

Wildlife Support 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	Assist with the care of wild rehabilitation animals in care at the Cape Wildlife Center (CWC)
Volunteer Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and clean cages and enclosures which may include raking, weeding, sweeping platforms, using strong chemical cleaning agents, and climbing ladders up to 8 feet • Launder towels and bedding as needed; empty and wash/sanitize dishes daily • Restock supplies and food as needed; store towels, bedding, and dishes in appropriate areas • Assist with releases of rehabilitated animals back in to the wild
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, extreme heat, 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
Orientation/Training	Orientation includes the following: history and tour of CWC, description of rules, overview of programs and volunteer opportunities. Volunteers should attend the orientation wearing casual clothing. Volunteers must attend 2-3 training sessions; they will be given access to a volunteer manual and will be trained on the particular aspects of their role. Continuing education sessions are also offered throughout the year.
Learning Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the CWC and how the program fits into the larger picture of animal protection • Strengthen communication and customer service skills • Knowledge of various animal species and wildlife issues

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of animals' habitats and humane coexistence with wildlife • Knowledge of wildlife rehabilitation process • Exposure to the operations of a wildlife care center
Position Start Date	Spring
Initial Minimum Commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • All volunteers who begin in the Wildlife Support Volunteer position must work for a minimum of 30 hours before they may be considered for advancement to the Direct Wildlife Care Volunteer position. Volunteers are also welcome to continue on in their Wildlife Support Volunteer position beyond the initial 30-hour commitment.
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. Shift schedules are dependent on our operating hours and events; 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"> • Able to meet the requirements outlined in the Essential Capabilities document with or without reasonable accommodation • Able to maintain professionalism in attitude and appearance • Ability to work well independently and use good judgment • Able to follow instructions including proper cleaning/feeding procedures • Ability 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 • Able to learn and demonstrate a familiarity with CWC's programs • Able to maintain professionalism in attitude and appearance • Attentive to detail • 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 after attending orientation with a parent/legal guardian and may not leave the property during shift • 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, personal protective equipment, and supplies needed to perform the work are provided.
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
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