



Canine Caretaker

Job Details:

Site: Missoula, MT

Type: Part-time or Full-time (flexible)

Pay: \$15-18/hour to start

About WD4C:

WDC is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that saves wildlife and wild places using conservation detection dogs. Since helping launch the field, and establishing WD4C as a non-profit in 2000, we have helped conserve scores of species around the world, by:

- providing the best-available information for elusive, threatened, and endangered, species;
- addressing and stopping the proliferation of invasive species, contaminants, and diseases;
- preventing and resolving human/wildlife conflicts;
- stopping wildlife crime through K9 anti-poaching and anti-trafficking.

(Learn more at WD4C.org)

Position Description:

Working Dogs for Conservation is seeking a responsible and independent person to assist with dog care and facility caretaker duties. We have a 44-acre property with a training facility, fenced in yards and a kennel, just 15 minutes from downtown Missoula. The Canine Caretaker is a non-exempt position. Canine Caretaker will be expected to be comfortable working with large, excitable dogs and following detailed instructions. The Canine Caretaker is an essential part of the team, responsible for meeting the biological and social needs of our dogs as well as maintaining supplies and infrastructure in order to support the care of the dogs.

Duties include:

- Supervision and care for multiple working dogs. Daily, and some long-term care of working dogs and other staff dogs during field-staff deployments. This includes feeding, exercise, basic health checks, preparation of food and equipment. More than half a dozen high-energy working dogs may be present at one time and the position requires deft management of a multi-dog household (supervised interaction, crates, dog-gates, rotating dogs through exercise yards).
- Reinforcing trained skills such as sitting at doors, coming when called, etc. Additional training activities may be assigned, dependent on dog needs and skill of Canine Caretaker.
- Keeping dog kennels clean and safe (including periodic checks), fence and other infrastructure checks.

- General cleaning and supply upkeep of the facility such as, but not limited to: filling enrichment toys, laundry and poop pick up.
- Errands and dog outings, as assigned
- Other duties, as assigned

Exercise of all dogs housed at the Facility will be leashed on property. For health and general well-being, it is asked that each dog receive at least one walk per day. The Canine Caretaker will be required to leash walk dogs, long lines are acceptable and encouraged, for the safety of both the dog and wildlife on the property. The Canine Caretaker may allow dogs to swim in non-rushing water accesses on the property if they can do so safely while still maintaining hold and control of the leash. Leashes, harnesses, and training collars will all be provided at the facility for use. Vehicle and any necessary dog equipment (e.g. crates) will be provided for any off-campus assignments.

Cleaning will be conducted on a daily basis in the form of waste pick up in dog yards, washing of food bowls, and general upkeep of the dogs' kennels/crate/rooms. The job will involve some heavy lifting and working outside.

Qualifications:

- 2+ years of dog experience preferred
- Reliable
- Detail oriented
- Self-starter and independent worker YET a strong team player
- Able to follow detailed instructions
- Able to troubleshoot and think independently
- Demonstrate follow-through and evaluation of progress
- Fast learner with ability to self-assess and correct
- Strong sense of initiative and able to work creatively and independently, but with input from a variety of sources
- Interest in working closely with detection dogs
- Comfortable with strong boundaries and a structured environment when caring for dogs, including using a travel crate, and providing constant supervision and behavior management
- Professional mannerism
- Culturally sensitive to people of other gender, race, religion, nationality
- Flexibility with schedule
- A good sense of humor and lots of patience
- Eagerness to be part of a small staff of dedicated people
- Driver's license in good standing and clean driving record

Physical Demands:

- Lifting 50lbs waist-high is required on an occasional basis
- Physical ability to complete long shifts with rest times
- Position requires stooping, bending, kneeling, crouching, crawling, and reaching on a regular basis though these motions are not consistent and repetitive
- Position includes working with dogs and in natural environments and employee may receive insect bites, scratches, bruises, blisters, thorns, and minor cuts on a regular basis
- While performing the duties of this position, the employee is required to be able to talk, hear, grasp, maneuver a leash, and throw a ball
- Specific vision abilities required by this position include close vision, distance vision, the ability to adjust focus, and peripheral vision

Terms and Compensation:

WD4C policy dictates a probationary period of 365 days for all new hires.

Compensation and benefits: \$15-18/hour, DOE. Additional benefits include an employer sponsored SIMPLE IRA plan, AAA membership, and Costco membership. Paid time off and health benefits available dependent on position terms.

All employees are required to satisfactorily perform the essential functions of their positions. The essential functions and specific duties listed above are not intended to be construed as an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and skills required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions of the job.

Working Dogs for Conservation is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. Equal employment opportunity has been, and will continue to be, a fundamental principle where employment is based upon personal capabilities and qualifications without discrimination because of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, age, physical or mental disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity, political or philosophical beliefs, economic circumstances, geography, or any other protected characteristic as established by law.

To Apply:

Please submit a CV and cover letter to application@wd4c.org. Applications reviewed as received and the position(s) is open until filled.