

# INFORMATION ABOUT VOLUNTEERING AT FERNE

The work at Ferne Animal Sanctuary is greatly supported by an amazing team of dedicated volunteers of whom we are incredibly proud.



There are a wide variety of volunteering roles at Ferne: from hands-on help with the animals; getting involved in our gift shop, visitor centre or café; helping at the charity shops or volunteering at one of our many fun events. However you help, we strive to ensure that the volunteering experience is rewarding and enjoyable and that all our volunteers are valued for their commitment to us.

## WHY VOLUNTEER WITH US?



People volunteer for us for many different reasons but above all we find our volunteers have a love of animals and a passion for their welfare.

In addition to knowing they are helping the many animals who find themselves in need of our care, our volunteers can gain new skills and use their experiences with us to enhance their CVs or even make a full career change.

It's also a great way to make lots of two-legged and four-legged friends and really feel part of something worthwhile.



## HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

The first step to joining the team is to complete a Volunteer Application Form (this can be obtained by emailing [volunteering@ferneanimalsanctuary.com](mailto:volunteering@ferneanimalsanctuary.com) or call 01460 65214). On this form you can give us some information about what you enjoy doing and indicate the volunteering roles you would be interested in. Please note that some roles have age restrictions in place for insurance purposes.

We will endeavour to acknowledge receipt of your application form as soon as we receive it.

Once we have this form, you will be considered for any suitable volunteering roles which are available. But please bear with us; in particular, we receive many applications from people who wish to volunteer with the animals (especially the cats and dogs) making these roles very competitive. We accommodate as many people as we are able.

Applicants who are short-listed will be invited to come and have an informal chat with us. At this stage we will also obtain references from the two people that you named on your application form.

The successful applicant will be asked to attend an induction session before they start volunteering, during which they will be introduced to the practical aspects of being part of Ferne and given any role specific instruction that is required.

If you are not selected to fill a vacancy or if there is no suitable vacancy available, we will retain your application on file for ongoing consideration. However, if you have not secured a volunteer position within 6 months, please let us know if you would like to us to keep your application active.

We do not ask for a minimum time commitment. In fact, many of our volunteers find the experience here so enjoyable and rewarding that they remain volunteering at the Sanctuary for a long time.



Whatever time you can commit to volunteering, we'd love you to contact us. Some roles, such as getting involved with Ferne events require only an occasional time commitment whilst roles such as being a Home Visitor are more flexible and can fit around your work or home life. For roles working with the cats, dogs and farm animals we operate a rota system and therefore a regular time commitment, usually weekly, is required.

**We take pride in having a very robust process for recruiting volunteers, but this does mean that in general we cannot accommodate people wishing to join us at very short notice or on a one-off basis.**

### **Work experience placements**

Students looking for work experience affiliated to a course they are undertaking are welcome to contact us. We treat work experience applications differently to volunteering as we need to ensure you meet the requirements of your course. Please note people under the age of 18 cannot volunteer directly with the animals. This restriction is in place not only for insurance purposes but also because many of the animals here are of unknown backgrounds.



Students looking for volunteering opportunities for the **Duke of Edinburgh Award** should mark this on their application form. Although we cannot accommodate this at the Sanctuary, we may be able to facilitate a placement at one of our Charity Shops.

### **Supported Volunteering**

Sometimes, as a consequence of medical conditions we feel that people would require, or benefit from, a greater level of support from our staff in order to volunteer. Despite our limited charity resources, we are proud to have two lovely groups of volunteers who, with support, help at the Sanctuary on a weekly basis.

At present we are unable to offer any additional supported volunteering, however we welcome applications from people who would like to register an interest in supported volunteering and we will consider all these applications should an opportunity become available in the future.

### **Corporate Volunteering**

For enquiries about corporate volunteering please call or email the Volunteer Supervisor on the number below.

### **Data Protection**

The data from all applications will be treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act and General Data Protection Regulations 2018.



*Ferne is an amazing place to volunteer,  
so thank you for considering us!*

If you have any further queries, then please do not hesitate to contact the Volunteer Supervisor:  
[volunteering@ferneanimalsanctuary.org](mailto:volunteering@ferneanimalsanctuary.org) or Tel: 01460 65214