

Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation: Puppy & Breed Dog Care Technician

Position Description

A Puppy Care Technician's responsibility is to care for puppies from birth-8 weeks of age and breed females, by meeting their needs medically and behaviorally. A safe, clean environment must be maintained for both puppies and breed females. In this role, breed females will be cared for during heat cycles, boarding, pre-whelp, during whelp and post-whelp. The care, enrichment and socialization contribute to the health and happiness of our dogs. Socialization and training activities with puppies are the foundation to future success as guide dogs. A Puppy Care Technician must possess knowledge in animal husbandry, basic handling and dog training, have strong observation skills, orientation to detail and be able to work independently as well as with a team.

Duties/Major Responsibilities

Cleaning

- Daily cleaning of all dog and common areas, and surfaces
- Spot cleaning of dog and common areas throughout the day
- Maintaining laundry and dishes daily
- Picking up feces
- Weekly cleaning tasks
- Keeping pup house properly stocked
- Clean Pup House apartment

General Care

- Responsible for feeding breed females and puppies
- Responsible for knowing breed females and puppies and recognizing changes in behavior, daily health checks
- Monitoring the health of all dogs on ongoing basis: able to quickly identify any health problems and immediately report to Breed Supervisor and VetMed Team
- Assisting VetMed Team when needed or for vaccines and exams
- Helping other departments as requested, special events, social media

Socialization

- Participating in enrichments activities with breed females, following protocols and entering notes into EzyVet
- Participating in socialization, enrichment and training activities with puppies 3 days-8 weeks, following protocols and entering notes into EzyVet

Whelping

- Whelp watch duties: assist with taking temperatures, monitoring mom for behavioral changes prior to whelp, communicating with Breed Supervisor regarding breed females
- If on shift when whelping occurs, assist Breed Supervisor with whelp
- Pre-whelp, whelp and post-whelp care

Basic Medical Procedures

- Weigh and record weights daily, enter into EzyVet
- Take dog temperatures
- Administration of oral medications to breed females and puppies, including deworming protocols
- Communicate with Breed Supervisor and VetMed Team when changes occur with health of breed females and puppies

Skills

- Basic knowledge of canine health and behavior: must be able to recognize when something is wrong with breed females and puppies
- Affection for breed females and puppies and concern for their welfare
- Exhibits good judgement and professional appearance
- Observant and detail oriented
- Good interpersonal skills: maintain open communication and respect with other staff, Breed Supervisor and other departments
- Ability to work both independently/take initiative without direction on shifts and cohesively as a team when working together
- On time for shift, manage time accordingly on shift
- Willingness to work a variety of shifts: mornings, evenings and overnights as requested by Breed Supervisor

Physical Requirements

- Ability to lift over 50 lbs,
- Ability to control dogs up to 100 lbs on leash
- Ability to walk and/or stand throughout your shift
- Ability to move dogs, lift puppies, puppy boxes, lifting/handling breed females and males, being able to bend down comfortably for durations during the day
- Working conditions include working alone and outside in all weather conditions