



# **Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation, Inc.**

## ***Volunteer Information & Application***

**Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation, Inc.**

P.O. Box 369 • Kendalia, Texas 78027 • Phone: (830) 336-2725 • Fax: (830) 336-3733  
Website: [www.wildlife-rescue.org](http://www.wildlife-rescue.org) • E-mail: [info@wildlife-rescue.org](mailto:info@wildlife-rescue.org)

## Volunteer Overview

Thank you for your interest in our organization and in helping wildlife! At Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation, Inc. (WRR) there are many opportunities for volunteers to learn about the hundreds of species of wildlife found in South Texas while helping them recover from injuries, illnesses, and the trauma of being orphaned.

WRR rescues over 7,000 animals per year, and we depend on large numbers of reliable volunteers to keep the organization running. We cannot continue in our life-saving work without volunteers!

By making sure that we have enough volunteers scheduled to cover all tasks and shifts, we know the animals will have the care they need and deserve. Our facility is in operation 7 days a week, with a variety of shifts to choose from, depending on the volunteer position.

If you volunteer as a Wildlife Caretaker in the Clinic & Nursery, duties consist of feeding baby animals, cleaning cages, setting up habitats, doing laundry, washing dishes, and preparing food. During the spring and summer months there are hundreds of hungry mouths to feed every day.

Wildlife Rescuers and Wildlife Transporters play a vital role in the rehabilitation process. If we can't get the animal, we can't treat the animal. Rescuers and Transporters respond to calls from WRR regarding an animal in need and then head out to assess the situation or retrieve the injured animal.

There are also opportunities to transport donations, help at fund-raising events, do landscaping and construction projects, and assist in the office.

With so many diverse opportunities, you can find the right job for you!

All of the volunteer positions are important. We require a serious commitment in all the jobs to make sure that these animals survive. The work is hard, but rewarding. The experience is one most people will never have and one that our volunteers will never forget!

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## Mission

To provide rescue, rehabilitation, and release of orphaned, injured, and displaced wildlife, and to provide sanctuary with dignity for non-releasable and non-native wild animals.

## Organization History

Founded in 1977 in San Antonio, Texas, by Lynn Cuny, who remains its Executive Director, Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation (WRR) was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in 1978. Its mission is to provide rescue, rehabilitation, and release of orphaned, injured, and displaced wildlife, and permanent sanctuary care in large natural habitats to non-releasable animals. Among the latter are indigenous wildlife, exotic animals victimized by the pet trade and roadside zoos, and retirees from research facilities. In addition, WRR provides advice and assistance in dealing with human-wildlife encounters in a non-lethal manner.

Demand for WRR services increased so rapidly that by 1980 it had to move from the Cuny home and backyard to a 4-acre site outside of San Antonio. In 1986, it became necessary to move again, this time to a 21-acre facility near Boerne, Texas. In 1999, a large gift from an individual supporter enabled WRR to purchase a 187-acre site in Kendalia about 20 miles from the Boerne facility. We completed our move onto the new property in the spring of 2004.

Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation is widely recognized as a superior rehabilitation and sanctuary facility and is accredited by The Association of Sanctuaries (TAOS). It provides a permanent home for a variety of mammals (e.g., wolves, bears, jaguars, cougars, and primates) and many species of migratory birds and non-indigenous reptiles. In 2005, over 7,000 animals were brought to WRR, mostly from surrounding areas, but many from around the country; the majority of these were rehabilitated and released or given permanent sanctuary.

WRR maintains a 24-hour emergency hotline and is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It is supported by a membership of over 8,000 individuals and is assisted by 150 volunteers. The organization has a staff of 20 and anywhere from 8 to 15 interns who come from the U.S. and abroad to work at the sanctuary and gain experience and training in wildlife rehabilitation and animal care. Whether through training, education, advocacy, or direct animal care, WRR fulfills its commitment to wildlife protection and ethical, sustainable relations between humans and the natural world.

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# Volunteer Job Descriptions

## ***Wildlife Caretaker***

A Wildlife Caretaker works at our Clinic and Sanctuary in Kendalia. The spring and summer months (“baby season”) is the busiest for WRR, when we receive thousands of orphaned mammals and birds as well as injured adults. Volunteers assist staff and interns to keep up with feeding baby animals, cleaning cages, and other general clinic cleaning duties, such as washing bedding, feeding dishes, and implements. During the fall and winter, we see fewer animals and the work shifts more towards cleaning and organizational projects, as well as assisting with feeding and medical care.

