

## Dog Walker Volunteer Role Description

Job Title:	Dog Walker Volunteer
Location:	ISPCA Centres Longford/Mallow/Donegal/Waterford
Department:	Animal Care
Reports to:	ISPCA Centre Manager/Volunteer Coordinator
Time Commitment:	Flexible, but shifts are a minimum of four hours

### The overall purpose of the role:

The Dog Walker Volunteer plays a huge role in the day-to-day care of ISPCA rescued dogs that have been cruelly treated, neglected or abused. Often these dogs have had little to no contact with people or other animals before being rescued, and can be nervous when they first arrive at the Centre. Once the dogs have received the veterinary all-clear, the dog walker helps socialise and teach them how to walk on a lead, gaining their trust and building up their confidence. The ISPCA National Animal Centre is surrounded by 88 acres of woodlands making it ideal for dog walking. This role involves working mostly outdoors in all weathers so suitable waterproof clothing is required.

### Principal Responsibilities:

- Exercising the dogs in the ISPCA kennel block, ensuring they are walked numerous times daily.
- Teaching the dogs how to walk well on a lead and basic training commands.
- Socialising them with other dogs and testing with various other animals at the Centre.
- Working with timid, nervous dogs helping to build up their confidence.
- Helping to groom the dogs in our care.

### Skill levels required:

Experience working with dogs in a similar capacity and knowledge of dog behaviour and training are an advantage. The role is mostly working outdoors in all weather conditions, and physical effort is required for bending, stooping and lifting. Excellent interpersonal skills and desire to work with dogs and people required. Experience handling dogs is an advantage, but not essential as we provide full training.

### Benefits of Volunteering:

There is huge satisfaction to be gained devoting your time and energy helping to rehabilitate Ireland's most cruelly treated and neglected dogs. You will be preparing dogs and puppies to go to new homes where they will be loved and cared for, for the rest of their lives. You will also be meeting like-minded animal lovers, and gaining valuable experience working in an animal welfare environment.

### Volunteer Procedure:

A copy of the volunteer procedure is available upon request from the ISPCA Centre Manager or Volunteer Coordinator. All volunteers must be over 16 years of age for insurance purposes. No expenses are available. Volunteer should follow Health & Safety procedures as set out by ISPCA Management and exercise good judgement at all times.

### Time commitment:

Due to the nature of the role, shifts are required to be a minimum of four hours based on a rostered system.

For more information about ISPCA volunteer opportunities, please email [volunteer@ispca.ie](mailto:volunteer@ispca.ie).