

Kennel Assistant Role Description

Job Title:	Kennel Assistant Volunteer
Location:	ISPCA Centres Longford/Mallow/Donegal
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 Kennel Assistant Volunteer plays a huge role in the day-to-day care of rescued dogs and puppies at the Centre. Most animals the ISPCA rescues have been cruelly treated or neglected and may have had little to no contact with people or other animals. The Kennel Assistant Volunteer will help by provide a nurturing environment for the vulnerable dogs and puppies brought into ISPCA care to assist with their rehabilitation.

Principal Responsibilities:

- Feeding dogs and puppies, cleaning and replacing water bowls.
- Deep cleaning and disinfecting all kennels and exercise areas, replacing and washing bedding.
- Monitoring animals and reporting any signs of illness or unusual behaviour.
- Walking the dogs, lead training and socialising with other animals.
- Assisting the Care Assistants with medications/veterinary assessments and treatments.
- Washing and grooming dogs upon arrival where their coats are neglected.
- Spending extra time with newly arrived dogs who are nervous, helping build their confidence and trust in humans again.

Skill levels required:

Experience working with animals particularly dogs/puppies in similar capacity or in veterinary practice is an advantage. Physical efforts will be required for example bending, stooping and lifting. Knowledge of zoonosis, dog behaviour, medical and treatment protocols is an advantage. Excellent interpersonal skills and desire to work with animals and people is required. Dog handling experience is an advantage, but not essential as we provide full training. The Kennel Assistant Volunteer role is working indoors but mostly outdoors in all weather conditions so appropriate waterproof clothing is required.

Benefits of Volunteering:

There is huge satisfaction to be gained helping to rehabilitate Ireland's most cruelly treated and neglected dogs and puppies. You will be preparing them to go to new, loving 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 within an animal welfare environment.

Volunteer Procedure:

A copy of the volunteer procedure is available upon request from the Centre Manager/ISPCA Volunteer Coordinator. All volunteers must be over 16 years of age for insurance purposes. No expenses are available. Volunteer should follow Health and 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.