



Wildlife Protection

There are field response needs within Wildlife Protection that are typically fulfilled by volunteers who work with wildlife. To safely and effectively serve as a volunteer when deployed, volunteers need to possess the following physical, mental, and emotional capacities. Your signature on this form indicates you believe you possess these basic capabilities, with your written acknowledgement of any limitations. Please note: some accommodations can be made and will be taken into consideration relative to role placement.

Essential Physical Capabilities

- Quick reflexes and ability to use both hands simultaneously (example: open cage door while handling animal).
- High level of manual dexterity to handle/restrain wild animals and handle small tools.
- Ability to walk unaided on unpaved, uneven, rugged, rough and sometimes muddy and slippery terrain.
- Ability to work in a variety of possible environmental conditions including below freezing and intense heat and sun.
- Ability to bend and squat in order to restrain and pick up an animal.
- Ability to stand for significant periods of time.
- Average vision (with or without correction) to move around safely, to be able to observe animal body language without difficulty, and to be able to read notes on field paperwork.
- Ability to hear if animal is growling or making sounds indicating fear, pain, or aggression.
- Ability to speak and effectively communicate in English verbally as well as in written form.
- Ability to maneuver well in tight spaces.
- Must not have strong allergies to animals or to chemicals, such as those used in cleaning, that can't be managed by medication.
- Ability to deal with strong and unpleasant odors, fleas, feces and possible wounds or injuries to animals we encounter.
- Average strength to assist with lifting small to medium size animals and cages/traps (up to 50 pounds).
- No known concerns about tolerating exposure to zoonotic diseases such as ringworm and mange.
- Ability to be quiet and treat animals in the most sensitive way possible.

Essential Mental Capabilities

- Ability to understand, remember and follow instructions and procedures.
- High level reading, writing, spelling and communication skills (example: understand words such as quarantine), and a mastery of the English language.
- Possess problem-solving capability.
- Ability to work as a team member and follow the chain of command.
- Ability to be aware of potentially dangerous situations when working with the animals; ability to remain calm with animals who are upset, behave sensitively and confidently, and show good judgment and act appropriately in these situations.
- Ability to receive, incorporate and sustain instruction and feedback.
- Ability to understand that wildlife is treated differently than companion animals by law enforcement, the veterinary field and political decision makers.

Essential Emotional Capabilities

- Ability to cope with unexpected animal behavior without assistance.

- Ability to cope with a highly emotionally-charged environment and in the presence of animals who are imperiled, abandoned, injured and/or abused.
- Ability to work with stressed, injured, dying and potentially dead animals injured in natural or human-caused disasters.
- Ability to cope with the unexpected and unplanned death of a compromised animal.
- Ability to understand and accept that a project partner's management techniques can differ from ours.
- Ability to understand The Humane Society of the United States' (HSUS) policies and positions regarding wildlife and other key animal welfare issues and an ability and willingness to appropriately and accurately represent those policies when interacting with the public or otherwise representing The HSUS.

Please indicate any reasonable accommodation(s) you may need in order to meet the essential capabilities of your volunteer position at The HSUS:

Printed Name of Applicant

Signature of Applicant

Date

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian (if under 18)

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under 18)

Date