



Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary

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Dear Sanctuary Volunteer,

Thank you for considering to offer your time and skills as a volunteer for the Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS). The need for volunteers is great and the sanctuary requires help in all aspects. The only pre-requisite needed as a volunteer is a desire to help wildlife, be it hands-on care, building cages, transporting animals, fund raising or educating the public through talks/tours/booths at craft shows etc. There is something for everyone and every task is essential for the success of WWS.

WWS relies on many volunteers who donate their time to help our worthy cause. With your help we can build and sustain a wildlife sanctuary where wild animals are treated with compassion and proper care, and released back to their natural habitat for a second chance at life. Some non-releasable animals may find a permanent home at WWS and may be beneficial in our educational program.

From April to September mammals are born and birds are hatched. During those months, wildlife arrives to us on a daily basis from all across southern Ontario. Most are in distress, either starved, injured or diseased. Many require immediate medical attention. Some must be euthanized. From September and during the winter months we receive mostly injured and care for any over-wintering/resident wildlife that was not ready for release in the fall.

The following information is provided as a guideline to assist you in your commitment as a volunteer...

- ◇ During our busy baby season (May-Sept), we have divided the day into 3 shifts at the sanctuary so that each volunteer can expect to put in about 4 hours/day. Certain tasks can be performed from your own home (i.e. data entry, newsletter etc.) and others are flexible in regards to time or day (i.e. cage construction). You can commit to just a few hours a week or all day, as there is always a need for your help.
- ◇ Volunteers must be at least 16 years old and are required to have updated tetanus immunization.
- ◇ Hands-on care of animals involves mostly feeding and cleaning cages, and volunteers will have to possess not just strong and compassionate hearts, but also strong stomachs! Dead fish and mice need to be cut up and mealworms are a common component of bird diets. The animals' injuries are often severe and death is a common visitor to any rehab facility. Despite all this, working with wildlife is very rewarding and filled with opportunities to learn from and appreciate each unique creature.
- ◇ As we are a non-profit organization, all our funds are allocated directed into the sanctuary. At this time, we cannot financial compensate volunteers for any expenses that incur during their day. Volunteers assisting in transporting of wildlife, or in other off-site situations, will not be reimbursed for fuel, parking, meals etc. We are hopeful that this will change in the future but for now, please be understanding.
- ◇ We will provide training and instruction to the best of our abilities for our volunteers. Many tasks however are new learning experiences for us too (i.e. grant application writing, fund raising etc.) and we will be relying on input and direction from our volunteers base. We are planning a volunteer orientation this spring so please plan to attend and bring along any questions and ideas.

With sincere thanks,

Monika Melichar