Canine Behavior Specialist
Job Description

Class: Non-Exempt
Revised: August 2016

Reports To: Director of Animal Behavior and Training

POSITION OVERVIEW:

Provide all animals in Great Plains SPCA care with professional, conscientious, compassionate care, meeting physical and behavioral needs

- Assess animals behaviorally and are able to identify different types of aggression
- Responsible for creating behavior prescription plans for dogs with behavioral challenges and follow-up with staff to make sure they’re implementing them correctly
- Provide daily enrichment to the animals at the Pet Adoption Center and Veterinary Care Center at the Merriam Campus
- Provide daily playgroups and are able to break up dog fights safely and effectively
- Practice outstanding customer service for people seeking behavioral help with their adopted animals and actively follow-up with dogs with behavior consults
- Assist with Behavior Consultations onsite and offsite
- Assist Director of Animal of Behavior and Training with behavior classes for staff and volunteers
- Provide instruction to staff and volunteers on how to work with dogs displaying behavioral challenges
- Knowledge of advanced canine behavior and will receive ongoing behavior training
- Ability to handle dogs and cats and occasional other animals of all sizes, ages, temperaments and needs safely and appropriately
- Maintain excellent knowledge of all shelter standard medical procedures, vaccines, preventatives, and common diseases and their symptoms, transmission, prevention
- Monitor health of animals and rapidly identify any health issues and report to Veterinary Staff or supervisor
- Monitor behavioral health of animals and rapidly identify any issues that may require special action and report to Director of Animal Behavior and campus Shelter Manager
- Use shelter database and employee communication systems to keep accurate animal inventory, write animal behavior and other memos, submit medical exam requests, place holds on animals, and keep up-to-date with all staff communication
- Work with staff and volunteers to get to know, provide for, transition, and promote adoptable animals
- Assist staff by properly administering or restraining for vaccinations, microchips, blood draws, medications, and restraining for exams

Provide professional, compassionate, stellar customer service to all who visit, call, volunteer, and donate

- Actively engage members of the public from the moment they arrive, assist and answer any questions
• Maintain knowledge of and communicate Intake, Adoptions, and public Veterinary Care procedures as well as procedures and contact information for all organization programs and departments
• Facilitate good adoption matches through conversation and help set realistic expectations of time, care, and financial commitment
• Maintain excellent knowledge of and communicate all standard shelter medical procedures, vaccines, preventatives, behavior and training of both dogs and cats, retail products and why/how they are helpful in adjusting a new dog or cat
• Ensure all animals have behavior evaluations completed before being made available

SPECIFIC SKILLS:

• Compassion and empathy for animal and human clients
• Strong interpersonal and verbal and written communication skills
• Maturity, good judgment and professionalism
• Ability to work individually and on a team, multi-task and self-start
• Ability to remain calm and empathic in stressful situations

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

• High school or GED
• Prefer experience with animal handling, playgroups and understanding canine body language
• Prefer familiarity with computer functions and programs such as Internet and web-based programs, Microsoft Office

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:

• Handle and restrain animals weighing up to 100 lbs
• Lift 50 lbs to waist height
• Frequent standing, walking, bending, lifting, stooping, carrying, and reaching

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

• Possess a valid driver’s license

At Will Employment:

There is no minimum period of employment guaranteed or implied by acceptance of an employment offer. It is the policy of Great Plains SPCA that employment is at will, which means that employment is for no specific term and that employment may be terminated by the employee or GPSPCA at any time without cause.

Great Plains SPCA is an equal opportunity employer. We do not discriminate against any employee or applicant because of race, color, sex, religion, age, national origin, disability, or for any basis protected by applicable federal, state, or local law. We assure you that your opportunity for employment with Great Plains SPCA depends solely on your qualifications.

Note: This position description is not intended to be all-inclusive. You may be required to perform other related duties within your skill set as negotiated and/or directed to meet the ongoing needs of your department and the organization.

All applicants are asked to complete a short survey at http://ciims.cindexinc.com/job/6fb725 prior to submitting the application.

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