

Volunteer Position Description

Position: Husbandry and Socialisation Assistant

Departments: Kennels, Cattery and Domestic

Volunteer Program Coordinator: Stella Molloy	
Phone:	6287 8100
Email:	volunteers@rspca-act.org.au

Location: 12 Kirkpatrick Street Weston ACT 2611

Hours: Opportunities seven days a week between 8:30-10:30 and 1:30 -3:30

You are not required to volunteer for every shift this is the span of hours the role is being performed. Applicants to nominate availability as well as shift time when applying.

About the Position

This is a dynamic role with ever changing priorities on an as needs basis. Tasks will be allocated at the start of each shift. This role supports all our work areas including kennels, cattery, pocket pets, birds, reptiles and farm animals. You will have the chance to learn many aspects of the shelter as well as be trained in multiple areas. Your day will include general animal husbandry, socialisation and ad hoc related tasks.

The husbandry tasks are critical for the wellbeing and happiness of dogs and puppies as well as our cats, kittens and rabbits living at the shelter and includes cleaning and feeding. This role is to assist staff in making sure the living arrangements for all our animals are pleasant, safe and sanitary.

Socialisation is about being with our shelter animals so they have the opportunity to have daily positive interaction with a variety of people. Familiarity with humans and handling increases the likelihood of successful adoption.

Key Duties

- Cleaning kennels, cat enclosures, carriers and cages as well as yards and recreational areas for all or our animals
- Handling and socialisation of dogs, puppies as well as cats, kittens, rabbits and a wide variety of other animals.
- Replenishing water, food, bedding and toys in enclosures, yards and animal recreation areas
- Creating and distributing enrichment
- Laundry tasks inclusive of washing/drying/folding blankets, toy cleaning /sorting.
- Washing of equipment including but not limited to the washing and drying of food bowls, litter trays, enrichment items, implements and toys.

Mission

To prevent cruelty to animals by actively promoting their care and protection.

Vision

To be the leading authority in animal care and protection.

About RSPCA ACT

RSPCA ACT cares for thousands of animals each year. Our Canberra shelter is a leader in animal welfare outcomes in Australia. We are committed to finding a home for every healthy companion animal and we have no time limits, age limits, or space limits for animals in our care.

RSPCA ACT operates an animal shelter, an animal cruelty inspectorate, a fully equipped veterinary clinic, a pet supply store, dog training classes a cat boarding facility and programs to support vulnerable members of the community. We are supported by dedicated staff and hundreds of volunteers who work to improve the lives of animals in the region.

Skills & Qualities

- Positive and friendly attitude
- Willingness to take direction
- Experience with dogs, cats and other species (either in a personal or professional capacity)
- Positive and upbeat attitude
- Willingness to take direction
- Attention to detail
- Able to work in multiple area
- Enjoy changing and dynamic days
- Can deal with the unexpected

Benefits

- Opportunity to learn about care & health requirements of domestic animals
- Increased knowledge of animal behaviour and handling
- Participation in a worthwhile cause.
- Lots of contact with a variety of domestic animals

Induction and training

- RSPCA Volunteer Induction
- Practical training module with a member of staff
- Practical training session(s) with a member of staff

Additional requirements

- Uniform Compliance
- Working with Vulnerable People Registration
- Tetanus vaccination up to date
- Six-month commitment to volunteering with the RSPCA

Socialisation – Task Analysis

The role of a sitter requires a degree of bending, sitting and squatting in small spaces. Occupants must be able to work independently and with minimal supervision.

Description	Requirement	Regularly/irregularly	Additional Information
Manual Handling	1. Lifting 0-10kg	Regularly	• Animals
	2. Bending	Regularly	• Bending in and out of animal

			cages to socialise animals.
	3. Squatting	Regularly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Squatting to sit and socialise with animals.
	4. Sitting	Regularly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sitting on cold surfaces such as the ground and enclosures to socialise animals.
Work Environment	5. Works indoors	Regularly	
	6. Works outdoors	Regularly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exposure to weather (sun, cold and rain)
	7. Exposure to biological hazards	Irregularly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoonotic diseases
	8. Exposure to risk of animal scratches/bites	Regularly	
	9. Requirement to wear personal protective equipment (PPE)	Regularly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gloves Virkon mask
	10. Exposure to psychosocial risks	Regularly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Euthanasia Sick or injured animals

Husbandry– Task Analysis

The role of a cleaner is physically demanding requiring a high degree of lifting, bending, squatting and reaching., including within small spaces. Occupants of these roles are on their feet for the entirety of their shift (generally 2 hours). Occupants must be able to work independently and with minimal supervision.

Manual Handling	11. Lifting 0-10kg	Regularly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kennels grates Animals Scratching posts Litter trays Disposing of garbage bags Food and water bowls Carry cages
-----------------	--------------------	-----------	---

	12. Lifting 10kg +	Irregularly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lifting bags of food and/or litter
	13. Bending	Regularly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bending in and out of kennels to scoop animal droppings, pick up bedding and other items Bending in and out of animal enclosures to lift animals, litter trays and other items
	14. Squatting	Regularly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Squatting to lift items in and out of enclosures
	15. Reaching	Regularly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reaching to lift items in and out of enclosures
	16. Push/pull	Irregularly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pushing or pulling garbage or laundry cart
Work Environment	17. Works indoors	Regularly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laundry
	18. Works outdoors	Regularly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exposure to weather (sun, cold and rain)
	19. Exposure to chemicals	Regularly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virkon
	20. Exposure to biological hazards	Irregularly	Zoonotic diseases
	21. Exposure to risk of animal scratches/bites	Regularly	
	22. Requirement to wear personal protective equipment (PPE)	Regularly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gloves Virkon mask
	23. Exposure to psychosocial risks	Regularly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Euthanasia Sick or injured animals