

Job title: Shelter Behavior Specialist

Responsible to: Behavior and Training Manager

Hours: Non-exempt full-time, 40 hours, hours vary, evenings and weekends required

Summary of duties and responsibilities:

The shelter behavior specialist plays a vital role in ensuring emotional wellbeing and safety of the dogs in our care. This role's primary goal is to help evaluate and work directly with behavior concerns of at-risk dogs within a shelter. This is accomplished through adequate enrichment, training and behavior modification as resources allow. The role will also assist with providing education on behavior to internal team members within the canine team, fosters, volunteers, and adopters (both pre and post adoption).

Knowledge and Role Requirements:

- Proven ability to work in a fast-paced, challenging environment, with a thorough understanding and support of open admission shelter philosophies.
- Understanding of canine behavior challenges, body language, and causes.
- Intrinsic motivator and initiator. Must be able to work solo and interface with species specific teams.

Primary Responsibilities and Duties:

- Ensures the emotional and physical needs of dogs within care are being met.
- Responsible for being a lead role in playgroup establishment, and ensures all qualifying dogs are attempted in playgroup.
- Notifies appropriate parties of behavior concerns as they arise, including adoption counselors, Canine and Behavior manager.
- Assists in maintaining adequate signage and documentation for behavior tracking (on kennels and in PetPoint)
- Effective adoption counseling for high needs behavior cases.
- Follows up on post-adoption behavior concerns.
- Performs behavior evaluations.
- Tracks and modifies plans for shelter dogs while in care at the shelter or in foster.
- Continues education and takes responsibility to pass education to species specific teams, volunteers and fosters in a productive and encouraging manner. This may include small seminars, so comfortability with public speaking is important.
- Assists canine staff in ensuring basic needs are met.
- Occasionally assist in veterinary exams for dogs who need a tailored approach.
- Occasionally expected to work with feline behavior cases.

- Other job duties as assigned.

Prior work experience, and physical requirements:

- Must be comfortable with handling dogs of all sizes, ability to lift 50 lbs unassisted, and remain standing for extended periods of time.
- 6 months of shelter experience preferred. SBA (Shelter Behavior Affiliate) credentialled or to be acquired within one year of hire.
- Demonstrated ability in oral and written communication skills.
- Possess a valid driver's license and have reliable transportation.