

Dog Companion Volunteer Level I

Position Summary

Canine Companions provide socialization, exercise and basic care to the dogs at the Animal Rescue League (ARL) of Berks County. The dog-human interactions can help relieve stress and provides environmental enrichment to improve the dog's quality of life and can increase their adoptability.

Supervisor

Dog Manager and Dog Assistant Manager

Essential Functions

- Walk dogs and/or take dogs to the play yard for exercise and socialization
- Provide human contact including petting and brushing
- Spot cleaning dog kennels
- Filling water dishes
- Enriching the kennel environment by providing approved toys and treats
- Changing soiled bedding
- Clean and disinfect toys
- Identify possible medical or behavior problems and report concerns
- Interacting with the public in a helpful and courteous manner
- Give feedback about the dogs
- Other duties assigned

Requirements

- Minimum age of 18 years
- Ability to follow instruction from staff, and work with minimum supervision
- Physically capable of handling dogs of various sizes and temperaments including walking large dogs on a leash, removing them and placing them back in their kennels and lifting 40lbs or more.
- Willingness to learn about dogs and how to properly and humanely interact with them
- Concern for the welfare of dogs and support ARL policies and mission
- Serve as an ambassador for the ARL in our community

Training & Support

- Attend a Volunteer Orientation
- Complete mandatory canine training classes
 - Dog Behavior, Body Language & Handling
 - General Medical Class
 - In Shelter Training, Kennel Cleaning and Dog Walking
- Mentor with a qualified ARL staff member and/or volunteer
- Ongoing trainings as required

Dress Code

- ID tag badge and Volunteer t-shirt
- Closed Toe Shoes
- Long Pants
- Safety whistle