

Carolina Tiger Rescue Animal Care Volunteer Position Description

Reports To: Animal Keepers and Volunteer Coordinator

Overview Summary

Animal Care is the fastest-paced and most labor-intensive role at Carolina Tiger. It also has the highest turnover rate due to the role's weekly time commitment and physical requirements.

There is a tremendous amount of information to learn and many safety guidelines that must be followed. Volunteers in this position are expected to be able to confidently work independently, work well as part of a group, follow verbal and written instructions, speak up when they have questions or need clarification, and not mind getting dirty.

Animal Care Volunteers work very closely with our Animal Keepers, assisting them with daily activities. Tasks may include, but are not limited to, maintaining and cleaning animal enclosures and den boxes, refreshing and cleaning animal water dishes, preparing and dispensing diets, creating and distributing enrichment items, assisting in data entry, and animal observations, all while working in a rural, outdoor environment. AC volunteers can expect to frequently handle raw meat, work near and around poison ivy, insects, and other native flora and fauna, and regularly lift/carry 50+ lbs.

Requirements

- Must be at least 18 years old.
- Must have a reliable means of transportation.
- Must commit to at least one shift each week.
 - Shift times are 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM and 1 PM – 4:30 PM every day.
- Seasonal volunteers must commit to a minimum of six consecutive months.
- Non-seasonal volunteers must commit to a minimum of 12 consecutive months.

*A valid driver's license is strongly recommended. Not having a license will limit training opportunities.

Essential Position Functions

- Must be able to work independently and take initiative.
- Must be able to work cooperatively in small groups.
- Must be capable of taking directions well and paying careful attention to procedures and established protocols.
- Must be able to follow instructions and carry out given responsibilities in a safe and careful manner, always following safety procedures and guidelines.
- Must be physically able to perform cleaning, feeding, changing waters, and general husbandry tasks under various weather conditions (rain, shine, snow, etc.).

- Must be able to adjust to changes in daily routines.
- Carolina Tiger feeds a whole carcass diet to resident carnivores. Volunteers must be comfortable working with and around raw meat. Animal Care team members are responsible for butchering whole-animal donations, including but not limited to chickens, deer, horses, cows, and sheep.

Culture and Competencies

Carolina Tiger has built a culture of honesty, equity, inclusion, accountability, and respect. Volunteers are expected to be active participants in this cultural commitment. This is achieved through effective communication skills, active listening, work ethic, moral and ethical behavior, and passion.

- Teamwork – Supporting, facilitating, and participating in activities that promote team effectiveness. Demonstrating sensitivity to the feelings and needs of team members and supporting team goals.
- Communication – Effectively expressing ideas verbally and non-verbally and actively listening to individuals and groups.
- Safety – Be an advocate for your own safety at all times.

Typical Physical Requirements

This role is our most physically demanding. Our facility is in rural North Carolina, and the sanctuary is not paved. Terrain includes gravel paths and open, uneven areas of vegetation. Volunteers participating in Animal Care will work in all areas of the sanctuary and often travel on foot.

- More than normal standing (majority of each shift).
- More than normal walking, stretching, and bending.
- Frequently lifting and carrying objects weighing up to 50 lbs.
- All team members are subject to bites, stings, and scrapes from native flora and fauna, including but not limited to poison ivy, ants, and a variety of flying insects.
- Exposure to marked changes in temperature and humidity.

Additional Notes

As mentioned above, our 67-acre property has all the natural hazards of rural North Carolina. Poison ivy, oak, and sumac are prevalent throughout the sanctuary. Long pants are required for this role, and long-sleeve shirts are highly recommended. If you have a severe allergy to poison ivy, we strongly encourage you to seek a different volunteer role.