

PROJECT 2A – Small Animal Animal Rescue, Vancouver

This volunteer wildlife rescue center is the largest in Western Canada and is located in Burnaby, close to beautiful Vancouver, British. Metro Vancouver is developing rapidly and animals living in the urban environment face many challenges such as busy roads, loss of habitat, pollution, pet predation, poisoning, unsecured garbage and direct human cruelty. The centre is a temporary home to a diverse range of animals, and are released back into the wild once they are ready. They provide public education and outreach which includes a wildlife helpline, community festivals, year-round nature camps, and hundreds of presentations and displays throughout the Greater Vancouver Area.

THE VOLUNTEER JOB

Volunteers at the wildlife rescue centre will be involved in a variety of tasks from preparing meals for animals, feeding animals, assisting with rescue and release of wildlife, cleaning cages, record keeping, cage maintenance, general repairs, preparing educational materials, assisting in fundraising events, and various administrative tasks. Volunteers need to remember that this job is labour intensive and some duties require working outdoors in wet, muddy, or cold conditions. Children day camps are offered during Spring and Summer breaks, during some school holidays and after-school for some schools for four to six weeks. Volunteers will be able to assist with these camps offered on site.

HOURS OF WORK AND FREE TIME

Volunteering hours are flexible, 2-3 days off every week will vary depending on how much help they need, and how many other volunteers they have at that time. Vancouver is a huge city, so during days off, volunteers can take part in everything the city has to offer from museums, beaches, parks, golf, mountain biking, hiking, yoga, bars/restaurants, great shopping and more!

TRAINING AND SUPERVISION

Volunteers take part in a training session on their first day. They are also trained on-the-job alongside staff. The volunteer may not be allowed to work with babies during the first week of their training, but will be given responsibility as they learn more.

IDEAL CANDIDATE PROFILE

Candidates should be hard working, have a strong interest in working with wild animals and be willing to participate in any jobs that need to be done. Volunteers need to understand that the work is labour intensive. Experience with animals is an asset but not required.

ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

Since this rescue centre is in a large city, accommodation is not provided by the centre. Participants are responsible for their own housing and food. Participants can either book homestay through Tamwood International College/GO International where they live and eat with a Canadian family, or search for their own housing with people their own age. The centre is easily accessed by bus, so no matter where the volunteer lives, they will be able to take local transit to the centre for their volunteer work.

TRANSPORTATION AROUND VANCOUVER

Metro Vancouver has a major transit system called Translink. Translink provides bus, skytrain and seabus service to most of Metro Vancouver. Monthly bus passes are cost-efficient because if you take the bus at

least twice a day, it will save you money. Volunteers are encouraged to buy a used bike as bikes are permitted on the buses and will be useful for the 25 minutes walk from the bus stop to the rescue centre. The centre provides an outdoor covered bike rack where volunteers and staff lock their bikes.

ORIENTATION LOCATION: A general orientation to working in Canada is offered once a month in Vancouver. This orientation is optional. Volunteers who skip this orientation can go straight to the location of the project and orientation materials will be sent to them via email.

START DATES AND MINIMUM DURATION

Start dates are flexible and are available year-round because they always need volunteers. Please contact Tamwood/GO International for more details. **Minimum Duration:** 6 weeks

Deadline to Apply: at least 8 weeks prior to arrival



