

Behavior and Enrichment Intern Position Description

Description:

This opportunity will expose participants to the role of animal behavior in shelter operations. Participation in this program will allow individuals to develop transferable, real-world skills in the areas of canine and feline body language, behavior, and humane handling. Interns in the position will get a close look at the impact that enrichment has on the health, well-being, and adoptability of companion animals in the shelter environment. Interns will have the opportunity to participate in department trainings on a variety of topics during their time with us. Creative ideas are welcomed and encouraged.

Reports To:

Kaitlin Cheek, CPDT-KA, Behavior and Enrichment Manager
(kcheek@columbushumane.org)

Hours and Schedule:

This internship is an unpaid position working a minimum of 10 hours per week to be scheduled during normal business hours for three months. The exact schedule will be determined between the intern and the department manager. Individual experiences may be custom arranged based upon program requirements.

Duties and Objectives:

- Report behavioral concerns in canine and feline population
- Schedule and prepare enrichment items and activities appropriate for each animal
- Assist in conducting playgroups following Columbus Humane protocols
- Collect data on animal behavior and objectively and professionally report this information into PetPoint
- Understand how to read canine and feline body language and utilize appropriate fear-free handling and Least Intrusive Minimally Aversive (LIMA) techniques
- Adhere to the methods and practices of Columbus Humane
- Work cooperatively under the guidance of the Behavior Manager and Behavior Lead
- Develop interpersonal skills while working with a variety of staff and volunteers

Abilities and Requirements:

- Willingness and physical ability to work with both cats and dogs
- Ability to engage in frequent walking, bending, standing, and other physical activities which may include lifting objects up to 50 pounds without assistance
- Basic animal handling skills and experience working with and/or training animals
- Ability to follow written and verbal instructions
- Ability to work effectively and independently without supervision
- Team-oriented mentality and ability to communicate effectively with others
- Flexibility and willingness to learn and try new things
- Ability to handle situations that can be emotionally and physically demanding
- Ability to be comfortable around unpleasant situations that can include dealing with animal illness and zoonotic diseases