

Opportunity Barks!

What's Trending for 2019

By Nancy Secrist, Easdale: the best pet care

“Are you hiring?” Starting in spring at Easdale we are! But while we do LOVE our job, it really isn't the same job that many people picture in their minds. Many tell us that they have cared for their own pet for years but that really isn't very helpful for a job in pet care. You say, “Oh, I would love to work with dogs and cats!” But here is the reality:

- First, availability—We do require weekday hours, reliable transportation based on the hours to be worked, and up to 30 or more hours per week, some of which are weekends and holidays. For this reason, we usually hire high school graduates or equivalent, but we have some flexibility.
- Next, character traits—Are you detail oriented, responsible, compassionate, and able to follow directions, both written and verbal? Finally, be here and be on time—many little lives are counting on you to help care for them!
- Then, experience—Go to obedience classes with your own pets to learn the basics about behavior and training, attending dog/cat shows even as a spectator, borrowing books from the library, and learning from good websites that feature pet care. Care for farm animals, horses, or farm work is a plus too.



“You must love hanging out with dogs all day!” Yes, we do, but you have to remember that all pets are broke; they have no pockets, no credit cards, and no bank accounts. If you want to be paid for your work, you need to address the concerns of the owner, such as safety, engaging activities, photos that show activities, and the comfort of their pet which involves A LOT of cleaning! Easdale has an excellent reputation and that is due to our knowledge, care, and individual attention.

If you would like to develop your interest in the pet care profession, I can make some recommendations. Educate yourself about dogs and cats. Some very good sources of information on the web are sites of the American Kennel Club: www.akc.org, and The Cat Fanciers' Ass'n: www.cfa.org, locating dog shows, rally, obedience trials and other events here: www.infodog.com, and for ethics and general knowledge of pets, try www.canismajor.com/dog.

Finally, prepare a resume that shows us how well prepared you are. You also need a cover letter where you can tie together how the skills and experience on your resume will benefit our pet care services. This is where you persuade us that you are the right person to have this position. (Hint: Please try not to argue why the job is good for you, rather, tell us why you are good for us!)

The best time to apply for a position at any pet care facility is in the late winter or early spring, although anytime in the vacation season may provide an opening. As soon as the weather warms, pet owners think about grooming pets that they have let grow long (and often tangled) over the winter. They also think about spring break vacations, holidays, and summer travel plans and their boarding needs. All pet care facilities like to have trained staff ready to provide quality care and services before the peak season. Here at Easdale we are thinking ahead—Are you?

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