

Canine Casting Call

for *Of Mice and Men*

Rehearsals: June 2026

Performances: late June – mid-July 2026.

We are seeking volunteer dogs (and their humans!) to be part of our upcoming production of *Of Mice and Men* this summer. The canine performer is not expected to do any tasks outside of walking across the stage and sitting/ lying next to performers all while on a rope lead. We are looking for dogs that are friendly, comfortable around people, and can handle sudden changes in volume from performers and orchestra.

OLD DOG ROLE

The Old Dog appears in Act 1 alongside Candy during a bunkhouse scene.

What the role involves:

- Owners/handlers stay with their dogs (except when the dogs are onstage)
- Walking onstage on a rope lead
- Sitting or lying quietly near Candy's bunk
- Being gently petted/interacted with during the scene
- Exiting with another actor later in the act
- Approximate stage time: 20 minutes

Ideal dog:

- Older, calm family dog
- Medium-sized "farm dog" look
- Labs, shepherd mixes, sheepdogs, mutts, etc. welcome
- Slightly deaf or very chill dogs work great because the scene can get loud
- Comfortable around actors and audience noise
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Important note:

The scene includes raised voices and energetic acting from the cast. A relaxed temperament is essential. Occasionally we may lightly "grunge up" the dog's fur with safe theatrical styling to help create the dusty ranch look.

PUPPY ROLE

The Puppy appears in Act 2 and is carried by Lennie throughout most of the scene.

What the role involves:

- Being held calmly by an actor

- Spending part of the scene resting safely in a crate/box onstage
- Receiving treats or enrichment during the scene
- Approximate stage time: 15 minutes

Ideal puppy:

- Weaned but still quite young/small
- Friendly and comfortable being handled
- Quiet temperament preferred
- Brown and white coloring is a plus, but not required
- Must tolerate cuddling and stage activity

We especially welcome partnerships with local rescue groups or shelters. In past productions, featured puppies have received community attention and promotion through social media and publicity appearances.

Rehearsal & Volunteer Information

- Limited rehearsal commitment
- Owners/handlers stay with their dogs at all times (except when the dogs are onstage)
- Animal safety and comfort are our highest priority
- All participating dogs must be healthy, vaccinated, and comfortable in public settings

If you think your dog might be a fit, we'd love to hear from you! Please email megel@dmmo.org along with:

- Dog's name, age, breed/mix
- A recent photo
- Brief temperament description
- Any experience around crowds, events, or performances

We can't wait to meet your four-legged stars!