Title/position: Dog Walker

Description: Dog Walkers assist with more than just exercising dogs. They play a vital role in providing dogs with basic obedience and training, monitoring canine behavior, working on dogs’ individualized behavioral plans, feeding, cleaning, socialization, promoting dogs and more. There are three levels of Dog Walkers; Green, Yellow, and Purple. In order to advance to the next level, Dog Walkers must show competence in their skills and attend the necessary training courses.

Responsibilities:
- Photographing and taking videos to help promote animals
- Creating cage-cards and bios highlighting animal personalities

Morning volunteers assist with:
- Feeding dogs based on individualized diet plans
- Cleaning and preparing kennels
- Taking dogs out for first walks
- Monitoring medical and behavioral needs in the daily log
- Preparing the animals to meet potential adopters
- Preparing the public areas of the shelter for opening

Afternoon volunteers spend their time:
- Socializing and comforting dogs through play and quiet time
- Walking dogs while following specialized training and behavioral plans
- Folding laundry and washing dishes
- Preparing enrichment toys
- Assisting potential adopters in choosing the right pet for their lifestyle

Requirements: Volunteers must be at least 16 years of age or older and able to practice safe animal handling. They must be able to deal with adverse weather conditions, (we walk the dogs rain or shine), and be able to handle moderate physical activity. Volunteers must also be committed to using the handling and training protocols outlined by LHS, be receptive to feedback and have a willingness to learn. This position has high animal contact and volunteers will interact with dogs of all different sizes, breeds and behaviors.

Time commitment: Volunteers must be willing and able to meet our minimum service requirement of one shift per week, at least 2 hours long, for 6 months. Volunteers must attend an orientation session to get started, and then additional dog walking courses for each volunteer level.

Location: Lowell Humane Society, 951 Broadway St. Lowell, MA 01854

Benefits: Make a difference in the lives of local shelter pets by providing them with the hands-on care and attention that they need to thrive while awaiting their forever homes. Grow your skills, get exercise, reduce stress, and join a network of others that share your passion.

How to apply/contact information: To apply, fill out our online volunteer application by clicking here. For more information, contact the Volunteer Coordinator by emailing volunteer@lowellhumanesociety.org, or calling the shelter during regular hours at (978) 452-7781.