**Dog carer**

**Location:** Floriana rehoming centre, Triq St Francis Ravelin. (Bombi or Sarria bus stops)

**Posts available:** 2 volunteers each day. Current days needed are on the website page where you downloaded this form.

This is a volunteer role - unpaid:

**Daily from 8am to 10.30am.- one or two shifts per week or fortnight.**

We are currently recruiting for volunteer dog carer roles, based within our rehoming centre.

This particular role falls during the week and weekend and is needed daily and involves caring for, cleaning up after, and feeding our dogs as directed by staff. You will also be given training on handling dogs safely and avoiding escapes or near-miss incidents..

We are looking for committed people who can help support our staff one or two full days per week. Our paid staff are now more than ever focussed on rehoming and also our preventative work with neutering, and in particular we are now increasingly running a “virtual” shelter where, although the animal stays with the original owner while we try to find a home, the same amount admin, and communications with owners and adopters takes place. So by helping with the caring for dogs, you can free up a staff member to concentrate on their rehoming duties. This role could suit someone who is looking to gain experience in a charity, or someone who is simply looking to meet new people whilst supporting the work of the MSPCA.

Though spoken Maltese is not essential, it would help us greatly.

Please note that in this role you will come into contact with dogs. You will be on your feet at times during your shift and will get hot, wet and dirty. We do have airconditioned staffrooms and offices but much of the work is outdoors and sometimes in the warm weather.

**What would I be doing?**

* At around 8am, helping with cleaning and scrubbing of kennels, and then feeding
* Supervising yard exercise for any dogs who cannot go out on walks
* Keeping observant at all times for any illnesses or injuries
* Ensure gates and kennels are shut
* Record all observations on daily sheets
* Laundering bedding as well as restocking with equipment and food
* If we are short of dog walkers, helping with walks, so ensure dogs are leashed and harnessed correctly, and muzzled if needed and follow walking routes advised by staff

**What skills and attributes would be useful?**

* Great communication skills and happy to deal with a range of people
* Love dogs!
* Polite manner and can develop good relationships with others
* Follow instructions
* Confident responding to enquirers about dogs or referring to staff
* Comfortable doing a role which involves being on your feet and getting dirty, wet and lifting.
* Willing to listen to staff advice and instructions
* Supportive of the policies and aims of the MSPCA
* Reliable and punctual for shifts

**What else would help?**

* Experience of working with dogs
* Live locally
* Due to the training and support that is provided, we are looking for an ongoing, regular commitment and this would be for a minimum of 4 months to enable the induction and early period in the role to go smoothly. We kindly ask that you think carefully about your circumstances and your ability to commit to this role on a regular basis before applying (holidays and absences will be honoured of course). In order to ensure adequate cover, we are asking all volunteers to commit to the same session each week or fortnight.
* Before and during your first few shifts you will receive several stages of training to prepare you. You will also have training around dog safety and behaviour, along with the chance to spend time with staff in our kennels to understand how we operate.
* We would ask that absences are notified in advance to the coordinator, and we obviously need minimised absences in order to ensure cover. Weekly or fortnightly volunteering is our normal schedule, and for organisational reasons we can only accept volunteers who work the same day each week or fortnight.

**What would I gain?**

* Because our staff are often called away from care of dogs to deal with enquiries or carry out rehomings, volunteers working on the dog section without distraction can and have made a real impact on their welfare. So you would have the satisfaction of having made a meaningful improvement to their lives.
* You would help us to ensure that we are achieving our target of the dogs interacting at length with at least 5 different people every day.
* You’ll have the chance to meet and work with other volunteers and staff
* You’ll learn lots about the best way to house and care for rescue dogs
* Our dogs are all full of affection and you will gain lots of new friends!

**Who would be my volunteering contacts?**

* The Admin & Volunteering Coordinator, tasked by the animal carers during shifts.

**How do I apply for this role?**

* If you are interested in applying for this role please fill out our online application form and email it to info@spcamalta.org
* We will be conducting interviews for this role and take up at least 2 references.