

Veterinary Dept. Support

Objective:

- Assist the Veterinary department with important tasks to prepare for surgery and reset after surgery each day.

Locations/Hours of Operation:

- **Intake and Assessment Center** |2320 Park Blvd |
Shift times for this role are
Mon-Fri 7:30am-9:30am, 10am-12pm, 1pm-3pm, 3pm-4:30pm
- **Stransky Veterinary Center** |5505 O Street Suite 1 |
Shift times for this role are
Mon-Fri 8:00am-10:00am, 10:00am-11:30am, 1pm-2:30pm, 2:30pm-4pm

Qualifications:

- **Age:** Must be at least 18 years old
- **Experience:** None required
- **Knowledge:** Must demonstrate understanding of the importance of respecting animals boundaries & responsibility of being an animal caretaker. Should have the ability to read basic body language & knowledge of safe handling skills.
- **Physical:** Must be able to squat, bend, and lift up to 10 lbs.
- **Characteristics:** Must consistently follow verbal/written instructions, possess excellent awareness of surroundings, willingness & desire to learn, communicate effectively with others
- **Minimum Time Commitment:** 1.5/2hr weekly shift, set schedule, for a minimum of 4 months

Conditions:

- **Noise:** Barking/whining can be very loud at times, especially in the dog kennel area
- **Temperatures:** Varied, though usually moderate
- **Hazardous chemicals:** Potential exposure (used to sanitize animal living spaces) and surgical equipment
- **Pet hair/dander:** Those with extreme allergies should be aware
- **Biological materials:** Some exposure to cat feces, urine, etc. Possibility of exposure to zoonotic disease such as ringworm, giardia, etc.
- 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.
- Morning shifts will take place while surgeries are going on, individuals who are averse to seeing surgery should avoid the morning shift.

Role specific duties

- **Morning shifts:** Make drapes, unsheath syringes, move animals to surgery, assist with surgery prep and recovery, assist with medicating, assist with morning rounds.
- **Afternoon shifts:** cleaning breathing tubes and bags, cleaning and sorting surgical instruments, wrap surgical packs, clean surgical suites, run surgery animals back to appropriate cages/kennels, clean up surgery areas, rooms, hallways, create instrument packs, assist with health checks, assist with medicating.

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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: ongoing|in person, hands on3|

(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|
- *“Vet Support Training”*-ongoing|1st few shifts |Tour of facility, daily responsibilities, behavior, health, & safety info, meet staff, meet vols,