



VOLUNTEER POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position: Beachwalking Dog Team Volunteer*

Locations: Gold Coast ONLY

GOLD COAST	8:00am – 12:00 noon (<i>Designated Days</i>)
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Reports to: Senior Dog Team Leader

Description: This role involves the exercising and enrichment of our amazing shelter dogs at the beach with a small cohesive and effective team of volunteers. The shift involves close communication with AWLQ Dog Rehoming Staff and the onsite collection and co-ordination of selected shelter animals for the daily program. This role also involves the feeding and cleaning of shelter dogs on return, as well as the general upkeep, care and cleaning of AWLQ transport vehicles. Volunteers need to be extremely reliable, confident with dogs and must adhere to strict AWLQ policies about managing animals off site. You will need to be physically fit, able to handle all large and boisterous dogs, need to work hard, will need to be able to cope with the physical demands and time restrictions of the position. Some members of the team also require a full driver’s license for a manual vehicle.

Stress: Please note that while the shelter is a wonderful place to visit, sometimes working in a shelter environment may cause stressors to certain individuals, namely those who have either a history of / or are predisposed to: anxiety, depression, mental health issues, are in physically poor health or have been diagnosed as being on the ASD spectrum.

If you fall into these categories please feel free to contact our Volunteer Department for more information.

Physical Capacity Required:

- Moderate level physical fitness with the ability to lift up to 20kg.
- Ability to cope with bending up and down and being on your feet for most of the shift.
- High level of manual dexterity, ability to manage multiple objects at once.
- Ability to walk unaided on grounds, pathways, grass, stairs and sometimes slippery and muddy pathways and yards.
- Clear vision, ability to see animal’s body language, see obstacles and hazards.
- Ability to hear if an animal is in distress, giving low sounds or initial warning sounds that the animal is indicating fear.

Mental Capacity Required:

- Highly developed communication and interpersonal skills.
- Hardworking and show initiative when required.
- Attention to detail particularly regarding procedures, hygiene and sanitization.
- Ability to comply with Standard Operating Procedures, Workplace Health and Safety Guidelines
- Work in a safe manner without risk to themselves, others or the environment.

- Correctly use all personal protective equipment provided.
- Comply with all emergency and evacuation procedures, respond appropriately to safety incidents.

Emotional Capacity Required:

- Calm and confident with dogs and people.
- Not easily distressed, not easily upset.
- Mature and emotionally secure. The shelter environment can be a trigger for some people with emotional or mental trauma.
- Ability to cope with changes, busy working environment and demanding schedule.
- Gentle and mature disposition with demonstrated affinity with animals.
- Not bothered by strong smells or getting dirty.

Autonomous / Unsupervised Capacity Required:

- Demonstrated ability to take direction from team members in supervisory roles.
- Ability to work autonomously while managing your own time effectively.
- Ability to work as part of a team.

Skills required: Confidence with dogs, the ability to work as part of a team member and also individually. Attention to details, physically fit, the ability to cope with loud noises, able to follow instructions.

Volunteer characteristics: Excellent communication skills, hard working, reliable, efficient, courteous manner, good attitude to work, trustworthy and hold the same aims and objectives aligned with the AWLQ..

Skills gained: Animal husbandry experience, work experience in a shelter environment, dog training and handling techniques, dog enrichment and care.

Time commitment: Must be able to commit to a 4 hour working week on a regular day, between 8am and 12am.