

JV Dog Mentoring

Learning the Ropes (session 3 of the program): 60 minutes

During session three of the JV program is when JV's will first be permitted to enter kennels to be hands on with the animals. This first experience working hands on with the animals should be thought of as "learning the ropes" and understanding the basics of how dog socialization works at HSHV.

Dog Area Tour: 15 minutes

1. Teach how to identify "JV Approved" cards. Begin by taking a tour through the dog area.
 - a. Start on the right side (A Side) at kennel 1.
 - b. Stop at the dog's kennel and point out some basic items in the kennel as well as the cage card and special notes.
 - c. Share with JV's that a dog will need to have the "JV Approved" kennel card in order for them to visit the dog.
 - i. If the dog does not have it, they can't visit and shouldn't ask staff to make an exception
 - d. Walk through all of the dog area, pointing out any "JV Approved" cards you see and other notes along the way.
2. Tour the Dog Walker Station
 - a. Briefly point out the notes and binders in there, mentioning most are for adult dog walkers
 - b. Show the JV Adult Dog and Puppy Visitation binder
 - i. Explain the purpose of the binder
 - ii. Show samples of notes written
 - iii. Share how those notes will guide JV's to make a decision on who they are comfortable with as well as what they can expect during a visit with an animal

3. Show how to enter and exit a kennel.

- a. Take the group to an empty kennel (if available) or to the kennel of a JV Approved dog.
- b. Explain how the doors work and show JV's how to properly enter and exit the kennel
 - i. Standing in front of the door opening
 - ii. Using their foot to secure the door
 - iii. Closing the door if the dog is jumping or tries to start coming out
 - iv. Entering carefully
 - v. Pulling door closed behind them
- c. Show JV's how to exit the kennel
 - i. How to slide their hand through
 - ii. Discuss tricks such as throwing a handful of food to the back of the kennel, tossing a toy, etc. to distract the dog if needed
 - iii. Discuss how and when to ask for help if they are having trouble exiting or entering

Hands on Practice – 45 minutes

1. Have JV's choose a dog to start with. JV's should tour through the dog area and choose a dog to start with. They should follow these steps:
 - a. Find a JV Approved dog and read their name
 - b. Visit the dog walker station and read notes about the dog in the JV binder
 - c. Stand outside of their kennel when they are ready to wait for assistance (ALL JV's should have a mentor with them the first time they enter/exit a kennel. This is to ensure that they are choosing a JV dog as well as that they understand how to get in/out safely.)



2. Allow JV's to start visiting.

- a. Assist JV's one on one with getting into the dog's kennel for the first time.
 - b. Let them know that you are going to help others get into the kennels but that you will be back to check on them soon. Let them know that the visit should be about 10 minutes and you will come get them when it is time to switch.
3. Once all JV's are in with a dog, please continue to monitor by walking through the dog area and constantly monitoring, checking on each JV. Mentors should remain in the dog area until it is time to report back to the rest of the group in the conference room.
 4. After about 10 minutes, please start with one or two JV's and ask them to exit the kennel, sanitize and then start the process over with a new dog. Asking just a few JV's at a time to change dogs will allow you to ensure all steps are being followed with each JV, assist with entering and exiting the kennels throughout the session, as well as answer any questions.

Group Discussion and Follow Up – 15 minutes

1. Return to the room at the time set by the staff member.
2. Report any concerns with JV's to the instructor at the end of the class, in a private setting or by emailing volunteers@hshv.org.