



## Volunteer Position Description

### Sentience Researcher

<i>Nothing in this position description restricts management's right to assign or reassign duties and responsibilities to this position at any time.</i>	
<b>Work Location</b>	Remote
<b>Position Grade</b>	<b>1</b> ; background check not required
<b>Purpose of the Position</b>	Advance the information on animal sentience available for our campaigns and lobbying efforts.
<b>Volunteer Responsibilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct mostly online research, reviewing published articles and book chapters for compelling information about the sentience (emotions, minds, perceptions, social behavior, etc.) of animal species key to HSUS campaigns (e.g., cougars, bears, wolves, rats, sharks)</li> <li>Summarize research findings for each paper, with citation</li> </ul>
<b>Level of Difficulty</b> <b>1=easy/5=demanding</b> (physical, mental, emotional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical difficulty is level 1; mainly computer/desk work in a home office setting, with possibility of occasional field trips to access library materials</li> <li>Mental difficulty is level 4; must have online research skills and the ability to extract and succinctly summarize key information from often technically and scientifically complex source materials</li> <li>Emotional difficulty is level 2; some source material may include descriptions of studies that caused animal suffering</li> </ul>
<b>Expected Environmental Conditions</b>	Indoors/office environment
<b>How Often Volunteers Work On-site</b>	n/a
<b>Orientation/Training</b>	Volunteer will be given an orientation on the organization and background information, and will be trained on the particular aspects of the role including the basics of online literary searches and how to navigate our Animal Studies Repository.
<b>Learning Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop or hone research and writing skills</li> <li>Knowledge about the latest scientific discoveries on target species</li> </ul>
<b>Position Start Date</b>	Flexible
<b>Initial Minimum Commitment</b>	Minimum of 4 hours per week for three months
<b>Scheduling Guidelines</b>	Schedule is flexible
<b>Qualifications/Requirements for Volunteer Applicants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong writing skills</li> <li>At least an undergraduate degree in science required; graduate degree in the life sciences preferred</li> <li>Online research skills</li> <li>Interest in animal protection</li> <li>Able to budget time and adhere to project deadlines</li> <li>Computer literacy with proficiency in Microsoft Word</li> <li>Able to work well independently with little supervision</li> </ul>
<b>Restrictions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must have access to a computer with Microsoft Word and access to the Internet</li> <li>Must be able to learn and follow guidelines and policies of The HSUS and</li> </ul>

	HSISP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must submit the required paperwork before being assigned</li> </ul>
<b>Tools/Equipment Provided (including Personal Protective Equipment)</b>	We will provide subscription/access to our digital library.
<b>Optional Tools/Equipment</b>	n/a
<b>Supervisor(s)</b>	Director for Animal Sentience, Humane Society Institute of Science and Policy
<b>Number of Concurrent Volunteer Openings</b>	2 individuals
<b>Additional Information</b>	
<b>Updated</b>	3.20.2015