

# PLAYGROUP VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION

## Summary:

A Playgroup Volunteer will assist FSD staff in safely and effectively facilitating playgroup which takes place on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 1:00-3:00p.m. Playgroup is a structured play time for adult dogs in training, allowing dogs to play with their friends and get their energy out in a controlled fashion. All staff and volunteers are expected to adhere to training requirements and must ensure the safety of dogs and humans during play sessions.

## Qualifications:

- Must have completed application
- Must have completed and passed background check (18+)
- Must be a minimum of 16 years of age
- Must have watched FSD Orientation video
- Must have watched Dog Body Language video
- Must have attended in-person Volunteer Walking Class
- Must have attended in-person Kennel Orientation
- Must shadow 2 playgroup sessions with FSD staff member or Volunteer Mentor

## Essential Functions of Playgroup Volunteer:

- Utilize whiteboards to determine which adult dogs are eligible to participate in playgroup.
- Assist FSD staff in gathering dogs from offices utilizing provided transport lead and return them to assigned kennel space so they are ready for playgroup.
- Assist FSD staff in preparing the play yards.
- Assist FSD staff in walking dogs from their kennel to holding area utilizing provided transport lead.
  - o No dogs are to be off leash in kennel area.
- Assist FSD staff in safely facilitating playgroup for adult dogs in yard assigned by staff.
- Adhere to training requirements and proper safety protocols.
- At the end of playgroup, assist FSD staff in walking dogs back to their designated kennels or assigned office.
- Assist with cleaning up after playgroup session is complete.
- Check in with Kennel Technicians if there are any questions or concerns.
- Assist with sweeping, mopping, laundry, dishes etc. as needed by Kennel Technicians.

## Work Environment:

This volunteer position operates primarily in the kennel area and in the outdoor play yards of the FSD facility. The noise level can often be loud and is often chaotic and fast-paced. The outdoor play yards are exposed to the elements and require walking through pea gravel to access.

## Physical Demands:

- Frequently required to stand, bend, stoop, kneel, crouch, or crawl.
- Required to perform a variety of physical motions with their hands, arms, shoulders, and legs in order to properly clean kennels and care for dogs.
- Must be able to withstand Colorado weather conditions.
- Must be able to safely walk and handle dogs up to 100 pounds through kennels and in play yards.
- Must be able to safely lift up to 50 pounds.
- Must be comfortable being on their feet. Volunteers are required to stand for this activity.
- Must be able to manipulate and use all equipment and tools necessary to care for dogs. This includes kennel locking mechanisms, carabiners, etc.
- Must be sturdy on feet, as dogs often jump and/or bump into knees and legs.
- Must be able to move short distances quickly.

## Additional Information:

Our Playgroup Volunteers play an essential role in the day-to-day operations of our kennels. The time they spend with our adult dogs in training in the play yards is a very important part of their training process. This defined play environment is incredibly valuable to their ability to focus and perform during training sessions.