

ESC TEAM ACTIVITY IN DOGTOR FOUNDATION!



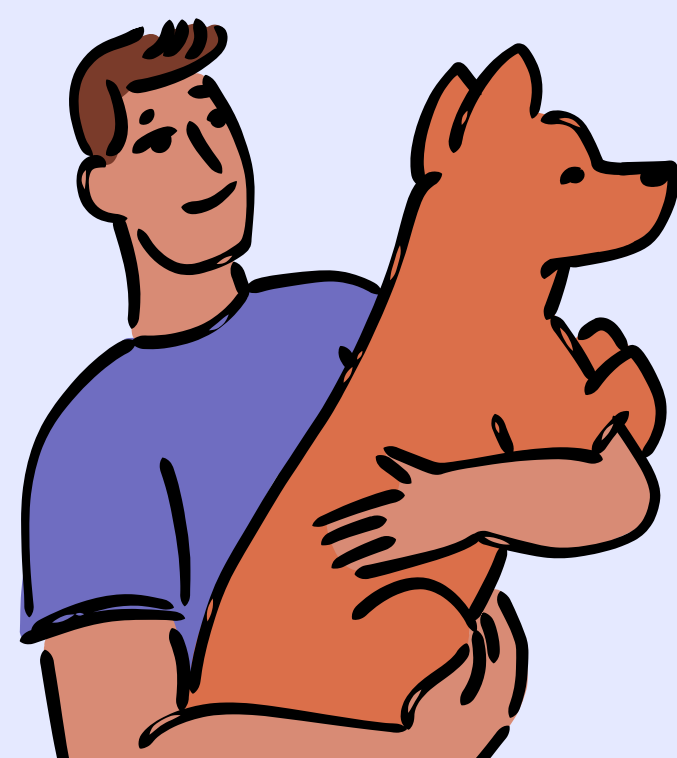
Hosting organization: Dogtor Foundation (E10067140)

Coordinating organization: Centre for Youth Cooperation and Mobility (E10049556)

Place: Gdynia, Poland

Dates: May 2023 (7th-24th)

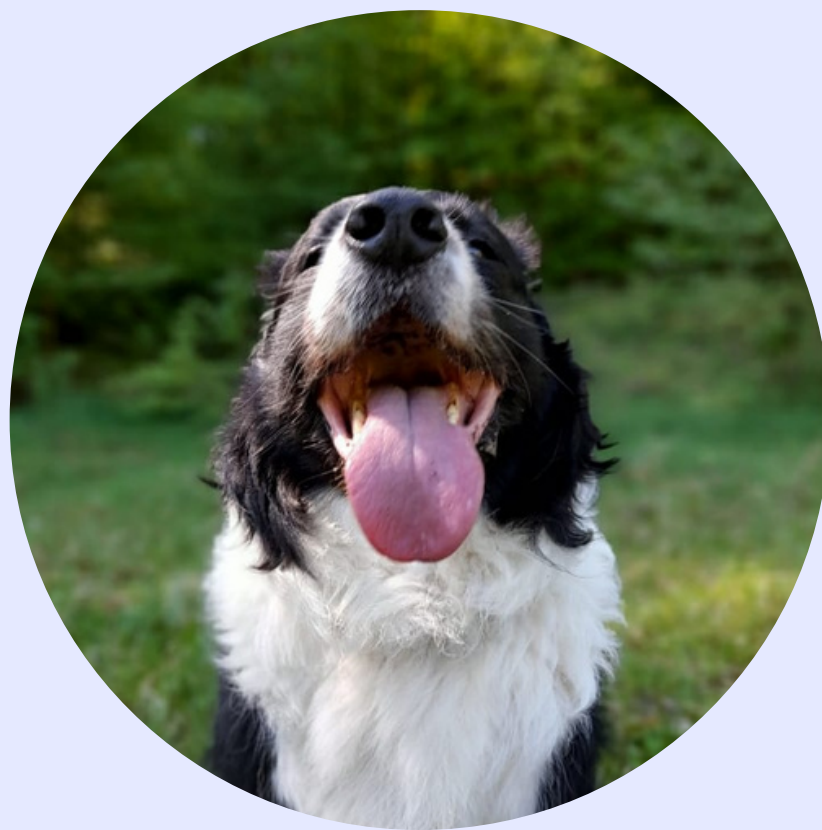
We are looking for a volunteers (18-30 years old) to help us to makeover the dog's training area.