Commitment: Minimum of one 4-hour shift twice a month for at least 3 months.  
Availability: Year-round, 7 days a week, 6:00 a.m.–Midnight.  
Training: Initial volunteer orientation required. Additional on-the-job training by clinic staff. Supervised by clinic staff.

## ***Wildlife Rescuer***

WRR receives calls 7 days a week, 24 hours a day concerning wild animals in need of help. A Wildlife Rescuer helps us respond to those calls by releasing wild animals from live traps, picking up contained animals and transporting them to the drop-off point or sanctuary, and rescuing sick or injured animals. This is a critical position for WRR; if we cannot get the animals, we cannot treat the animals.

Commitment: Respond to at least one call per week for at least 3 months.  
Availability: Year-round, 7 days a week.  
Training: Initial volunteer orientation required. Additional briefing on rescue and transport procedures.

## ***Wildlife Transporter***

WRR has drop-off points in San Antonio. A Wildlife Transporter picks up animals from these sites (at either 5:00 or 6:00 p.m., depending on the site) and transports them to the sanctuary in Kendalia. The Monday–Friday drop-off point is Castle West Animal Hospital (CWAH). The Saturday and Sunday site is the Humane Society of Bexar County.

Commitment: One evening every other week (i.e., 1st and 3rd Monday of each month).  
Availability: Year round, 7 days a week, Monday–Friday at 6:00 p.m., weekends at 5:00 p.m.  
Training: Initial volunteer orientation required. Additional briefing on proper procedures for transporting wild animals.

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## ***Maintenance & Construction***

Volunteers in Maintenance & Construction assist with the construction of furnishings for enclosures such as climbing platforms, shelters, and nest boxes, mowing grass, gardening, and planting. WRR can also use the assistance of electricians, plumbers, welders, and other specialty tradespeople.

Commitment: Two 4-hour shifts per month.  
Availability: Flexible schedule, special projects on weekends.  
Training: Initial volunteer orientation required. On-the-job training or instruction as needs arise.

## ***Office & Administration***

Office & Administration volunteers assist the management team with tasks such as typing, filing, data entry, and mailings.

Commitment: Two 4-hour shifts per month.  
Availability: Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  
Training: On-the-job instruction provided for specific tasks.

## ***Special Events***

Special Events volunteers assist with set-up and clean-up and staff booths at WRR events.

Commitment: Two 4-hour shifts per month.  
Availability: Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  
Training: On-the-job instruction provided for specific tasks.

## ***Donation Transporter***

WRR relies on donations of goods such as produce, feed, hay, and carnivore food. Donation Transporters pick up the items from the vendors and transport them to the Kendalia facility. A truck or SUV is helpful for this work.

Commitment: As needed.  
Availability: Dependent upon the incoming donation offerings.  
Training: Initial volunteer orientation required.

## ***Squirrel's Nest Helper***

The Squirrel's Nest is the WRR thrift store located in Boerne. All proceeds from this store go directly towards animal care needs at the sanctuary. Volunteers help with sorting donations, stocking store shelves, and assisting customers. The store is open Tuesday–Saturday.

Commitment: One 4-hour shift weekly or bi-weekly.  
Availability: Year-round, Tuesday–Saturday, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.  
Training: Initial volunteer orientation required.

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# Attendance Policy

## ***Commitment***

WRR depends on volunteers to assist us in carrying out our mission of rescue, rehabilitation, and release of native wild animals. We cannot succeed without our team of volunteers, and we rely on your help. Due to the level of training involved and for consistency of care, we ask for a minimum commitment of twice monthly for at least 3 months for many of the positions. We will be flexible to accommodate your personal schedules. Please discuss your desired volunteer commitment with the Rescue & Volunteer Coordinator.

## ***Attendance Policy***

You are as important as the staff and interns in caring for the animals. The staff members plan their days according to the volunteer help that they have during their shifts. If you find that you are unable to work at time for which have signed up, please notify us as soon as possible.

**Wildlife Caretakers:** Please give at least two days notice so that Clinic staff may restructure the feeding and cleaning schedules accordingly.

