Senior Dog Sanctuary

COVID-19 Update – Volunteers

5.26.2020

The Senior Dog Sanctuary has been closely monitoring all Executive Orders released by Governor Hogan and Local guidelines set forth by Anne Arundel County during this COVID-19 pandemic. With the recent lifting of the Stay at Home order to a Safer at Home order, SDS will begin to reopen to our Volunteers in stages, to ensure the safety of all Employees and Volunteers. The following changes are effective on Monday, June 1, 2020.

Volunteers may return to SDS with the following safety precautions in place:

* Volunteers may sign up for available shifts at SDS.
* All shifts will be one hour.
* One person/family unit per shift.
* No shifts will be open during opening/breakfast (6-8 am), naptime (3-4 pm), or dinner (5-6 pm).
* A sign-up sheet has been created reflecting all new available shifts. Please use this link to sign up: <https://signup.com/Activities#/3272403/jobs>
* No Volunteers shall enter the building.
* Volunteers should not sign up for any shifts if they have had any symptoms such as shortness of breath, fever, or coughing, have been exposed to someone with those symptoms, or traveled within the past 14 days.
* Volunteers will be assigned a walkie-talkie upon their arrival. Staff will clean the unit with a Clorox wipe and use the wipe to hand the unit over to the Volunteer. Staff members will take the unit back from the Volunteer using a Clorox wipe and clean the unit prior to placing it in the charging cradle. The Volunteer will use the walkie-talkie to notify Staff when ready to get or return a dog from their walk from the breezeway door, or if they have any issues.
* SDS will provide a leash for each Volunteer. Leashes will be placed in a bin outside the breezeway door. Each volunteer should take a leash and use it for the entirety of the visit. Staff will bring the dog out on a leash and remove it after the Volunteer has clipped their leash on the dog’s collar/harness. Volunteers and Staff should not exchange leashes. At the end of the shift, the Volunteer will leave the used leash in the bin marked for used leashes to be sanitized by Staff.
* Hand sanitizer will be provided to Volunteers and will be kept by the leashes.
* For the utmost safety of our Volunteers, they are not to interact with the public coming to SDS. Please allow Staff to work with any visitors.
* Volunteers may walk the dog on the trail, outside anywhere, or hang out in the newly fenced-in area by accessing the yard through the Dog House yard. Staff will notify Volunteers of any limitations each dog has due to health or behavior status.
* Volunteers should make every attempt to use their facilities at home, but if needed, they may use the restroom in the Dog House via the Dog House door. Volunteers should notify Staff if you’ve used the facilities so it can be sanitized.
* Volunteers and Staff must wear masks while in close proximity to one another, such as handing off dogs, etc. Volunteers may remove their masks while walking the trail, etc.
* Volunteers and Staff to continue to maintain social distancing as much as possible and continue to sanitize hands and commonly touched surfaces, such as door handles, etc.
* Volunteers should provide their own refreshments/snacks since there will be no access to the water cooler inside. At this time, SDS will not be able to provide cold bottled water as there may be a contamination issue.
* Volunteers may still make appointments for Doggie Dates by emailing Hallie & Nejla. Please include the following information in your email: date, time, and dog of preference, and location of the Doggie Date.

Hallie.Thomas@sdsanctuary.com

Nejla.Solano@sdsanctuary.com

As we receive more updates on the State & local level, SDS will continue to update Volunteer allowances. We thank each one of you for your patience as we work our way through these unchartered territories.