



## Heart of Minnesota Animal Shelter

P.O. Box 175  
Hutchinson, MN 55350

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(320) 234-9699  
[www.heartofminnesota.org](http://www.heartofminnesota.org)

### Volunteer Dog Walkers

Welcome! We appreciate your interest. The Heart of Minnesota Animal Shelter has been working diligently since 1999 to get the doors open and it would not have been possible without volunteers. Here are some important rules and guidelines to insure your safety and success:

1. All dog walkers must be 18 years or older. Children are not allowed to come with you and help due to insurance reasons. There are no exceptions.
2. A staff person will be here from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM and again from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM every day of the week (rain or shine or snow). The idea is to get the dogs out and walked while the staff has time to clean the kennels. It is important that you don't interfere with the staff while they are cleaning. It is a big job that takes a lot of time. However, the staff is always available to help if there is a problem or you have a question concerning the dogs.
3. Choke collars are to be used at all times. There is a right and wrong way to put one on. If you are unfamiliar with how to use a choke collar, please ask one of the staff members to demonstrate for you.
4. You must always take along something to pick up the droppings. How the community perceives us is very important.
5. If you are ever uncomfortable with a particular dog, do not walk it.
6. Always enter the kennel fully and shut the door behind you before attempting to put the collar and leash on.
7. Not all dogs get along with each other. Do not let any of the dogs interact. Walk a safe distance from the other walkers at all times.
8. Never let go of the dog for any reason. If the dog is too hard for you to hang onto it, do not walk it.
9. Some dogs cage fight. Always walk keeping your body between the dogs you are walking and the kennels. Keep the leash very short while exiting or entering the

building. You can even use the collar as a grip and make the dog tiptoe in and out of the building.

10. You are volunteering at your own risk. Dog bites of any kind are not covered and you will be required to sign a waiver prior to volunteering to walk dogs. This also includes any and all injuries that may occur while walking the dogs or being present in the building.
11. Thanks again and have fun! The dogs will be more than appreciate of all your efforts!