Animal Training and Behavior Associate

The Animal Training and Behavior Associate will assist with all aspects of the training and behavior program for the League. This position is based in Arlington, Virginia.

About the Animal Welfare League of Arlington

Since 1944, the Animal Welfare League of Arlington has been committed to improving the lives of animals. The League provides temporary care and refuge for homeless and suffering animals; places animals in loving responsible homes; provides animal control services to Arlington County and subsidizes county funds to provide a wealth of animal welfare and community services. The Animal Welfare League of Arlington is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

The Animal Welfare League of Arlington is dedicated to creating a world where all companion animals find compassionate and permanent homes. For more information, please visit www.awla.org

Reporting Relationships

This position reports to the Training and Behavior Manager and works within a team of 2 staff members. The Animal Training and Behavior Associate will also work closely with League staff, volunteers, and the public.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Resolve issues and provide support concerning training, enrichment and behavior needs for pets either pre or post adoption via virtual consultation, email, phone and in person.
- Manage operational protocols for tracking follow-ups
- Create educational training and behavior information, for external and internal use
- Monitor and complete behavior assessments and concern requests within 48 hours Identify and work with animals in need of training/behavior modification
- Assist manager with creating and updating current volunteer roles as needed. Interact with, train, and engage volunteers. Provide training focusing on retention and safety
- Organize behavior paperwork
- Work with shelter animals following behavior modification programs, using least invasive minimally intrusive means possible. Enter information in PetPoint to help facilitate successful adoptions. Update and review as needed, Document and update results, stages, memos and/or holds based on results
- As requested, track statistics and submit to supervisor
- Maintain a clean and safe environment for the animals and public
- Oversee and participate in playgroups
- Create protocols approved by supervisor enabling staff and volunteers to work with animals as appropriate
· Develop new animal enrichment for shelter staff, volunteers and fosters to implement
  Ensure daily enrichment items are provided to animals in our care in coordination with
  animal care technicians
· Participate in ongoing education opportunities for staff, volunteers and the community,
  including kid’s camp
· Assist public requests for behavior assistance through helpline, classes, virtual consults, and
  in person. Enter data in PetPoint or other data tracking programs in a timely manner
· Write articles and create online content to share with the public and internally as requested
· Assist in utilizing social media such as Facebook and Instagram to network with the
  community and engage the public with training help and information
· Participate in euthanasia decisions for behaviorally compromised animals as needed
· Assist and cross-train in other departments as requested
· Continue learning and remaining up to date on best practices via webinars, books, and other
  training materials. Earn approved training certification if not already certified
· Other duties as deemed necessary and consistent with the mission of the League

External Relations
This position is required to interact directly with the public. This position works onsite and from
home.

Required Qualifications
· Hands-on experience with animals in either a shelter, clinic or other comparable
  environments
· Ability to read and decipher animal body language
· Willingness to learn recommended animal care and adoptions procedures to include dogs,
  cats, and small companion animals
· Ability to work comfortably with and around animals following AWLA procedures and
  protocols
· High school diploma or equivalent
· Excellent customer service and counseling skills, pleasant demeanor, patient and
  professional
· Strong interpersonal skills and demonstrated ability to write clearly and persuasively
· Demonstrated ability to engage, inspire and instruct people
· Flexible schedule working with the needs of the shelter, including weekends and evenings
· Detail-oriented with proven organizational and follow-through skills, capacity to work well
  under pressure
· Computer literacy
· Commitment to the AWLA mission

Desired Qualifications (helpful but not required)
· Experience in the field of animal welfare or animal shelter
· Experience with “hands-on” nonprofits
· Experience working with PetPoint
· Bilingual
Valid driver’s license and clean driving record
Previous training and certification such as CPDT, KPA, IAABC or other equivocal certifications

Typical Physical & Mental Demands
Requires frequent bending, reaching, stooping, kneeling, sitting for extended periods, walking/standing, eye-hand coordination and manual dexterity sufficient to operate a keyboard, laptop, telephone, cell phone, photocopier, calculator and other equipment or machinery on site and/or from home. Will have exposure to injured and deceased animals, disinfectant solutions, and various weather conditions. May assist in animal restraint and deal with distressed animals, and could be subject to bites and scratches. May be required to lift heavy items (possibly up to 50 lbs) or animals and be physically active. Requires normal range of hearing and eyesight to communicate with the public, volunteers, staff, and animals. This position also requires flexibility and adaptability to work with frequent interruptions.

Must be comfortable around dogs, cats, small companion animals, and all wildlife.
Will be required to receive rabies prophylaxis vaccine, hepatitis-B, and tetanus vaccinations.

Compensation
This is a full time, non-exempt, hourly position with medical, dental, and vision benefits as well as holiday, vacation, and sick time. Retirement benefit includes a 7% employer salary match after two (2) years of continuous employment. The compensation for the position is within the AAWA median range.

To Apply

Please submit the following application materials to Claudia West at jobs@awla.org with Animal Training and Behavior Associate (full-time) in the subject line:

· A thoughtful cover letter describing your interest in the position and relevant experience/qualifications
· Current Resume

Animal Welfare League of Arlington is an Equal Opportunity Employer, with a commitment to diversity in the workplace.

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis. The position will remain posted until filled.

No phone inquiries, please.