

**RSPCA South, East & West Devon Branch
Little Valley Animal Shelter**

JOB DESCRIPTION

A. MAIN JOB PARAMETERS

JOB TITLE:	Animal Behaviourist
LOCATION:	Little Valley Animal Shelter
ACCOUNTABLE TO:	Shelter Manager
RESPONSIBLE FOR:	N/A

B. OVERALL PURPOSE OF JOB

1. Work closely with the Shelter Management Team to lead on assessing and monitoring the behaviour and welfare of all dogs/cats/small animals in our care, to ensure we are meeting their complete needs.
2. Devise behavioural plans to meet the individual needs of all our animals, recommending and conducting environmental management and behavioural modifications throughout their stay.
3. To ensure best care for all our animals delivering high welfare standards and to assist in successful rehoming from an animal rescue charity.
4. Training, coaching and supporting staff/volunteers/foster homes/adopters connected to the shelter about care management of animals.

C. PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES

1. In conjunction with Supervisors/Animal Care Assistants (ACA) assess behaviour and welfare on animal's intake and throughout their stay by use of agreed criteria, completing detailed and accurate records on each animal. Reporting any concerns around handling/welfare to the Shelter Manager. Communicate effectively with all staff regarding welfare, behaviour, training and suitability of rehoming animals.
2. Ensuring behaviour/training plans that are produced for all animals are clear and able to be followed by all.
3. Supervise other staff implementing plans and ensure ongoing observation and assessment of progress for each animal.
4. Review and develop current behavioural training for all ACA/volunteers alongside Supervisor.
5. To keep up to date on professional development and research in positive force free training methods and techniques nationwide and then adapt our in house training accordingly.
6. Provide advice and support to adopters by post adoption phone calls and face to face home visits as required. This may include travelling to the adopter's home environment so a driving licence essential.
7. Making recommendations on individual animal outcomes alongside Shelter Management Team/Deputy/Vet. Showing ability for clear decision making and to support staff/volunteers through difficult/challenging welfare decisions.
8. Assessment of dogs on our waiting list and maintaining this list.
9. The ability to prioritise their own workload and manage time efficiently, in a role that is physically and mentally challenging and demanding.
10. To use our web-based Shelter Manager Computer System and Microsoft IT systems.
11. Promote good staff relations and strong team work within staff teams/volunteers.
12. Maintaining good customer relations and projecting a professional image for the Branch.
13. Assisting Management in ensuring Health and Safety of staff/volunteers/public.

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14. Assisting in the promotion of public interest in the work of the Shelter, including involvement in press articles/fundraising activities/talks/presentations.
15. Support the rehoming process of all animals and carrying out home visits as needed.
16. Attend relevant training courses as required including Section 1 dog ID.
17. Any other duties that the work of the shelter may require as directed by the Shelter Manager.