**Wildlife Transporters:** Please provide at least one week notice. Pick ups at our San Antonio sites happen 7 days a week, and we must find a replacement for you if you are unable to make your regularly scheduled trip.

**Wildlife Rescuers:** We appreciate a response to our phone calls requesting your help with an animal. Even if you are not available for that particular rescue, we like to know that, so we can then proceed to call others to help.

One-week notice is appreciated for any special projects such as maintenance and construction, office assistance, special events, and donation transportation.

## ***Cancellations and No-Shows***

If a volunteer repeatedly cancels, does not show up the shifts they have chosen, or does not respond to rescue calls, they will be removed from the volunteer roster.

## ***Resignation***

Should the time come that you are no longer able to continue your volunteer work with WRR, we ask that you please give us at least two weeks notice.

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## Ethical Issues & WRR Philosophies

WRR rescues and cares for all wildlife, including native and non-native species. We believe that all animals — rare or common, regardless of species — are deserving of our care, attention, and respect.

Animals are living, breathing, feeling, wonderful entities and they deserve our respect. We refer to animals as “he/she” or “them/they,” or by species. The words “it” or “thing” are never used to refer to an animal, and “who” is used rather than “that.” If you do not know the gender, choose one: “he” or “she.” Even if your gender choice is wrong, it is more respectful than “it.”

Wild animals who cannot be released with a reasonable chance for survival in the wild, but who would have a good quality of life in captivity if provided the opportunity, are given sanctuary at WRR. WRR also provides sanctuary to animals who have been victims of the exotic pet trade, rescued from roadside zoos, or used in research labs. The sanctuary is composed of large enclosures, natural habitats, and minimal human contact.

WRR is not open to the public and does not use animals in education programs. We do not keep wild animals in captivity for the purpose of subjecting them to the stress of public display and crowds. The use of animals in this manner sends a message to the public that animals can or should be tamed, kept as “pets” or that they are objects for human diversion or recreation. Animals are not to be used for human entertainment.

The feeding of live prey is kept to a minimum and only fed to those animals that need to prove or develop their hunting skills before release. Because we feel all animals are important, we do not want to cause stress or pain to any animal unnecessarily.

We do not generally give advice to the public on how to raise or care for wildlife. It is illegal for people to do so without proper permits. We do not want the animals to suffer in well-intentioned, but inexperienced hands or become habituated to humans.

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# Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation, Inc.

*To rescue, release, and provide sanctuary with dignity.*

## WRR Volunteer Application

Thank you for your interest in being a volunteer for Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation. We cannot do this life-saving work without our volunteers, and we are pleased that you wish to join this valuable team of people. If you have questions, call us at (830) 336-2725.

Please complete this application and return it to WRR. Once we have received your form, the Rescue & Volunteer Coordinator will contact you to schedule an orientation session.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_

May we contact you at work?  Yes  No Work Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Best Days to Call \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time to Call \_\_\_\_\_

Do you meet our minimum age requirement of 18 years old?  Yes  No

Why do you want to volunteer for Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation? \_\_\_\_\_

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Please describe any experience, knowledge or studies of animals. \_\_\_\_\_

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Please describe any physical or psychological conditions that may prevent you from engaging in volunteer activities (i.e., heart disease, back problems, allergies). \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently or have you ever been employed by or volunteered for another wildlife rehabilitation organization? If so, when and where? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the volunteer opportunities at WRR? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

There are many ways to get involved as a WRR volunteer. Review the job descriptions in your informational packet and indicate below which job(s) are of interest to you:

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Caretaker   | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance & Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Donation Transporter   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Rescuer     | <input type="checkbox"/> Office & Administration    | <input type="checkbox"/> Squirrel's Nest Helper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Transporter | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events             |   |

Please indicate your availability (days or evenings, weekdays or weekends). \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How often do you intend to volunteer? Please review the minimum commitments discussed in the information packet. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*I have read the volunteer information packet provided to me, and I am interested in making a commitment to Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation and to the animals by assisting in this work as indicated above. I have read WRR's ethical issues statements and I agree to abide by those practices and policies at all times. I agree that if I am chosen as a WRR volunteer that I will do my best to care for the animals placed in my hands and treat them with the respect that they deserve.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature* *Date*

Mail to: