

Volunteer Orphan Rearing Assistant

This is a unique opportunity for you to fulfil your passion of caring for wildlife.

Every year WRAS has 100's of baby birds come into care because they are sick, injured or have been abandoned. The orphans will range from Hatchlings, Nestlings and Fledglings and each will require their own special care plan.

It is vital that our orphans receive the highest standard of care, many of which will require early morning and late evening feeding as often as every 15 minutes.

As a Volunteer Orphan Rearing Assistant, you will be part of our team working in the Care Centre which houses the Orphan Rearing rooms.

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

Core Duties include-

- Feeding the birds by hand when required.
- Ensure food and water is available to the birds who are able to self-feed.
- Handle birds when required – i.e. Robins, Blue Tits, Swallows, Magpies, Crows & Owls
- Clean and disinfect food bowls.
- Clean and disinfect cages and incubators.
- Discard soiled bedding in the appropriate manner.
- Due to the nature of work, along with the cage and incubator 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 the Orphan room thoroughly aiming for hospital standard cleanliness.
- Ensure all supplies in the Orphan room are topped up

Volunteers will also be asked to:

- If you have a concern about any of the birds, you must report them to a Casualty Manager immediately.
- The Orphan Rearing room should be left in the same state as you would expect to find it in.
- Noise levels must be kept to a minimum so as not to disturb or traumatise the birds 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 birds.
- 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.

Orphan Rearing is a seasonal position throughout Spring and Summer.

Depending on when we get the first influx of orphan birds come in will be when your volunteering role will start. This is generally from March/April until August/September.

Normal Shift patterns are as follows-

7am-10am Monday to Sunday

10am-2pm Monday to Sunday

2pm-6pm Monday to Sunday

6pm-10pm 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.

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

As a Volunteer Orphan Rearing Assistant you must be over 18.

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