



— SANTA MARIA VALLEY —  
**HUMANE SOCIETY**

**1687 W. Stowell Road \* Santa Maria, CA 93458**  
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**www.smvhs.org**

## **VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION**

### **Dog Exerciser**

Working with shelter dogs is a strenuous job that demands physical strength and the cognitive ability to follow directions and established protocols that are designed to keep our animals and volunteers safe. Dog volunteers must be able to stand for long periods of time, move about easily and quickly, be able to run after and catch a dog that is running loose, and not be afraid of dogs with fearful or aggressive behavior. The position for dog exercising volunteer is 10AM to 1PM, and 1PM to 4PM or later, Monday through Saturday, as scheduling permits. Each volunteer is assigned a particular shift or multiple shifts within the week. All volunteers of SMVHS are to report to the volunteer coordinator, Kira Farrell, with questions about their volunteer experience and with any changes to their schedule.

### **Duties include, but are not limited to:**

- Following directions from the Kennel Staff, keeping up to date on any changes or updates
- Only exercising dogs appropriate to your level of training at the SMVHS.
  - New dog volunteers begin as “green dot” volunteers and work only with green collar dogs. New volunteers must shadow an experienced dog volunteer and begin with yard rotation following the rules on the board. They are to practice yard rotation for the first 3 to 4 weeks in the program, and take direction from the senior volunteers, kennel staff, and the volunteer coordinator.
  - Moving up in levels requires further trainings
- Following procedures of properly remove a dog from their kennel, and either walk them or take them to an exercise yard.
- Interact with, and help visitors. Further training in Matchmaking may be done to take customers through the adoption process.
- Participations in outside events (pre-approved) such as the Walk in the Park at Waller Park, education trips, community events, and adoption events.
- No headphones are allowed while working with the dogs as the volunteer must be able to hear if someone needs their assistance.
- Working within your personal comfort zone, do not take a dog out if you are uncomfortable doing so. Even if your training level matches the dog’s requirements.

### **Requirements:**

- No experience required, however being comfortable around dogs is necessary.
- Attend an orientation meeting and dog handling workshop.
- Continuous safe handling of dogs, any bad behavior (hitting, kicking, aggressiveness to dogs) is grounds for immediate dismissal.
- Wear long pants and closed-toe shoes.