

VOLUNTEER ROLE DESCRIPTION

Community Engagement

Objective

Community Engagement Volunteers promote the work of the Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP) and Greyhounds as great family pets, at various industry and community events throughout the year, and across the state. These volunteers also provide vital support at our special GAP Adoption Days, where they assist to manage the dogs available for adoption, and engage with visitors and potential adopters. For promotional and community events, these volunteers are current owners or carers of a GAP Greyhound, which are brought to the event to socialise with visitors. Volunteers also provide information about GAP, including how to adopt or get involved in volunteering. Community Engagement Volunteers are a very important public face of GAP, promoting awareness of our program and helping to dispel myths about Greyhounds.

Key Duties & Responsibilities

The main duties and responsibilities a Community Engagement Volunteer may undertake are:

- Attending scheduled promotional or community events with your Greyhound, to speak with visitors and community, and answer general queries about Greyhounds as pets and the Adoption Program. Volunteers 'self-select' events they wish to attend, per their availability, preference, and location.
- Events may include agricultural shows, racing industry events, lifestyle and pet exhibitions, volunteer recruitment expos, charity, or community events. Volunteers may assist with basic set-up for events.
- Community Engagement Volunteers may work at our CityGAP café, where they attend shifts with their GAP dog, enjoy a cuppa, and engage with visitors to the café.
- Volunteers are required to attend promptly for their scheduled shifts (usually 2 hours), neatly presented in a GAP volunteer polo shirt, with their GAP dog on a leash. Parking availability varies between event locations. You must maintain responsibility for your dog at all times.
- Volunteers are expected to remain familiar with the latest processes of Greyhound adoption at GAP, and where to direct potential adopters for more information
- Volunteers may also opt to work at our special Adoption Days, run every 6-8 weeks at different locations state-wide. You are not required to bring your own dog for these events as you will be assisting to manage GAP dogs available for adoption on these days, as well as engaging visitors.
- You must adhere to the Volunteer Agreement, and any other relevant GRV policies you have signed or acknowledged, which are available to view on the volunteer portal

Key Skills and Selection Criteria

GAP recruit volunteers in accordance with the equal opportunities act, and welcome and encourage applications from suitably qualified candidates. Key skills and criteria required for the Community Engagement role are:

- Passion and commitment to animal welfare and Greyhounds as pets
- Ability to undertake relevant screening checks as required
- Experience of previous ownership, volunteering, or employment with Greyhounds
- Current ownership of a GAP Greyhound and ability to transport to events in an air-conditioned vehicle. Not all GAP dogs are suitable for engaging at public events if they don't cope well in busy environments, around children and other dogs (greyhounds or other breeds). We ask volunteers to consider carefully if their dog has the appropriate temperament for this kind of volunteer work.
- Demonstrated ability to read, understand and follow all instructions and information provided in training and informational materials
- Good interpersonal skills and friendly demeanour to engage with the public, and respond to questions appropriately and professionally.
- Ability to stand for extended periods of time and physically control a greyhound up to 40kg

Training and Resources Provided

- All new volunteers are required to attend a two-hour induction session at GAP in Seymour. These sessions are held regularly and volunteers may choose the session that suits their availability.
- Skills sessions are held periodically throughout the year which volunteers may attend to learn more about GAP and Greyhounds. Information packs for events are emailed to volunteers in the preceding days before a scheduled event.
- Volunteers are provided with a GAP polo shirt and a cap to wear. As some events are outside, volunteers should dress sun smart, and use sunscreen provided. Mats and water bowls are provided for greyhounds but you may bring your own if they would be more comfortable.
- Visual training resources are available on the volunteer intranet to provide information on relevant topics, including Greyhound first-aid, prey drive behaviours and key messages for GAP events

Reward and Recognition

Our Community Engagement Volunteers provide invaluable support to GAP, and our mission to achieve full rehoming of all healthy Greyhounds retiring from the racing industry. To show our appreciation to volunteers for their commitment, we hold special recognition events throughout the year.

This includes a celebratory event during National Volunteers Week in May, our end of year Thank You in December, and smaller events throughout the year.

These events are held at varied locations state-wide, to encourage attendance for volunteers from different regions. Where appropriate, we encourage volunteers to bring their Greyhounds to these special events.

For volunteers building skills and experience to enhance career opportunities or meet training course requirements, we can provide letters of service for your resume or course of study.