

**DOGS FOR BETTER LIVES
JOB DESCRIPTION**



Job Title: Canine Obedience Trainer

Job Status: Full-Time, Non-Exempt

Reports to: Training Director

Location: Central Point, Oregon

Company Overview:

Recognized nationally as a premier nonprofit organization, Dogs for Better Lives' mission is to professionally train dogs to help people and enhance lives while maintaining a lifelong commitment to all dogs rescued or bred and all people served. Dogs for Better Lives trains and places Assistance Dogs with clients throughout the United States and is supported by a nationwide donor base.

With more than 30 employees on one site in Southern Oregon, Dogs for Better Lives and its staff enjoy nearly 200 days of sunshine annually in Central Point, making it a destination for outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds. Located in the Rogue Valley, employees enjoy close proximity to Medford International Airport, accessibility to major hospitals, hiking trails, golf courses, and ski areas with full availability of all amenities of a big city without the congestion.

Job Summary:

The Canine Obedience Trainer works with all canines at the beginning of their stay with Dogs for Better Lives, Inc. to teach basic obedience and socialization. This position also works with Apprentice and Certified Assistance Dog Trainers and Kennel Technicians where additional obedience training of the dogs in training is required. Simultaneously, this position travels to shelters to evaluate and rescue dogs suitable for training as assistance dogs.

Additionally, the Canine Obedience Trainer provides ongoing and remedial training to dogs which have been released from the program and are up for adoption. Furthermore, the position assists the Adoption Coordinator in matching adoptable dogs to suitable homes.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- Learns and implements basic obedience training, socialization and house manners with all dogs before and during their training as assistance dogs.
- Maintains training records on all dogs.
- Works with Apprentice Trainers, Certified Trainers, and Kennel Staff to promote healthy, well-mannered dogs according to Dogs for better Lives standards.
- Informs Kennel Tech/Trainers of any observed behavior/medical issues.
- Learns all Kennel Tech duties. Assists Kennel Techs as needed.
- Builds relationships with shelters, Humane Societies, and rescue groups nationwide.
- Acquires dogs who meet the temperament and physical criteria for successful Assistance Dog training from shelters, Humane Societies, rescue groups, and individuals.
- Documents evaluation of the potential rescue dog in public places, if possible, and exposes the dog to children and cats whenever possible.
- Has a basic health check done on each dog.
- If the dog passes behavioral and health evaluations, arrange to transport the dog to Dogs for Better Lives as soon as possible.
- Participates in adoption process.
- Works with the Adoption Coordinator to select appropriate homes for a career change/adoptable dogs.

- Provides the new owner with written evaluation of dog's strengths and weaknesses.
- When necessary, does follow up training sessions in person or via phone/email with the new owner.
- Effectively work with the media in order to present a positive image of Dogs for Better Lives.
- Performs other duties/tasks as assigned by the Training Director.

Essential Qualifications:

- High School Diploma or GED required.
- Minimum of two (2) years' experience working with and training dogs of multiple breeds.

Essential Requirements:

- Knowledge of, and experience using, operant conditioning techniques.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite.
- Must pass a criminal background check.
- Have a valid Driver's License and excellent driving record.
- Must be at least 21 years old. Excellent written/oral communication and interpersonal skills. Ability to prioritize while working multiple tasks. People and animal oriented. Experienced in and comfortable with public speaking.
- For the safety of the employee, other employees, and the dogs, an employee must have hearing within normal limits (for an adult, hearing thresholds no greater than 25 dB HL from 500 Hz through 4000 Hz, for both ears, with or without hearing aids, implants or other devices. Employees must be able to hear the wide variety of sounds at different levels and pitches from a variety of directions and distances that dogs make while interacting with people and each other. This includes:
 - Detect barking at all levels and tones
 - Determine direction barking is coming from
 - Detect change in type of bark, tone, volume
 - Detect low growl, direction
 - Hear a dog running behind them
 - Hear talking in a normal range
 - When training a dog, the trainer must be able to hear all the sounds and tones that he/she is training the dog to hear in order to reward behavior and ensure successful outcomes.
- Physically capable of lifting dogs up to 65 pounds, the agility to move quickly, climb stairs, operate office equipment and computers with ease, and the ability to get up and down easily while working and playing with the dogs.

Note: This is a job description, not an employment contract. This job description in no way states or implies that these are the only duties to be performed by the employee occupying this position. Employees will be required to follow any other job-related duties required by management.

Dogs for Better Lives is an Equal Opportunity Employer.