

# Clackamas County Dog Services Volunteer Application

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## To volunteer at Dog Services you must be:

- At least 18 years old to work in the shelter with the dogs. If you are between 10 and 18, you may volunteer with a parent or guardian as a team.
- Able to attend a volunteer orientation class
- Prepared to give at least 2 hours weekly for 1 year.
- A humane and caring person with time and love to share

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s) Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Are you 14 years old or older? \_\_\_\_\_ Are you 18 years old or older? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you wish to volunteer at Dog Services?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Personal References (three please):

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone number</u>	<u>How you know them?</u>
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____

Are you currently employed? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

May we contact your present employer? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have experience handling dogs? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Do you currently own any dogs? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Have you taken your dogs to obedience school? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

List your experience that relates to dogs and dog handling skills: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Do you have experience working with the public? Yes \_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Will you generally be able to commit to at least two hours of volunteer time per week? Yes \_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Are you able to commit to volunteering for at least one year? Yes \_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Which days/times would generally be best for you to volunteer?

Day(s):	Time(s):
Monday	_____
Tuesday	_____
Wednesday	_____
Thursday	_____
Friday	_____
Saturday	_____

Emergency Contacts:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Level 1 -all new volunteers**

**You must volunteer at least 20 hours at level 1**

When you have completed 20 hours, set up time to work with Staff to move to Level 2

Hand feed the dogs at the run gate

This teaches the dogs to expect good things from people. It teaches them that food and yummys come from human hands. It also brings them to the front of their run, helping them learn to act appropriately and engage with shelter visitors.

Click for silence – click for sit and good presentation –

Unfortunately, barking is a behavior that dogs in shelters learn very quickly as a means of getting attention. This is not a very good stay-at-home behavior, so we use clicker training to try to overcome this behavior.

When a dog comes to the front of the run, click and treat. When they are quiet, click and treat. If they keep all four on the floor, click and treat. We are not giving any commands or asking for specific behaviors. We are taking the behavior the dog provides and clicking and treating the right behaviors. Dogs quickly figure out how to get the treats. This is the foundation for all future clicker training, as they quickly decide

the sound of the clicker is a good thing and usually means there's a treat to follow. It is essential to click and treat as reinforcement for good behaviors; therefore, sometimes just randomly click and treat when you see a dog giving good presentation.

You can check out a clicker and treat bag for use while you are at the shelter. We have a variety of treats for different dogs and activities. Just ask Staff for assistance.

### Kong stuffers

We try to turn each of our guests into Kong-aholics. Kongs are an appropriate chew toy and they keep dogs from chewing things that get them into trouble. Additionally, they are good for mental stimulation. Stuffed Kongs keep dogs mentally busy trying to get the food out.

Stuffing Kongs takes time, but is so very important to the dogs. The first time you go through and hand out stuffed Kongs, you'll see many of our furry guests doing the Kong dance...the minute they see what you have they start dancing in anticipation.

We stuff our Kongs with a mixture of kibble and canned food. Most of the dogs get every little bit out, but sometimes they leave a bit. Please check every Kong to be sure that all of the food is out before dropping them in the sink for cleaning.

Every Kong must be cleaned and disinfected every day to ensure we don't transmit any diseases from dog to dog.

To move to level 2 you must attend a level 2 training workshop.

**Level 2 -all new volunteers**  
**You must volunteer at least 20 hours at level 2.**  
**Must attend a Level 2 volunteer training session**

When you have completed 20 hours, set up time with work with Staff to move to Level 3

Level 2 volunteers continue level 1 training because the basics are so very important to help the dogs connect with potential adopters. Basics also help reinforce good behaviors. This work never ends.

As you move to Level 2, you will learn to help the dogs allow us humans get in and out of runs without jumping up or trying to dodge the gate. They will learn that being calm and exhibiting good behaviors gets those treats and lets them go for walks and play.

Use the clicker and high end treats every time the dog is calm, sits, or stands calmly for both in and out. You should plan on going in and out of runs several times off and on during your time at the shelter to continue to reinforce that proper behavior gets pets and loves, and clicker with treats.

Next, work on being able to put a collar or harness & leash on dog without the dog jumping up or acting out (including no mouthing). When they sit or stand quietly, click and treat. If they try to jump up, tell them no firmly, push them off, fold your arms and completely ignore them until the MOMENT they are “four on the floor” – click and treat. They will quickly learn that jumping up gets them ignored.

When they have mastered standing or sitting calmly, move to putting on the collar or leash – again this is a process of helping the dog understand that being controlled and calm gets a click and treat and jumping or being out of control gets them completely ignored.

Take dog out of their run for short walks under control, on site, for leash training. Our goal is to try to help every dog learn to walk on a lead properly. Dogs that cannot walk on leads often are not adopted because no one likes to be pulled around. If a dog is a puller, then you can start with a sporn harness and slowly graduate to a front clip or gentle leader and hopefully a flat collar over the course of several days. Remember the MOMENT they are walking nicely click and treat prolifically so they understand and walking nicely is heavily reinforced. We can help you practice placing the treat in between your fingers so the dog learns to “target” your hand.

Take dogs to play yards for 15 minute play/touch sessions. This is relaxation zone for the dogs and you. It’s a time to chase a ball, sit and be petted, sniff, potty and otherwise just hang out. It is not, however, a time for the dog to jump up or mouth you. If they are jumping or mouthing – fold your arms out of reach, tell them no sternly and then ignore them. You will need to be ready with the clicker and treat the MOMENT they stop jumping or mouthing.

Walk back into run and remove leash & collar or harness without being jumped on or the dog acting out

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I have read and understand the requirements for volunteering at Clackamas County Dog Services. By my signature below I assert my answers are correct and complete and I agree to abide by the policies and programs at Clackamas County Dog Services.

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Signature

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Date