Hosting Organisation

Dogtor Foundation is a non-governmental organisation working in Gdynia since 2002. It was one of the first organisations in Poland interested in the subject of pet-assisted therapy. Dogtor Foundation is involved in dog therapy – a form of activity directed at people with physical and mental disabilities and those suffering from other dysfunctions and illnesses. Dogootherapeutic (also known as kynotherapeutic) activities are based on interactions supported by contact with a specially trained dog. We mainly work with disabled children (e.g. with autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy etc.).

Besides the dog therapy itself, Dogtor Foundation provides specialist training for dogs and for people in regard to dog therapy, as well as a dog obedience school. The Foundation also provides educational activities for children of different age groups, teaching the correct and safe behaviour with dogs and respect for animals. Activities take place in external facilities such as schools, kindergartens, homes for children, hospitals and other special institutions, as well as at the Dogtor Foundation's headquarter in Gdynia.





Project Description

The Foundation received the training yard from the City of Gdynia in April 2022. It was a very neglected place, full of rubbish and it took an enormous amount of effort and energy to tidy it up. However, we managed to clean up the space and this was thanks not only help of the Dogtor Foundation volunteers but also thanks to involvement of people from other organisations, including European Solidarity Corpsvolunteers.

The training yard is a large plot of land overgrown with trees and grass in the very centre of the city, in a convenient location near the Gdynia Główna station. The square is a place where therapydogs from the Foundation are trained. It is a green space where various dog skills can be practised in different sections, e.g. basic obedience, sniffer work, proper contacts with other dogs, etc.

At this moment yard is tided up, but still needs work to make that space a professional dog training area. Work will be mainly physical, but also conceptual within the group of 13 volunteers from all over the Europe and a help of coordinator.



Volunteers Work



The plan include:

- cleaning and gardening (pulling weeds, raking leaves, cutting grass, pruning branches) in the Foundation's training area - building a compost heap where parts of plants left after trimming can be thrown
- creating clear sections for individual dog activities (e.g. sensory path for puppies, sniffer wall, etc.)
- creation of jumping obstacles for dog
- creating a rest and integration area for volunteers with dogs

The work will include also:

- thorough cleaning of the Foundation - washing of teaching aids, lamps, etc.
- painting of the Foundation's outdoor grilles and windowsills

All of these activities will ensure that the training for dog's therapy will be a high standard and will contribute to the quality of the foundation's activities for people with disabilities. Also it will help to increase the number of people interested in training their dogs for dog therapy as courses for outsiders are part of the organisation's paid activities.





What will volunteer learn?

You will learn how to work with people from different countries, with various backgrounds and youth in different age. You can gain knowledge of how to work in team, plan and share work with each other. Working on a dog yard will require physical work, but will also include discussions, making decisions, negotiating, there is a open space to use creativity and aesthetic sense. By working in a team you will learn how to reach a compromise, listen to others and understand their points of view. Also you can improve your language skills.

Moreover you are welcome to share your initiative and propose your own ideas. We believe, that you can experience unique field of work as you can be around therapeutic dogs. This volunteering can be valuable on professional and personal level.



Volunteers Profile

- Accept working physically
- Likes dogs and definitely is not afraid of them
- Have some experience with dogs (e.g. dog in your family)
- Have at least basic knowledge of English-likes to work in a team and wants to improve his/her teamwork skills
- Is a creative and committed person
- Likes to see the results of his/her work
- Appreciates and sees the sense of purpose of the Dogtor Foundation.





Practical Information

As a part of European Solidarity Corps Programme, the volunteers are provided with an international travel cost (up to the travel limit per country) food, pocket money, local transport and the accommodation in Gdynia in shared flats.

Food

You will get 3,5 EUR per day converted into PLN for own cooking

Pocket Money

You will get 4 Euro per day converted into PLN of pocket money which is devoted for your own expenses.

Accommodation

All the volunteers will be accommodate in 2 apartments in Gdynia: one for 6 people and one for 7 people. Flats are located in the same building close to the city center of Gdynia.

You will share a room with 2 other people (3 people in the room). There is a bathroom in each flat. You will have access to the kitchen, one in each apartment.



Local transport

To working place, you will need 15 min walk. If needed you will be provided with bus tickets.

Communication

You will have a possibility to use Wi-Fi Internet in the flat.

Working Time

You will work from Monday to Friday (minimum 30 and maximum 38 hours per week) including training days, evaluation, meetings in the coordinating organization office. On Saturdays and Sundays you will have free days. You will have 2 days of holiday during your stay in Gdynia. All the volunteers must use them at the same time according to our schedule.

Application

You can apply for a team volunteering in Dogtor Foundation by filling in the application : [apply link](#)



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