



Dog Walker at ARL's Animal Services

Why volunteer as a Dog Walker at Animal Services?

Dog Walking at the Animal Rescue League of Iowa – Animal Services location, is crucial to the health and well-being of the canine population. All of the dogs in our care are from the City of Des Moines. Many of them are separated or unwanted by their families and they are completely dependent on our staff and volunteers to provide for their physical needs, mental state, and general well-being. By volunteering with ARL - Animal Services, you are giving the canines in our care the ability to more effectively manage the stress of the shelter, become a better pet for their family should the dog be reclaimed or help the animal find a new family. As a dog walker, you will provide exercise, socialization and offer enrichment in the form of walks, training, visiting and play.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Work alongside Animal Care Staff and under the direction of Animal Services Supervisors
- Exercise and socialize the dogs
- Clean up after each dog
- Offer appropriate enrichment for the dogs
- Read and follow any specific instructions provided for the dogs to be walked
- Record each dog walk and any relevant notes
- Report any medical or behavioral issues to Animal Care staff

Requirements

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Must be able to commit to a minimum of two shifts per month
- Ability to engage in a moderate amount of physical activity
- Ability to work in all weather conditions
- Ability to work independently
- Ability to tolerate a loud environment
- Commitment to using the handling and training protocols of ARL
- Willingness to learn and be receptive to feedback
- Ability to interact with dogs of various sizes, shapes, breeds, and training levels
- Des Moines Police Department may check criminal backgrounds

Shifts

- Volunteers must sign up for shifts a minimum of 8 hours in advance
- Shift times:
 - Monday – Saturday 2pm – 5pm
 - Morning shifts may be available for experienced volunteers

Training

- Volunteers will attend an ARL – Animal Services orientation and training (approximately 1 hour)
- Volunteers will complete multiple mentor shifts, where they will shadow an experienced Animal Care staff member until they are ready to walk dogs without supervision

HOW TO APPLY

Current Volunteers: email volunteer@arl-iowa.org

New Volunteers: will need to complete new volunteer onboarding process

Skills (preferred, but not required)

- Basic dog handling skills
- Basic understanding of canine behavior
- Self-starter