

Volunteer Guide

Thank you for showing an interest in volunteering with the Celia Cross Greyhound Trust. Volunteers are the lifeline of our charity and we appreciate all the help we can get! This guide will help you learn about what is involved in volunteering with our rescued dogs at our Sun Valley kennels. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Volunteering Hours

We gladly accept volunteers 7 days a week between the hours of 9am -4pm.

We have three common volunteering shifts each day: Morning (9am-12pm), Afternoon (12pm – 4pm), All Day (9am-4pm).

If you cannot volunteer these exact shift times it's not a problem! Simply give us a call or talk to a member of staff about the times you can volunteer, and we will find a regular slot for you.

Volunteering Duties

- Walking the dogs in our enclosed paddock
- Grooming and cleaning the dogs teeth
- Cleaning kennels and corridors
- Assisting with feeding and weighing the dogs
- Helping to clean and maintain the kennel environment

Signing In and Out

When arriving at the kennels please ring the bell on the front gate and wait for a member of staff to let you in. **DO NOT** enter the yard until given permission to do so. We may be socialising dogs or have dogs off lead who are nervous of strangers. Before leaving please let a member of staff know.

Dog Handling

Greyhounds and Lurchers are naturally very affectionate dogs and crave human attention, so most of the dogs you will handle will be very excited and happy to see you!

However, some of the dogs in our care have unknown histories or may be nervous around strangers. We therefore ask that you approach and handle every dog with caution and be aware that a dogs reaction can change in an instant.

Please acknowledge that new dogs may be unsure of their surroundings, dogs may be recovering from injuries or illness, and that some of the dogs may have been treated badly by humans in the past.

Before entering each kennel make sure that you read any information on the kennel door or ask staff if you are unsure. Enter each kennel calmly and try not to overcrowd, tower over or corner the dogs.



Please turn over 

Dog Walking

The dogs at CCGT love to go out on walks, and it is hugely rewarding to watch them enjoy themselves in our enclosed paddock. Most of the dogs will be allowed off lead once inside the paddock.

Before entering a kennel, make sure you look for any instructions on the kennel door. For example, some dogs will need to stay on a lead or be muzzled, **it is very important you follow these instructions** as dogs may be recovering from an injury. Dogs will only be muzzled to prevent accidental injuries, as some of the dog like to play rough with their kennel mate. When putting the dogs on lead make sure you do so inside their kennel. **Never have a dog come out of its kennel to put a leash on it.**

Be aware that the dogs will be very excited to go on a walk and may jump up or play bite when you enter the kennel. If a dog is difficult to get out of the kennel or regularly play bites there will be a yellow star on the kennel door. **Please ask staff for help before entering a kennel with a yellow star displayed**

Please make sure to close/lock all doors and gates behind you. If given the opportunity some of the dogs will run or push through an open door, even if it's only being left open for a couple of seconds!

If you meet someone else with other dogs on lead please keep a safe distance from them, although most of the dogs in our kennels have good lead manners, some are not well socialised or do not like their personal space being invaded by dogs they do not know. It is therefore best to leave some space when walking past other dogs if you are not sure of their reaction.

Medical Kits

If needed, medical kits can be found in the main kitchen and the break room. (Please ask staff to show you where these are located)

Rest Breaks

Please feel free to take a break, have a drink or get something to eat whenever needed. We have a break room in the yard with facilities to sit down, store food and make hot drinks. Plus a cupboard full of biscuits and goodies to nibble on!

If you have any further questions please ask. Thank you for choosing to volunteer with us, we and the dogs are excited and pleased to have you join the team! It is with your help that we are able to rescue and rehome around 150 lucky dogs every year

Welcome to the Celia Cross Greyhound Trust team!

