

Animal Behavior and Training Specialist

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Primary Function: To facilitate life-long placements and lower relinquishments of pets through education and training of volunteers, staff and the general public. To enhance the life of our shelter animals through training, behavior modification and enrichment activities.

Essential Duties & Responsibilities

- Participate in the implementation of in-house shelter animal programs using positive reinforcement training methods. Includes participation in evaluation of animals, preparation of individual written training plans, and hands-on work with animals in the program.
- Lead group training classes for the public and in-house animals offered through spcaLA.
- Maintain on-going behavior treatment programs for dogs & cats in our shelter. Work with the Director of Training & Behavior on meeting the behavioral needs of the animals in our shelters. Assist shelter personnel and volunteers in regards to behavioral sheltering and training for the animals in our care.
- Set up and perform temperament and obedience testing of animals to be used in the Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) program and Canine Good Citizen (CGC) testing.
- Provide on-site counseling for potential adopters to help make successful placements.
- Perform office work including: filing, organizing, maintaining supplies, copying, scheduling and database entry.
- Maintain a high level of communication and work collaboratively with all personnel in a manner that is consistent with agency policy.
- Perform other duties, as assigned

Job Related & Essential Qualifications

Ability to:

- Handle the physical and emotional aspects of work in an animal shelter environment.
- Handle all types of domestic animals including but not limited to dogs and cats.
- Work well and communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with the public, fellow employees and volunteers.
- Understand and carry out oral and written instructions.
- Speak in public and instruct groups diverse in age, culture, and socioeconomic status, in varied settings.
- Maintain accurate records as required to ensure that accurate and timely information is available.
- Show maturity and good judgment, perform the job in a professional manner and work efficiently under pressure.
- Execute projects with little supervision and work independently.
- Must be highly self-motivated and well organized to manage multiple priorities in a fast paced work environment.
- Attend and participate in Society events.

Knowledge of:

- Teaching, training, & Behavior Modification techniques.
- Basic domestic animal care.
- Computer applications (Word, Excel, Email,).
- Usage of office equipment (copier, fax machine, telephone, etc.).
- Digital Video Recording equipment.

Other Essential Qualifications

- Must be able to work a flexible schedule as well as the ability to work overtime. Work hours will also include weekend and evening shifts.

License Required -Possession of a valid and appropriate California Driver's License will be required prior to employment. License must be maintained in the course of employment. Applicant must be insurable to drive company vehicles.

Physical Demands -While performing this job the employee is regularly required to use hands and fingers; handle or feel objects, tools or controls; reach with hands and arms; talk loudly and clearly; and hear. Requires the mobility to stand, walk, sit, kneel, crouch and crawl. Perform work which includes walking large dogs, lifting, carrying and/or pushing of 50 lb. or more.

Working Conditions -Dealing with an office environment in which the noise level is generally moderate, but on occasion will be high. This position requires the ability to deal with a variety of animals and people including dealing with dangerous or hostile animals, youth and/or general public. In the shelters there is often a very high noise level and possible exposure to parasites and infectious diseases. Must also be willing to travel occasionally.

Experience and Training

- High school diploma required. Prefer college degree or equivalent. Attendance at a variety of animal training and behavior classes, workshops & seminars. Understanding of learning theory helpful.
- Paid training experience independently teaching group classes required.
- CPDT-KA, KPA, CTC, certification or equivalent preferred.
- Practical experience handling both dogs and cats. Previous shelter work experience is highly desirable.
- Understanding of the Spanish Language beneficial.

Salary Range: *\$15- 17/hour This is a full time non-exempt position with benefits*

Employment Location: P.D. Pitchford Companion Animal Village & Education Center
7700 E. Spring Street
Long Beach, CA 90815

and/or

South Bay Pet Adoption Center
12910 Yukon Avenue
Hawthorne, CA 90250

Email resume to Jobs@spcaLA.com