



Dear Animal Sheltering Organization,

We are writing to tell you about the Dog Trainer Course at Victoria Stilwell Academy for Dog Training & Behavior (VSA). Students in the Dog Trainer Course are required to volunteer and complete activities at a shelter as part of their studies.

One of our students is interested in completing his or her volunteer activities with your organization, so we wanted to provide an overview of the course in hopes that you will consider partnering with our student.

Course overview

The Dog Trainer Course is a six-month comprehensive program of study for aspiring professional dog trainers. The course is made up of multiple modules including:

- Two in-person Intensives – Classroom study, hands-on practice, etc.
- Two Field Modules – Working with a mentor, and completing activities at a shelter.
- Bi-weekly Cyber Classes – Webinar style learning opportunities.
- At-home study – Online lessons and studying course materials.

VSA's aim throughout the course is to provide students with opportunities to gain experience putting the knowledge and skills they learn in the course to practical use working with a variety of dogs. The activities which students complete at a shelter support this goal.

Shelter activities

Over a period of five months, we ask students to complete a minimum of 16 hours as a shelter volunteer. They are encouraged to complete these hours across multiple visits. During the first two months, students are asked to observe and assist shelter staff and volunteers. Then in the next three months, we ask students to train some basic behaviors to dogs at the shelter (with their mentor's guidance and supervision).

Our students come from a variety of backgrounds, including dog walkers, pet sitters, current shelter workers and volunteers, and more. Our mentors are practicing professional positive dog trainers. Both students and mentors all share a common goal of helping to enrich and improve the lives of dogs through positive relationships and training.

Our student understands that he or she will need to comply with the shelter's requirements for volunteers.



We hope you will consider working with our student. You can learn more about the Dog Trainer Course at www.vsdogtrainingacademy.com.

If you have any questions, either prior to accepting the student, or during the student's time at your shelter, please do not hesitate to contact us at administration@vsdta.com.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

Victoria Stilwell and the VSA Team