



Wholistic Hound Academy

Position Description

DOG TRAINING APPRENTICE

JOB TITLE: DOG TRAINING APPRENTICE

Wholistic Hound Academy is a premier, award-winning training and learning center for people and their dogs located in Alexandria, Virginia. The Academy strives to take positive reinforcement training to new levels by redefining the training experience using the most modern and up-to-date methods and techniques with the ultimate in quality, convenience, and care.

We are growing and seeking Dog Training Apprentices to join our team. Qualified candidates will reflect the high-quality standards of this dynamic and innovative dog training organization.

Ideal candidates will be interested in pursuing dog training as a career goal. Candidates in the process of completing courses or needing to obtain hours to qualify for a CPDT, CDBC, CAAB, KPA, PMCT, or equivalent approved certifications is preferred.

As a Wholistic Hound Academy Dog Training Apprentice you will need to be as comfortable communicating with people as you are with dogs. A love and skill for working with people, as much as a love for dogs, is essential to being successful in this role.

We are looking for team players who love the challenges and rewards of working with dogs and their owners. While being a team player is a must, you must also be comfortable working with some level of independence and minimal day to day guidance, while partnering well with the team members at the Academy.

Our apprentice positions involve part-time weekday, evenings, and weekend work. The apprenticeship lasts approximately one year. Successful completion of the program may offer the opportunity to become a professional dog trainer with Wholistic Hound Academy.

While some schools offer Apprenticeship programs for a fee, usually thousands of dollars, Wholistic Hound Academy currently offers a tuition free apprenticeship program, where our top trainers, some with over 20 years of experience using positive methods, will teach the Apprentice for a period of approximately one year, in exchange for the Apprentice assisting with Academy duties, tasks, and training, while building their knowledge and skills towards becoming a certified professional dog trainer. Our goal is to develop future skilled and knowledgeable Wholistic Hound Academy trainers.

Apprentices are required to sign a non-compete, which restricts the Apprentice from performing dog training related duties in the City of Alexandria for a period of one year after leaving Wholistic Hound Academy.

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Represent Wholistic Hound Academy training methods internally and externally
- Assist and shadow trainers in classes, workshops, day training activities, and private lessons in behavior modification and other training issues
- Assist with community outreach activities, delivering marketing materials to area veterinarians and pet food stores
- Greet clients and their dogs
- Put together training packets and materials, as needed
- Track class attendance at beginning of class
- Complete class exercises and behaviors summary sheet after class
- Clean, vacuum and disinfect Academy area and equipment, as required
- Answer phones, as needed
- Other duties as assigned

JOB REQUIREMENTS

- High school graduate or equivalent
- Knowledge and belief of using positive reinforcement to teach and modify behavior
- Possess strong interpersonal skills
- Strong, accurate, appropriate, clear and concise verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to work well with a team and other staff members
- Ability to work well independently in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to remain pleasant, calm and objective in all situations
- Strong attention to detail and strong organizational skills
- Commitment to ongoing education in training and behavior
- Apprentices must work a minimum number of hours a week, to be determined upon hired
- Have reliable transportation and be willing and able to travel within the local area when applicable
- Basic computer skills, including Microsoft and Google suites
- Ability to work weekends/holidays/evenings/varying shift times
- Ability to work outdoors in all weather conditions
- Ability to lift dogs up to fifty pounds, bend, kneel, walk, squat and stoop
- Ability to walk dogs that pull hard on a leash
- Dependable, punctual and very responsible
- Consent to and be able to pass a criminal background check

PREFERRED EXPERIENCE AND BACKGROUND

- In the process of working towards CPDT, KPA, PMCT, or other approved dog training certification programs, however, we will train the right person who is interested in becoming a professional dog trainer
- Prior experience working with dogs preferred
- Customer service experience in some capacity