West Suburban Humane Society

Love is a Pet Away

## Position Description – Humane Education Volunteer

**Supervisor**: Judy Schnell, Volunteer Coordinator, West Suburban Humane Society and Mary Edwards, Humane Education Manager, West Suburban Humane Society

**Purpose of the Position**: Represent West Suburban Humane Society as you educate youth and adults on humane topics such as proper treatment of animals, safety around dogs, responsible pet ownership, and the value of adopting.

**Major responsibilities**:

- Present to and interact with groups on location or in shelter
- Travel as needed to local schools, churches, or other locations with education materials and a shelter dog
- Provide informative tours of the shelter
- Supervise and coordinate service projects at the shelter
- Work with another volunteer when presenting and working with groups
- Assist with development of topics and projects
- Demonstrate some humane topics using a shelter dog and/or cat
- Raise awareness of the shelter – get the word out! Donations come from these visits.

**Time Required**: Flexible throughout the year, 1-4 hours per event. Spring is the busiest season.

**Qualifications**:

- At ease speaking in front of a group
- Comfortable interacting with and engaging other people while presenting to and working with groups
- Ability to work independently and with another volunteer
- Strong verbal skills
- Capacity to "think on your feet"
- Comfortable working with youth and special needs populations
- Passionate about animals and WSHS's mission
- Willing and able to handle cats and dogs

**Training and or Preparations Required**: New Volunteer Orientation and Kennel Training must be completed before working independently. All new Humane Education volunteers will shadow an experienced volunteer until they are comfortable with the topic and format of the tours, classes, and service projects.

**Work location**: Shelter or designated off-site locations.

**Benefits to the volunteer**: Gain skills in presentation and public speaking, learn more about animal care and safety, have fun interacting with groups, interact with animals living at the shelter.

Date of position description: 07-30-14