



# Dog Walker

## Objective:

- Meet the basic needs & enhance quality of life for all dogs in Capital Humane Society's care by providing consistent potty breaks & opportunities for exercise/socialization.

## Locations/Hours of Operation:

- **Pieloch Pet Adoption Center** | 6500 S 70th |  
Shift times for this role are  
Tues-Fri 8am-10am, 12pm-2pm, 5pm-7pm & Sat-Mon 8am-10am, 12pm-2pm, 3-5pm
- **Admissions & Assessment Center** | 2320 Park Blvd |  
Shift times for this role are Mon-Fri 8am-10am, 12pm-2pm, 3pm-5pm & Sat/Sun  
8am-10am, 12pm-2pm, 2pm-4pm

## Qualifications:

- **Age:** Must be at least 17 years old with reliable transportation
- **Experience:** Must have prior experience/time spent around dogs (personal or professional)
- **Knowledge:** Must demonstrate basic understanding of canine body language & behavior
- **Physical:** Must be comfortable & confident in ability to physically manage dogs that pull, jump up, etc. Must be able to squat, bend, grip leashes, safely maneuver wet floors & crowded spaces. Must be able to work during various outdoor conditions (within reason)
- **Characteristics:** Must consistently follow verbal/written instructions, possess excellent awareness of surroundings, willingness & desire to learn, communicate effectively with others
- **Minimum Time Commitment:** Set 2hr shift/week for a minimum of 6 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 walkers spend a majority of their time outside & are exposed to the elements. Expect to attend weekly shifts when hot, raining, snowing, etc. except extreme circumstances that could put them at risk (blizzards, etc.)
- **Pet hair/dander:**- those with extreme allergies should be aware
- **Biological materials & zoonotic disease:** 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.
- **Emotional demands:** While rare, at times volunteers may be aware of or exposed to animals/information about animals who are/have been in CHS's care due to neglect/cruelty/trauma/extreme medical conditions, etc. Some may find this distressing.

### Role specific duties:

- Walk dogs outside for bathroom break
- Pick up poop while outdoors on walks/in play yard & dispose of properly
- Provide each dog with 12-15ish minutes of “out of kennel” time. Follow preference cues from individual dogs to determine how to spend that time (indoor vs. outdoor, walks vs. play yard, exercise vs. socialize)
- Alternate with other volunteers/staff to ensure each dog’s living conditions are optimal upon return to the kennel. (clean/dry: pick up poop/mop room, replenish water, replace/dispose of soiled linens, etc.)

### 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: 8 total hours to complete onboarding | Combo: in person, hands on, self led, remote| (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 Walking”**-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 people | 30 min or less of dog handling
- **“Shelter vocab, shelter dog intro”**- 20-45 min |self led- watch videos/read materials
- **“Dog Handling Pt. 1”**- 2 hrs | 2nd shift | DW demo: “average” dog, “walking” basics, enter/exit building safety| Practice kennel routine in & out, practice var. entrances/exits, build good habits| DW demo: shy, small, overstimulated, intro to reactivity| practice tips|
  - **“Skills, helpful “tricks”, equipment”**- 30 minutes |self led- watch 4 short videos
- **“Dog Handling Pt. 2”**- 1.5-2 hrs | 3rd shift | Practice/reinforce good habits & routine | Demo: leash harness x2, ez walk, double leash| Practice |
- **Yearly “Safe Handling Refresher Pt. 1”**- 30 min| self led-video review of current best practices, CHS handling protocols, review shelter vocab|complete survey- topics you’d like covered ip|
- **Yearly “Safe Handling Refresher Pt. 2”** 1 hr|small groups |presentation & hands on| review/discuss vocab, processes, protocols, address concerns/ideas, demo of advanced/special skills, ways to change up/get creative with DW|

- **“Specific Skill Development”**- training session length varies based on topic 30 min-1 hr| number of sessions based on complexity of skill/other factors 1-3| volunteers can request additional training for specific skills, behaviors, etc. or can request a 1 on 1 overall refresher| in person/hands on training with supplemental self led materials|
- **“Crosstrain @ different location”**- 1-1.5hr | In person|Learn to walk dogs at a different facility so that you can fill in/pick up shifts, expand knowledge & skills| Available after 4 months of volunteering| Tour of facility, building specific operations/protocols, behavior & safety info, meet staff, meet vols|
- **“Pack Walk Participant”**- 30 min-1 hr| In person, small group| learn how to organize & safely facilitate “Pack or Pair Walks”| Available after 4 months of volunteering (85% or better attendance record) or sooner depending on prior professional exp, demonstrated understanding & execution of required skills |PW basics: Who, what, when, where, why, how, & documentation|
- **“Playgroup Runner”** 2-3 hours split up in several sessions | In person/hands on training with supplemental self led materials| individual & group session available| Available after 4 months of volunteering (90% or better attendance required) or sooner depending on prior professional exp, demonstrated understanding & execution of required skills | PG basics: Who, what, when, where, why, how, documentation & practice executing “runner” role|
- **“Continuing education”**-
- Unlimited access to our continually growing database of canine resources ◦ canine behavior/training, behavior modification, peer reviewed scientific research on various topics, body language guides, animal welfare/canine related podcasts, print/ebooks, webinars, online free/paid courses, annual conferences, info on careers in Animal Welfare, canine enrichment in/out of sheltering.
- Limited opportunities for canine related internship/job shadows, academic projects, resume building opportunities.