

Advanced Dog Walking Volunteer

The Advanced Dog Walking Role is designed for experienced dog handlers. These volunteers assist the Behaviour Team to provide exercise and stimulation to the dogs under the care of EHS. Advanced Dog Walkers will be working with dogs that display complex behaviours such as impulsivity (i.e. jumping, pulling, mouthing), reactivity, or fearfulness.

Volunteers interested in this role must be comfortable working with, and learning about, these behaviours, have previous experience with dog handling, and be comfortable working with all different sizes and breeds of dog. This role helps to ensure all animal welfare needs are met by taking dogs out for 15 – 20-minute walks and/or exercise in the outdoor pens.

Responsibilities & Tasks:

- Walk and exercise the advanced dogs under the care of EHS.
- Review each dog's socialization board and paperwork for information and special instructions.
- Appropriately use all walking gear issued to the dog(s).
- Safely walk dog(s) and return to them to the proper kennel.
- Gain and utilize knowledge of positive reinforcement training.
- Practice safe handling techniques
- Record exercise/physical activity observations
- Adhere to health and safety procedures and wear appropriate PPE (personal protective equipment) as necessary.
- Notify the appropriate channel(s) of any behavioural or health concerns pertaining to the dog(s).
- Work in compliance with all EHS policies, procedures, and protocols, including disease management.
- Coordinate with other volunteers and staff to ensure the needs of the dogs are met.

Skills & Capabilities:

- Must have previous experience handling complex dog behaviours.
- Must be able to safely harness dogs and manage dogs on leash.
- Knowledge of canine body language.
- Must be able to read, write, listen, and communicate effectively (orally and verbally).
- Ability to work independently and collectively with team members.
- Ability to handle dogs upwards of approximately 100 lbs. and maintain footing with a dog pulling on the leash.
- Ability to stand, walk, crouch, and run.
- Ability to receive, incorporate, and sustain instruction and feedback.
- Training/education and/or professional experience in dog handling, or canine behaviour and training, is an asset.

Commitment & Scheduling:

- **Once training is completed, volunteers are asked to commit to a minimum of one 2-hour shift per week.**

Role Requirements:

- Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older.

How to Get Involved

The process of becoming a dog walking volunteer takes time, as we want to ensure that candidates can learn more about the opportunity to ensure that the role is a good fit. All recruits for Advanced Dog Walker will begin with onboarding and training as a beginner-level dog walking volunteer.

Screening:

- Submit application by creating an account in our system.
- Short phone interview.
- Completion of a Criminal Record Check.

Onboarding & Training:

EHS offers a comprehensive onboarding and training process to ensure all our volunteers are well equipped with the knowledge and resources they need to be successful. We give candidates approximately **1 week to complete each of the steps below**. Steps can be completed in a shorter time frame, depending on the candidate's availability.

- Online EHS Volunteer Orientation & Role Specific Training
- Two in-person Buddy Shifts

After this training is complete, volunteers must complete **10 hours of beginner-level dog walking** within an agreed upon timeline to get oriented to the shelter, its animal population, and procedures. After these 10 hours are complete, volunteers will complete the following training steps to become qualified to work with the Advanced dogs (also referred to as Yellow Board dogs) who display more complex behaviours:

- Online Yellow Board Dog Walking training module
- One in-person Yellow Board Dog Walking Assessment

After completing these steps, volunteers will officially become active members of our Advanced Dog Walking team!

Benefits of Being an EHS Volunteer:

- Chance to make a difference in the lives of animals.
- Belonging to a friendly community of like-minded individuals.
- Boost your mood and reduce stress by spending time around animals.
- Hands on experience working with a variety of dogs.
- On-going learning opportunities to increase your knowledge of animal welfare.

Ready to Get Started?

Click the button below to start your application.

[Apply Now!](#)