

DO I NEED TO BRING MY OWN SUPPLIES?

Yes. Dog walkers must supply their own sturdy, 6-foot leash (no extendable leashes). The OHS will provide collars, gentle leaders and plastic “poop” bags.

DOG WALKING IS FOR ME! WHERE DO I START?

Please contact the Manager of Volunteers at 725-3166 ext. 231 (email ohs@ottawahumane.ca) for more information. We receive many calls every day asking about our volunteer openings, so it may take a few days for us to respond. Following a phone interview, candidates will be required to attend a general volunteer and dog walking orientation.

DOG WALKING ISN'T FOR ME, BUT I'D STILL LIKE TO HELP. WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

If dog walking isn't for you, you may want to consider one of the many other volunteer opportunities that the OHS has to offer! Over 400 volunteers provide their talents and expertise in a wide range of areas every year.

Please visit our website at www.ottawahumane.ca to see how you can help the animals!

VOLUNTEER DOG WALKING: IS IT FOR ME?

Please consider supporting animals in your community. The programs and services you have read about in this pamphlet are made possible with your financial support to the OHS.

Clarence enjoyed his freedom during the first few months of retirement. Once the novelty wore off, he wanted to contribute his morning time in a volunteer capacity. He owned a dog years ago, but has not had one for awhile due to his wife's allergies.

Happily, Clarence's need for canine companionship has been satisfied. He's a committed dog walker at the Ottawa Humane Society, and the regular exercise has been great for his health!



Julia is away from her parents' home for the first time, attending university. She likes her new life, but she misses her dog, Misha.

Fortunately, Julia volunteers three times a week at the Ottawa Humane Society as a dog walker. She enjoys regular canine contact and is thrilled to help out!




VOLUNTEER DOG WALKING: IS IT FOR ME?

Would you like to make a difference for a shelter dog during her stay at the Ottawa Humane Society? If so, then why not consider becoming a volunteer dog walker! Our dog walking program helps keep the dogs in our care healthy and well socialized, and our volunteers get a work-out, too! There's nothing like the rewarding sight of a wagging tail eagerly greeting you!

WHAT IS THE OHS DOG WALKING PROGRAM?

The OHS dog walking program started in 1986 to improve the quality of life for dogs in our care by providing them with regular exercise and socialization. Dog walkers visit the OHS every day — mornings and afternoons, to give dogs brief walks around the neighbourhood. During these outings, volunteers use positive reinforcement and may practice obedience commands with the dogs.

Since all adoptable dogs remain at the OHS until we find them a permanent home, a volunteer may walk the same dog for more than a week — or she may only walk him once before he is adopted!



Andy is a devoted volunteer who walks shelter dogs every afternoon in all weather conditions!

His dedicated efforts are greatly appreciated by canines and OHS staff. Way to go, Andy!

ARE THE DOGS FRIENDLY?

Yes. Before being housed in the OHS adoption ward, each dog's temperament and health is assessed, and the dogs are monitored throughout their stay to ensure that they remain friendly and healthy. However, the dogs in our care come from various backgrounds and have different levels of training and socialization. Very few have any amount of training, while most are likely to pull or jump. Some may not like children or may fear men. It's also important to remember that shelter dogs are in an unfamiliar environment and are kept in fairly small spaces, which means they have energy to burn! They are likely to be nervous or stressed, which will have an impact on how they behave — probably making it more difficult to walk them.

Dog walkers are most needed weekday and weekend mornings.

WHAT ARE THE DOG WALKING HOURS?

Monday to Friday

8:00–11:00 a.m. and 1:00–7:00 p.m.

Saturdays

8:00–10:00 a.m. and 12:00–4:30 p.m.

Sundays and holidays

8:00–11:00 a.m. and 4:00–7:00 p.m.

Dog walkers are most needed **weekday** and **weekend mornings**.

WHAT TIME COMMITMENT DO I HAVE TO MAKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM?

Dog walkers must be able to commit to a consistent schedule for at least six months, volunteering a minimum of two hours each week.

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO I NEED TO BECOME A DOG WALKER?

All kinds of people participate in our dog walking program, from university students to retirees. Dog walking is a lot of fun, but it's also very demanding! If you meet all of the following criteria, you may be a good candidate for our dog walking program!

- You are at least 18 years of age.
- You can commit to a consistent schedule for at least six months, volunteering a minimum of two hours each week.
- You are prepared to walk in all kinds of weather conditions (-30 degrees Celsius to +30 Celsius — sun, wind, rain or snow).
- You are able to use positive reinforcement (praise, treats if allowed).
- You can manage all breeds of untrained large and sometimes small dogs (pulling, jumping, etc.).
- You can handle dog-related realities (slobber, shedding fur, smells, stooping & scooping).
- You can lift at least 40 pounds (a medium-sized dog).
- You have an up-to-date tetanus shot.

Programs and services provided by the Ottawa Humane Society are made possible thanks to your financial support.

Please support the animals in our community.



Ottawa Humane Society

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