

Volunteer Animal Care Assistant

This is a unique opportunity for you to fulfil your passion of caring for wildlife. Our poorly, injured creatures need you to feed and water them, keep them safe in a comfortable and clean cage until they are ready to be released back into their natural habitat. It is vital that our animals receive the highest standard of care to ensure a speedy recovery and a stress free stay at our Veterinary Hospital.

As a Volunteer Animal Care Assistant, you will be part of our team working in the hub of the Care Centre which consists of Casualty rooms which house a variety of cages, pens and aviaries, an Isolation room for highly infectious animals, the Prep room and our Rehabilitation room.

You will receive an extremely rewarding experience, by being close to the animals, seeing them recover and eventually released back into the wild.

Core Duties include-

- Providing all animals with the relevant fresh food and water.
- Handle wildlife when required – i.e. hedgehogs, pigeons, gulls, rabbits etc.
- Clean and disinfect food bowls.
- Clean and disinfect cages and pens.
- Discard soiled bedding in the appropriate manner.
- Clean and wash reusable bedding materials. We have an onsite washing machine which you will be required to operate.
- Due to the nature of work, along with the cage and pen locations, there is a high element of kneeling, bending and stretching when cleaning cages.
- Take faecal samples when needed.
- Monitor wildlife eating and weight, recording accurately on each individual casualty sheet.
- At the end of each shift thoroughly wipe and clean surfaces and sinks, sweep and mop thoroughly the Casualty rooms aiming for hospital standard cleanliness.
- Refill relevant sterilisations bottles
- Ensure feed boxes are topped up
- Ensure all supplies in the Casualty rooms are topped up

Volunteers will also be asked to:

- If you have a concern about any of the animals, you must report them to a member of staff immediately.
- When working in the Isolation room you must wear the appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
- All Casualty rooms should be left in the same state as you would expect to find them in.
- Noise levels must be kept to a minimum so as not to disturb or traumatise the animals in care.
- Maintain strict hygiene levels at all time around the centre.
- You will be offered opportunities to participate in training which we hope you will engage with and benefit from.
- Maintain standards in line with the requirements of the role and WRAS's Health and Safety policies and procedures.

- Comply with Equal Opportunities legislation and be pro-active in challenging prejudice, discrimination and stereotyping.
- Adhere to procedures relating to the proper use and care of equipment and materials for which the role has responsibility.
- Adhere strictly to WRAS's Covid 19 guidelines.
- Promote the core values and aims of WRAS.
- Report any queries or problems to your Volunteer Coordinator.

Soft skills and personality types we are looking for –

- Confident to handle and work among animals.
- Passionate about the care and safety of Wildlife.
- Understand instructions and follow guidelines and procedures.
- Commitment, reliability and time management skills.
- Good interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work within a Team environment and promote Team culture.

Normal Shift patterns are as follows-

9.00am-1.00pm Monday to Sunday

5.00pm-8.00pm Monday to Sunday

The shifts currently work on a once a week commitment basis. We welcome Volunteers to do multiple shifts if you have availability to do so.

As a Volunteer Animal Care Assistant, you must be over 18.

You may volunteer if you are between the ages of 13 and 18, but you must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

There will be occasions where we may ask Volunteers to help cover other shifts when required.

Your Manager is Ellie Langridge – Volunteer Coordinator – 07483395484 – ellie@eastsussexwras.org.uk