

Direct Wildlife Care Volunteer

<i>Nothing in this position description restricts management's right to assign or reassign duties and responsibilities to this position at any time.</i>	
Work Location	4011 Main Street, Barnstable, MA 02630
Position Grade	3 ; background check includes Criminal Background, Social Security Number Verification and Sex Offender Registry
Purpose of the Position	Provide direct care to wild rehabilitation animals in care at the Cape Wildlife Center (CWC)
Volunteer Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare diets for wildlife patients: chop produce, prepare specific patient diets, mix formulas • Feed and water wildlife in rehabilitation by using designated measured amounts and species-specific diet instructions • Handle and restrain animals and learn to identify individual animals • Write detailed animal care notes as directed and enter notes into the Daily Logs for each animal • Identify potential health issues in animals and ensure notes are provided to the medical staff • Assist medical staff with care of rehabilitation animals • Assist with intakes of new rehabilitation patients from the public and rescue agencies • Provide various forms of enrichment • Assist with releases of rehabilitated animals back in to the wild • After volunteering for one year and completing mandatory continuing education courses, work in clinic with medical staff on rehabilitation patients
Level of Difficulty 1=easy/5=demanding (physical, mental, emotional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical difficulty is level 4; involves cleaning and maintaining enclosures, which can be physically strenuous; volunteers must be able to stand, lift, bend, walk and have the ability to react and move quickly • Mental difficulty is level 2; requires learning procedures and protocols and working independently; volunteers must be willing to follow all safe animal handling protocols as explained during training • Emotional difficulty is level 3; volunteers will come into contact with injured, orphaned or abandoned wildlife, which can be emotionally distressing
Expected Environmental Conditions	Most work is done inside in the ward but additional work is done outside in the elements. Strong possibility of exposure to water, sun, and/or rain. Exposure to mosquitoes and other small insects. Use of strong chemical cleaning agents is possible. (There is access to air conditioning/heat, restrooms, a kitchen and a break room.)
How Often Volunteers Work On-site	All work is performed on site, unless assisting with an off-site release
Orientation/Training	Direct Wildlife Care volunteers will be given access to a volunteer manual and

	will be trained on the particular aspects of their role along with being offered continuing education sessions.
Learning Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the CWC and how the program area fits into the larger picture of animal protection • Learn how to properly care for rehabilitation animals • Develop or strengthen safe animal handling and wildlife rescue skills • Strengthen communication and customer service skills • Knowledge of various animal species and wildlife issues • Knowledge of humane coexistence with wildlife • Knowledge of wildlife rehabilitation process • Knowledge of animals' habitats • Exposure to the operations of a wildlife care center
Position Start Date	Spring
Initial Minimum Commitment	Volunteers must have the ability to work a minimum of one 3-hour shift per week during the busy season from March through October. Scheduling and length of service are fairly flexible; however, there is an expectation that people fulfill the commitment made by mutual agreement with staff at the outset of their volunteer work.
Scheduling Guidelines	From March through October, shifts are a minimum of 3 hours in length between the hours of 9:00 AM-5:00 PM, seven days a week; hours may vary and include evening and weekend hours. Hours are variable through the off-season from November through February.
Qualifications/Requirements for Volunteer Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have completed at least 30 hours as a Wildlife Support Volunteer prior to starting in the Direct Wildlife Care Volunteer role. Staff considers attendance, professionalism, and attention to detail before promoting Wildlife Support volunteers to Direct Wildlife Care. • Able to meet the requirements outlined in the Essential Capabilities document with or without reasonable accommodation • Able to maintain professionalism in attitude and appearance • Must exhibit strong problem-solving skills • Attentive to detail • Able to react calmly under stress and follow instructions including proper cleaning/feeding procedures, and make appropriate suggestions • Able to work quietly and avoid loud socialization when in wards and/or when in presence of animals, which includes the prohibition of cell phone usage while working around animals • Able to control the urge to play with/pet the wildlife • Insensitive to wildlife odors/feces • Ability to work well independently and use good judgment • Able to learn and demonstrate a familiarity with CWC's programs • Able to understand The HSUS's policies and positions regarding animal protection issues and able and willing to appropriately and accurately represent those policies when interacting with the public or otherwise representing The HSUS • Knowledge of local wildlife and/or animal handling skills highly valued
Restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be at least 16 years old; volunteers under 18 must have permission from a parent or guardian to participate in our program • Teens 16 or 17 years old may work independently and may not leave the property during shift

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have reliable transportation and arrive on time for shifts • Please note that individuals who are immune-compromised should not work directly with wildlife • Must wear a volunteer T-Shirt • Must wear long pants and closed-toed, rubber-soled shoes • Should have access to a computer and ability to login into an online volunteer communication site to receive updates • Must learn and follow all guidelines and policies of The HSUS and CWC, and follow directions given by staff • Must submit the required paperwork and pass a background check before being assigned • Volunteers who wish to work with rabies vector species must receive pre-exposure rabies inoculation • Current tetanus inoculation recommended
Tools/Equipment Provided (including Personal Protective Equipment)	All tools and personal protective equipment needed to perform the work including latex and leather gloves, sun block, nets for any necessary animal captures, hearing and eye protection, and any other necessary equipment and supplies.
Optional Tools/Equipment	Volunteers must wear closed-toed, water-resistant, rubber soled shoes. Appropriate clothing (long pants or long capris; no shorts). Clothes may get dirty; many volunteers bring a change of clothes. A hair tie to keep hair pulled back. Volunteers are provided T-shirts to wear when they are working.
Supervisor(s)	Volunteer Coordinator, Cape Wildlife Center: 508.362.0111
Number of Concurrent Volunteer Openings	50-75 individuals
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWC cannot accommodate court-mandated community service at the Center • CWC volunteers provide an immeasurable amount of support to our staff in caring for the over 1,700 animals that pass through our doors annually. In 2014, CWC volunteers logged over 8,000 hours, a number which will surely be surpassed this year. CWC volunteers include retired professionals, parents with school-aged children, college students, and adults who all have one thing in common: a love of and interest in wildlife. We welcome volunteers who have a positive attitude, boundless energy and enthusiasm.
Updated	1.2.2015