DOG TRAINER

Job Description:

**Dog** **Trainers** help prepare dogs to perform certain tasks or refrain from exhibiting undesirable behaviors. Dog Trainers will work closely with dogs, monitoring their behavior and physical condition, and their owners or handlers to determine their expectations and discuss the dog’s progress and abilities. A dog trainer is responsible for creating a training program to promote a dog's good behavior. They help dog owners train their dogs. A few of the main duties of a dog trainer are identifying problem behaviors, teaching the owner methods to train their dog, developing a training plan for the dog, and creating a welcoming environment. They also have to understand the owner and dog's needs.

Job Responsibilities:

* Speaking with dog owners or trainers to determine their goals and expectations.
* Developing an understanding of dog behavior.
* Creating training regimes for dogs.
* Monitoring dogs for health and behavioral issues, learning about their unique abilities.
* Feeding and medicating dogs.
* Using positive reinforcement and other techniques to elicit desired dog behavior.
* Providing updates to other parties about the progress and condition of the dogs.
* Educating others about dogs, their behavior, training, and the environment.
* Providing general care to dogs, such as grooming, cleaning habitats or sleeping areas, and familiarizing dogs with human voices and contact.
* Some positions may require assistance with breeding the dogs.
* Create a training plan for the dog
* Teach commands to the dog and owner
* Be patient with a stubborn dog
* Teach owners about dog behavior
* Understand an owner's needs
* Work with the owner to teach them about their dog
* Teach owners how to reinforce good behavior
* Listen to dog owner concerns

Job Qualifications:

* High school diploma
* Certification through the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers required
* Experience working with dogs
* Experience as a dog trainer

Opportunities as a dog trainer are available for applicants without experience in which more than one dog trainer is needed in an area such that an experienced dog trainer will be present to mentor.

Job Skills Required:

* Love for dogs
* Familiarity with the following:
  + Operant conditioning
  + Positive reinforcement
  + Clicker training
  + Hand signals
  + Voice commands
  + Reward systems
* A working understanding of dog behavior
* A working understanding of dog psychology
* A working understanding of human psychology
* Exceptional patients and tolerance
* Ability to multi-task and prioritize work
* Ability to recognize dog issues that prevent training
* Attention to detail and problem solving skills
* Resourcefulness and ability to problem solve
* Outstanding communication and interpersonal skills
* Ability to not take customer issues personally
* Good listening skills
* Sound understanding of dog behavior.
* The ability to stand for long periods of time.
* The ability to treat all dogs with compassion.
* The ability to lift heavy dogs and equipment.
* Excellent communication skills.
* Exceptional customer service skills.