



## Wildlife Volunteer Position Titles and Descriptions

### Wildlife Communication Services Volunteer

**Skills:** Must have excellent communication skills, people skills and a willingness to acquire and share knowledge regarding local wildlife.

**Duties:** The main responsibility of a wildlife communication specialists is to discuss wildlife concerns with the public. This work may be done either through a phone call at our phone desk or in person at the admissions lobby. Pertinent record keeping including maintaining telephone logs and admission forms is necessary.

**Commitment:** High seasonally (April-October) flexible during the fall and winter. Must commit to a minimum of one, four hour shift per week. Must attend structured training sessions.

### Wildlife Data Entry Volunteer

**Skills:** Knowledge of basic computer skills to transfer information from wildlife admission forms into the wildlife data base. Training covering our specific data base program will be provided.

**Duties:** The Wildlife Dept. admits nearly 3,000 wild animals a year. A record of all animals must be filed annually with the state and federal governments. This data base program supports our licensing requirements.

**Commitment:** Volunteers are needed to enter the data on each animal throughout the year but the greatest need is from May through September when there is a high volume of animals. The commitment involves volunteering at the SPCA for a 2-3 hour shift once or twice a week.

### **Wildlife Education Volunteer**

**Skills:** Comfortable with public speaking. Good communicator with a wide range of people including young children and seniors. Be able to communicate the mission of the SPCA Serving Erie County especially with regard to Wildlife Service. Present in front of a variety of groups and organizations. Helpful if volunteer has experience handling wildlife and is included on our permit.

**Duties:** Attend programs in the public including interactive workshops, environmental events, wildlife events, and presentations.

**Commitment:** Occasional, as needed.

### **Songbird Care Specialist**

**Skills:** Must be detail oriented and comfortable working in a fast paced environment. Must be comfortable working with and hand feeding small baby songbirds.

**Duties:** Responsible for feeding and cleaning nestling and fledgling songbirds.

**Commitment:** Throughout the spring and summer, we receive hundreds of baby birds that require constant attention. Must commit to a minimum of one, four-hour shift once a week. Shifts are available from 8am-8pm, seven days a week. Baby bird season runs from early May through August.

### **Husbandry Care Specialist**

**Skills:** Must feel comfortable working in close proximity to wildlife. Restraint and handling skills are necessary and training will be provided. Must be detail oriented.

**Duties:** Responsible for cleaning and feeding our wild animal patients. Responsible for monitoring enclosures and providing appropriate cage features such as perches, hide boxes or swim pools. Must update patient care sheets. Commonly admitted species include waterfowl, song birds, squirrels, rabbits, and birds of prey.

**Commitment:** High: seasonally (April-October) Flexible during the fall and winter. Must commit to a minimum of one, four hour shift per week.

### **Medical Care Specialist**

**Skills:** Wildlife rehabilitation or medical experience preferred but not mandatory. This position requires the safe restraint and handling of wildlife. The volunteer must feel comfortable assisting with and

performing medical treatments on wild animal patients. Applicants must attend all orientation and training sessions necessary to learn these skills.

**Duties:** To feed, clean and medicate sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife during their rehabilitation process. Commonly admitted species include waterfowl, song birds, squirrels, rabbits, and birds of prey. Responsible for patient admission and triage, medical record keeping and basic animal husbandry.

**Commitment:** High: Must commit to a minimum of one, four hour shift per week. (This position is open with extended hours and is available 7 days a week.)

### **Wildlife Foster Care Volunteer**

**Skills:** Must be detail oriented. Responsible for hand raising orphaned Squirrels and/or Eastern Cottontail rabbits in your home.

**Duties:** Responsible for all aspects of hand raising and caring for orphaned Squirrels and Eastern Cottontails to prepare them for release. Foster parents for squirrels need a very flexible and open schedule. Squirrel feedings can range from every 3-6 hours, 2-6 times a day depending on their age at admission. Cottontail feedings take place twice a day when the rabbits are young and then graduate to once a day until they are weaned. Eastern Cottontails can be time consuming to feed initially. Allow a minimum of one hour per feeding session initially. Animals will return to the SPCA for their final evaluation and release.

**Commitment:** High: When a litter is available to go into foster care, caretaker is responsible 24/7 for their litter until release day. Intake of orphans begins in late March and ends in September. . Must be able to commit 2-8 weeks to a litter of orphans (species dependent) 1-3 times a year (April-September). All training and supplies are provided by the SPCA Wildlife Department.