



Adult Volunteer Opportunities

Time Commitment: 8 hours per month

Animal Handling Positions

- Dog Handler
- Cat Handler
- Small Animal Handler
- Enrichment Assistant
- Kennel Helper
- Groomer
- Behavior Assistant
- Lucky Break Volunteer
- Animal Transporter
- Photographer/Photo Team Volunteer
- Special Event Assistant/Tour Guide

To safely and effectively serve as a volunteer in all volunteer positions, volunteers need to possess the following capabilities:

- Ability to receive, incorporate and sustain instruction and feedback.
- Excellent communication skills. Bilingual is a plus.
- Customer service experience a plus.
- Possess problem-solving capability.
- Ability to be aware of potentially dangerous situations when working with the animals; ability to remain calm with animals who are upset, behave sensitively and confidently, and show good judgment and act appropriately in these situations.
- Ability to cope with unexpected animal behavior without assistance and euthanasia.
- Ability to cope with a highly emotionally-charged environment and in the presence of animals who are homeless, abandoned, injured and/or abused.

Animal Handling Positions

- **Dog Handler:** Dog Handlers are responsible for walking dogs, preparing and distributing enrichment items, cleaning runs and play areas as necessary.
- **Cat Handler:** Cat Handlers are responsible for socializing and providing enrichment to cats.
- **Small Animal Handler:** Small Animal Handlers are responsible for grooming the small animals and providing enrichment and other special activities.
- **Enrichment Assistant:** Enrichment Assistants are responsible for preparing and creating enrichment items such as stuffed Kongs, busy buckets, scent sticks, etc.
- **Kennel Helper:** Kennel Helpers are responsible for assisting staff with maintenance of the shelter to include items such as cleaning kennels, washing dishes, washing windows, doing laundry, organizing shelves, etc.

- **Groomer:** Animal Groomers are responsible for brushing, bathing, trimming fur, etc. Animals deemed safe for grooming will be identified by ASD staff.
- **Behavior Assistant:** Behavior Assistants are responsible for the socialization, enrichment and training of animals, including other special activities.
- **Lucky Break Volunteer:** Lucky Break Volunteers are responsible for giving adoptable dog(s) a “break” from the shelter and/or showcasing them in surrounding areas to attract potential adopters.
- **Animal Transporter:** Animal Transporters are responsible for transporting animals to local rescue organizations in the State of Maryland in their personal vehicles.
- **Photographers/Photo Team Volunteers:** Photographers/Photo Teams are responsible for capturing photos of adoptable animals at the shelter for use on the shelter’s site, social media outlets, and print materials.
- **Special Event Assistant/Tour Guide:** Special Event Assistants/Tour Guides are responsible for assisting staff with the coordination of special events both on and off site and/or giving tours of the shelter to community groups. May involve the direct handling of animals.

To safely and effectively serve as a volunteer in animal handling positions, volunteers also need to possess the following capabilities:

- Ability to multi-task (example: open cage door while handling animal).
- High level of manual dexterity to leash/harness animals and handle small tools.
- Ability to walk animals unaided on paved walking trail and sometimes muddy and slippery terrain.
- Ability to leash/harness and pick up an animal.
- Ability to handle strong, energetic dogs.
- Ability to stand or sit for significant periods of time.
- Comfortable bending, squatting, and kneeling.
- Ability to move safely around the building and to be able to read notes on animals’ paperwork.
- Ability to read an animal’s behavior to identify if they are fearful or in pain.
- Ability to maneuver well in tight spaces.
- Must not have strong allergies to animals or to chemicals, such as those used in grooming or cleaning, that can’t be managed by medication.
- Ability to deal with strong and unpleasant odors, fleas, feces and possible wounds or injuries to animals in our care.
- Ability to cope with a very loud environment.
- Ability to reach cabinets and cages at least six feet in height, using a step stool as needed.
- Ability to push carts and barrels of potentially heavy laundry; load and unload washer and dryer; fold clean laundry and put away.
- Ability to lift 50 pounds comfortably.
- Experience handling a variety of animals a plus.
- No known concerns about tolerating exposure to zoonotic diseases such as ringworm and mange.

Any questions can be directed to the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteermcasac@montgomerycountymd.gov

THANK YOU!