

Field projects volunteer position description

The following explains what we typically expect from volunteers in this role, but we may change the expectations of the role at any time.

Department	Prairie Dog Conflict Resolution Team (PDCRT)
Work location	Urban and rural prairie dog colonies; Front Range Colorado-focused with occasional out of state projects
Background check	Background check includes Criminal Background, Social Security Number Verification and Sex Offender Registry; Motor Vehicle Check is included for those participating in transport.
Purpose of the position	Assist Prairie Dog Conflict Resolution Team and project partners with prairie dog relocations, coexistence techniques and associated field work.
Volunteer responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assist in humane trapping operations to relocate displaced prairie dogs. ▪ Care for animals during transport to release site. ▪ Assist staff with preparation of release site such as constructing and restoring release burrows. ▪ Effectively communicate wildlife observations and needs to project supervisor (Field Lead Team Member). ▪ Implement coexistence strategies and habitat maintenance for the prairie dog ecosystem. ▪ Assist staff with project-related administrative tasks as needed. ▪ Provide logistical, physical, and practical mission support on site or remotely as needed. ▪ If interested, use own vehicle to pick up and drop off prairie dogs from our take site to either the release site or holding facility. Volunteers would be responsible for their own gas.
Level of difficulty 1=easy/5=demanding (physical, mental, emotional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Physical difficulty is rated level 4; requires hands-on animal care and restraint; requires ability to stand, bend, and squat; requires ability to move and respond quickly. ▪ Mental difficulty is rated level 3; requires ability to stay alert, follow instructions, problem solve, work in sometimes near silent conditions to minimize animal stress. ▪ Emotional difficulty is rated level 4; requires ability to cope in emotionally-charged environments and work with animals who may be dead, injured, abused, and/or highly stressed; requires ability to remain calm and quiet under stressful conditions; requires ability to remain positive and work with a variable and changing schedule based on unpredictable weather and wildlife behavior.
Expected environmental conditions	Conditions vary by project. Volunteers can expect challenging environmental conditions (including extreme heat) and accommodations. By nature, field projects will be in areas that may not offer routine comforts such as air conditioning, flushing toilets, television, computer access or cellular services. Volunteers will have access to food and water.

How often volunteers work on-site	Most work is performed on-site. Some of the work (computer-based) can be performed remotely.
Orientation/training	Volunteers will be requested to attend PDCRT's annual orientation to kick off the field season, typically held in August. Volunteers will be given an on-site training at the beginning of project. Required training will be determined based on which project aspect the volunteer is interested in/assigned to.
Learning opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen animal handling skills including human and animal safety. ▪ Develop or strengthen team-building skills and animal caretaking skills including biological and veterinary observations. ▪ Learn about innovative field techniques, wildlife behavior and biology, prairie dog ecosystem, and wild to wild translocation. ▪ Learn about basic policy and protections related to the prairie dog ecosystem. ▪ Collaborate and network with government and non-government agencies and organizations employing wildlife coexistence and landscape planning for the prairie dog ecosystem. ▪ Opportunity to learn about the organization's mission and take action on a variety of issues to support our work.
Position start date	Flexible
Initial minimum commitment	Volunteers have an initial commitment of one project lasting approximately 4-6 hours for 2-3 days. We prefer volunteers commit to work at least 2-3 days/week throughout the season (late summer through November).
Scheduling guidelines	Scheduling varies by project. The average shift is 4 hours. Full day and half day opportunities available.
Qualifications/requirements for volunteer applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Able to meet the requirements specified in the <i>Essential capabilities</i> document with or without reasonable accommodations. ▪ General organizational skills ▪ Basic animal handling skills, including capture and restraint ▪ Basic animal behavior knowledge ▪ Able to follow detailed instructions in potentially high stress or emotionally-challenging situations ▪ Able to work well on a team ▪ 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 ▪ Tetanus and rabies vaccinations recommended ▪ Wildlife knowledge/experience a plus ▪ Veterinary/vet tech/EMT background a plus

Restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Must be at least 18 years old. ▪ Must wear an HSUS volunteer shirt (provided) and closed-toed shoes during on-site work. ▪ Must have reliable transportation and arrive on time for shifts. ▪ Must have email and text access to respond to team scheduling and volunteer-related messages. ▪ Must be able to learn and follow guidelines and policies of the Humane Society of the United States and PDCRT and follow directions given by staff. ▪ Must submit the required paperwork and pass a background check before being assigned.
Tools/equipment provided (including personal protective equipment)	All supplies needed for the volunteer work are provided.
Optional tools/equipment	Refillable water bottle and appropriate outdoor apparel, depending on weather, recommended. For field work, consider bringing heavy gloves, heavy boots with covered toes, camelback, backpack or waist pack, flashlight and/or headlamp, sunscreen and insect repellent.
Supervisor(s)	Volunteers respond in the field to their Field Lead Team Member, which will vary by project.
Number of concurrent volunteer openings	Up to 5 individual volunteers per shift
Additional information	Volunteers must prepare for their personal medical and special dietary needs. Field lunches sometimes provided. Volunteers may attend weekly team meetings if desired.
Updated	7/1/2021