



Rescue Volunteer

This is a unique opportunity for you to fulfil your passion of caring for wildlife.

East Sussex Wildlife Ambulance and Rescue Service (WRAS) is an award winning community charity, providing a front-line rescue service and veterinary hospital, responding to calls from members of the public, vets, local authorities, and other animal welfare organisations.

Rescuers will experience a range of challenges when collecting casualties from the wild, some animals may already be contained, some may need catching, and restraining and you will also prepare them for transportation.

You will receive an extremely rewarding experience, by assisting the animals who are injured or suffering and transporting them to the Care Centre, you are providing the animals with their greatest chance of survival.

Rescue teams will normally work in pairs and therefore there are two Rescuer volunteer roles at WRAS. All new rescuers will normally start this volunteer path through the support rescuer role. It should be noted that there may be opportunities to progress through to lead rescue roles as vacancies and the need is required. WRAS retain the right to determine to vary these requirements.

The two rescuer roles are as follows:

1. Lead rescuer
2. Support rescuer

Core duties of lead rescuer includes-

- Responding to calls to rescue casualties as required.
- Conducting the relevant checks of vehicles and rescue equipment before each shift. (check list provided).
- Maintaining the required levels of equipment in vehicles.
- Adhering to the Check list of requirements when using a WRAS vehicle (separate document).
- Accessing the scene and determining an action plan in cognisance of health & safety issues.
- Assessing the casualties, determining any triaging and carrying out any first aid requirements.
- Correct handling of casualties.
- Selection and use of safety equipment relevant to the rescue.
- Selection and use of relevant Personal Protective Equipment.
- Ensuring that relevant documentation relating to the rescue is completed fully.
- Ensuring that the relevant documentation relating to the use of the vehicle is completed, i.e. Log book.
- Collection of donations as per WRAS documentation and guidance.
- Releasing recovered casualties back to the wild.
- Reporting of any vehicle or equipment defects to the relevant person.

Core duties of support rescuer includes-

- Responding to calls to rescue casualties as required.
- Conducting the relevant checks of vehicles and rescue equipment before each shift. (check list provided).
- Liaising with the Rescue Co-ordinator en-route to and whilst at an incident via mobile phone.
- Assisting with ensuring that the required level of equipment in vehicles is maintained.
- Following the instructions of the lead rescuer.
- Informing the lead rescuer of any issues that you can foresee.
- Assisting the lead rescuer with any rescues.
- Assist with handling of casualties.
- Use of safety equipment relevant to the rescue.
- Use of relevant Personal Protective Equipment.
- Liaise with the general public at incidents.
- Completion of relevant documentation relating to the rescue.
- Completion of relevant documentation relating to the use of the vehicle, i.e. Log book.
- Assist with the collection of donations as per WRAS documentation and guidance.
- Look after the care of animals as required whilst they are transported back to the casualty centre.
- Assist with the release of recovered casualties back to the wild.
- Assisting with the reporting of any vehicle or equipment defects to the relevant person.

Volunteers will also be asked to:

- Report any concerns about any of the casualties to a member of staff at the earliest opportunity.
- Read and comply with the contents of the WRAS' RoSPA Volunteer Driver's Handbook.
- Maintain strict hygiene levels at all time around the centre and inside vehicles.
- Attend mandatory training sessions and we hope you will engage fully as you will benefit from this.
- Maintain standards in line with the requirements of the role and WRAS's Health and Safety policies and procedures.
- Comply with Equal Opportunities legislation and be pro-active in challenging prejudice, discrimination and stereotyping.
- Adhere to procedures relating to the proper use and care of equipment and materials for which the role has responsibility.
- Treat all members of public with respect and politeness while representing WRAS
- Adhere strictly to any guidance that WRAS provides. This includes temporary guidance such as was implemented for Covid 19.
- Promote the core values and aims of WRAS.
- Report any queries or problems to your Volunteer Coordinator.

Soft skills and personality types we are looking for –

- Confident to handle a wide range of Animals and Birds.
- Ability to think calmly and rationally.
- Ability to problem solve.
- Passionate about the care and safety of Wildlife.

- Full UK Driving Licence
- Understand instructions and follow guidelines and procedures.
- Commitment, reliability and time management skills.
- Good interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work within a Team environment and promote Team culture.

Normal Shift patterns are as follows-

Daytime Rescue Shift Monday to Sunday 10am – 6pm

Evening Rescue Shift Monday to Sunday 6pm – 10pm

The shifts currently work on a once a week commitment basis. We ask volunteers to choose a set shift which works best for both parties and commit to it. If there are any changes to availability this must be discussed with your volunteer manager. There will be occasions where we may ask Volunteers to help cover other shifts when required.

All Volunteer Rescuers will begin as a support rescuer. It can sometimes take at least a year before rescuers are fully trained to be a lead rescuer.

As a Rescue Volunteer you must be over 21 to drive the WRAS ambulances.

The Volunteer Coordinator is Ellie Langridge – 07939941962 – ellie@eastsussexwras.org.uk

The Assistant Volunteer Coordinator is Lucy Langran – 07939941962 – lucy@eastsussexwras.org.uk

The Duty Rescue Coordinator depends on which day/evening you are rescuing-

- Trevor Weeks
- Katie Nunn-Nash
- Karen Francis
- Kristy Sayer
- Amy Davis