Canine Companion and Enrichment

**Purpose:** To provide physical and mental enrichment for our shelter dogs and puppies, including teaching basic skills to assist with adoptability, as well as decompression and stress reduction activities. After completing the training volunteers will be expected to read basic body language cues to keep the animals safe and comfortable during every interaction.

**Location:** Dublin Adoption Center located at 4651 Gleason Drive. Parking is available on-site.

**Training and Shifts:**
- Complete both the online and in-person components of the Canine Companion and Enrichment training.
- Shifts are available in two-hour increments from 8:30am-5pm; Monday-Friday. See specific shift openings on our application.
- We ask each volunteer to make a six-month minimum commitment, but we hope you stay longer!

**Expectations of Volunteers:**
- Wear bait bag, name tag, apron and/or t-shirt.
- Housebreak dogs at appropriate times.
- Provide appropriate physical and mental enrichment activities in and out of the kennel/habitat for shelter dogs based on the individual animal’s needs while utilizing basic training skills.
- Spot clean the kennels and habitats as necessary.
- Carry waste disposal bags and use them when necessary.
- At the beginning of every shift review whiteboards and Trello for behavior and medical notes.
- Report any incidents that occur to the volunteer services manager or shelter staff.

**Requirements**
- Commit to a regular weekly 2-hour shift.
- Receptive to coaching and feedback from staff and volunteer leads/mentors.
- Follow all East Bay SPCA policies and procedures.
- Ability to bend, squat, and respond with manual dexterity in case of a loose animal.
- Ability to self-select and not work with an animal if their physicality or behavior is beyond your control or skill level.
- Children 10–15 years old may volunteer as Canine Companions under the direct supervision of a trained parent or guardian and **may not** handle the dogs’ leashes.

**Questions:**
- If you have general volunteer questions, please direct them to Volunteer Services.
- If you have behavior related questions, please direct them to Behavior and Training.