- Walk dogs outside for bathroom break
- Pick up poop while outdoors on walks/in play yard & dispose of properly
- Provide each green dog/ litter of puppies with 10-20 minutes of socialization
- On days where there are no green dogs or puppies to handle, dog socializers assist with creating enrichment items for dogs, restocking supply stations for all dog handlers, completing sessions of “click for quiet” to encourage quiet calm behavior from dogs in their kennels, and other enrichment related tasks.

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CHS volunteer expectations:

- *“Help where help is needed”* -The shelter is a hectic & unpredictable environment with limited resources. We ask that our volunteers are flexible & willing to occasionally pitch in with core shelter functions, even if those are outside their specific job description (laundry, dishes, etc.)
- *“Be an advocate in all things”*- Our volunteers are highly trained, respected, & trusted pieces to the CHS puzzle. We empower our volunteers to use their unique voice to communicate concerns, share observations, ask questions, suggest ideas, etc.! As a non-profit, it is especially important that our volunteers understand that being a successful (& satisfied) shelter advocate...aka “volunteer”...requires patience, curiosity, & creativity. In Animal Welfare, there are significant limitations to navigate, some of which are very obvious & others which are more abstract (& often harder to change). Put simply...we depend on volunteers to help us innovate & progress as a field/organization & we trust them to do so without taking personal offense or getting discouraged when/if that process is littered with roadblocks.
- *“Speak & act with compassion & respect, always”*- Our work is centered around the fundamental belief that pets AND people deserve to experience love & companionship. This belief directly influences the way we treat the people/animals we encounter during our work but also the way we speak about them AND the way we think about them. CHS volunteers share this important belief & allow it to be their “North Star”.

Training: 6 total hours to complete onboarding |in person, hands on, groups of 2-3|

(Red= mandatory, green= optional)

- **“Welcome to CHS” Group Orientation**-1.5 hr|occurs 2x month| provides info on CHS programs, culture, history, operations, intro to Animal Welfare, socially conscious sheltering, tour of ppac, meet vols, meet staff|
- **“Intro to Dog Socializing”**-2 hrs|1st official shift |Tour of facility, daily responsibilities, CHS canine operations/protocols, behavior & safety info, meet staff, meet vols, equip demo, handling basics | typically training groups of 2-4 people | 1 hr or less of dog handling
- **“Shelter vocab, shelter dog intro”**- 20-45 min |self led- watch videos/read materials
- **“Dog Handling”** 2 hrs | 2nd shift | DW demo green dog, “walking” basics, enter/exit building safety|handle dogs in kennels and real life rooms| enrichment creation| restocking supplies| click for quiet practice|