



**DONT BE JUST ANOTHER  
VOLUNTOURIST**  
Get free advice on how to volunteer  
fairly in South America

## FAIR VOLUNTEERING WITH ANIMALS

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Are you interested in volunteering with animals? If you are not sure how to choose an organisation that works with animals in a fair way, we hope that this 'Fair Volunteering with Animals' guide will help you.

#### CLEAR MISSION

The volunteer organisation must have a well-defined wider mission, which includes a working plan of specific actions. You can ask the organisation how your volunteer work fits into the wider objectives.

#### PROJECT AIM

The aim of the project must go beyond just keeping the animals in a 'store house', as this does not contribute to society, the environment or the future of the animal. In such cases, the work of the volunteer is little more than an entertaining experience, while for the organisation it is inexpensive labour.

#### RE-INTRODUCING ANIMALS TO THEIR NATURAL HABITAT

One of the aims of the project must be to reintroduce the animal or at least its descendants back to their natural habitat.

#### ANIMAL WELLBEING

Rescue centres can easily become inefficient and turned into store houses or private zoos. We must avoid this at all costs if we wish to ensure the wellbeing of the animals.

#### COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING

Proper training and preparation when working with animals is of the utmost importance, in order to ensure the best care for the animals. The more responsibility taken on by the volunteer, the longer and more detailed the volunteer's training should be.

#### COMMITMENT LEVEL

Certain activities such as the rehabilitation of sick or injured animals or the reintroduction of animals into their natural habitat not only require special training, but also a high level of commitment and availability from the volunteer. If you are unable to commit to this kind of work, consider taking on a less specialised position within the organisation to use your unique skill set in a different way.

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### A WELL-DEFINED POSITION

To guarantee a well-organised and efficient project, personnel should have fixed positions within the organisation. This will allow each person to fully understand what they need to do for the animals, and avoid any mistakes being made. This may be working directly with the animals, completing administrative tasks or working to manage or oversee a project.

### FEES OR COSTS

It is important to be wary of organisations that wish to charge for volunteering with animals. If an organisation claims that your money is being spent on the wellbeing of the animals, ask for proof. You can ask for any reports or audits that the organisation has undergone in the past. It is important to ask this, as they could be exploiting the animals for monetary gain.

### USE YOUR UNIQUE SKILLS

If you have certain skills like knowing how to touch-type, are good with people or you have had other experiences like cleaning out horses stables, let the organisation know. If you can put your skills to use, whatever they may be, they will make a big impact on the organisation.

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