

Position Title: Volunteer Animal Care Assistant

Location: Willowbank Wildlife Reserve

Reports To: Volunteer Coordinator

Position Overview

As a Volunteer Animal Care Assistant at Willowbank, you will contribute directly to the care and well-being of the animals within the reserve. You'll be trained to support the Animal Care Team in your designated area, with a focus on routine animal care and habitat maintenance. Each shift will allow you to build skills and knowledge in animal care.

This role requires a passion for animal welfare, attention to detail, and a commitment to the conservation of wildlife.

Key Responsibilities

- **Animal Care:**
Assist with daily feeding, cleaning, and enrichment activities for animals in your assigned section under staff supervision.
 - **Habitat Maintenance:**
Help maintain safe, clean, and enriching environments for the animals, including enclosure cleaning, food preparation areas, and surrounding habitats.
 - **Observation and Reporting:**
Monitor animal behaviour and promptly report any unusual signs or concerns to the Animal Care Team.
 - **Support with Enrichment Activities:**
Aid in preparing and distributing enrichment materials to stimulate natural behaviours and enhance animal welfare.
 - **Safety Compliance:**
Follow all safety protocols when working with animals and in shared workspaces. Wear required protective gear and maintain personal safety.
 - **Team Collaboration:**
Work alongside other volunteers and staff to support daily tasks, ensuring a safe and productive environment for both animals and humans.
 - **Professional Conduct:**
Adhere to Willowbank's code of conduct for Animal Care volunteers, maintaining a responsible and respectful approach to animal care.
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Shift Details

- **Minimum one year placement**
 - **Shift Times:** Shifts begin at 8:30 AM.
 - **Shift Length:** Minimum of 3 hours per shift, all shifts concluded by 4.30pm.
 - **Weekly Roster:** Volunteers will be rostered a permanent day on a specific section.
 - **Leave:** All leave must be notified to the volunteer coordinator.
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Training

- **Comprehensive Training Program:**
Volunteers will receive hands-on training in situ.
 - **Ongoing Support:**
Staff members provide guidance and answer questions throughout the volunteer's time in the role.
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Requirements

- **Passion for Animal Care and Conservation:**
A genuine interest in animal welfare and commitment to conservation efforts.
 - **Physical Stamina:**
Ability to handle physically demanding tasks, including lifting, bending, and working outdoors in various weather conditions.
 - **Observation Skills:**
Attention to detail when observing animals and cleaning enclosures.
 - **Minimum Commitment:**
One shift per week, with flexibility for additional shifts if time allows. **Minimum one year placement**
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This role offers a unique opportunity to work closely with wildlife, contribute to conservation, and be an integral part of the Willowbank team. Volunteers will gain hands-on experience in animal care and develop a deeper understanding of each species.