

Critter Caretaker

Objective:

- Assist staff with daily care and cleaning of critters at the adoption center to provide a sanitary, safe, and comfortable living space.

Locations/Hours of Operation:

- *Pieloch Pet Adoption Center* | 6500 S 70th |
Shift times for this role are
Mon-Sun 9:00 am-11:00 am

Qualifications:

- **Age:** Must be at least 15 years old with a parent/guardian at all times
- **Experience:** None required
- **Knowledge:** Must demonstrate understanding of the importance of respecting animals boundaries & responsibility of being an animal caretaker. Should possess the willingness to learn how to handle a variety of small animals safely.
- **Physical:** Must be able to squat, bend, safely maneuver tight & crowded spaces.
- **Characteristics:** Must consistently follow verbal/written instructions, possess excellent awareness of surroundings, willingness & desire to learn, communicate effectively with others
- **Minimum Time Commitment:** 2hr shift, every other week, for a minimum of 4 months

Conditions:

- **Noise:** Barking/whining can be very loud at times, especially in the dog kennel area
- **Temperatures:** Varied, though usually moderate.
- **Hazardous chemicals:** This position handles chemicals used to sanitize animal living spaces including bleach, Rescue, etc. Proper PPE is provided.
- **Pet hair/dander:** This position involves handling animals and their bedding directly, those with allergies that can not be managed with medication should avoid.
- **Biological materials:** This position involves regular exposure to feces, urine, etc.

Role specific duties

- Remove soiled bedding and any other dirty items from critter cages
- Using proper cleaning chemicals remove all organic materials and sanitize critter cages
- Replace bedding and other enrichment items
- Refill water and feed critters
- Most common critters: Guinea Pigs, Rabbits, Mice, Ferrets, Rats, Hamsters, etc.
Volunteers do not have to handle/work with any animals they are uncomfortable with.

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CHS volunteer expectations:

- *“Help where help is needed”* -The shelter is a hectic & unpredictable environment with limited resources. We ask that our volunteers are flexible & willing to occasionally pitch in with core shelter functions, even if those are outside their specific job description (laundry, dishes, etc.)
- *“Be an advocate in all things”*- Our volunteers are highly trained, respected, & trusted pieces to the CHS puzzle. We empower our volunteers to use their unique voice to communicate concerns, share observations, ask questions, suggest ideas, etc.! As a non-profit, it is especially important that our volunteers understand that being a successful (& satisfied) shelter advocate...aka “volunteer”...requires patience, curiosity, & creativity. In Animal Welfare, there are significant limitations to navigate, some of which are very obvious & others which are more abstract (& often harder to change). Put simply...we depend on volunteers to help us innovate & progress as a field/organization & we trust them to do so without taking personal offense or getting discouraged when/if that process is littered with roadblocks.
- *“Speak & act with compassion & respect, always”*- Our work is centered around the fundamental belief that pets AND people deserve to experience love & companionship. This belief directly influences the way we treat the people/animals we encounter during our work but also the way we speak about them AND the way we think about them. CHS volunteers share this important belief & allow it to be their “North Star”.

Training: 3 total hours to complete onboarding |in person, hands on, groups of 2-3|

(Red= mandatory, green= optional)

- *“Welcome to CHS” Group Orientation*-1.5 hr|occurs 2x month| provides info on CHS programs, culture, history, operations, intro to Animal Welfare, socially conscious sheltering, tour of ppac, meet vols, meet staff|
- *“Critter Caretaker Training”*-1.5 hrs|1st official shift |Tour of facility, daily responsibilities, CHS critter operations/protocols, behavior, health, & safety info, meet staff, meet vols, handling basics, proper sanitation procedures, shadow of staff member