

If you would like to become a volunteer in any of the roles mentioned in this leaflet, please complete the application form and send it to

The Assistant Manager (Volunteering)
The William & Patricia Venton RSPCA Animal Centre
Quoit
St. Columb
TR9 6JS

Tel: 01637 881455 9am to 4pm every day except Wednesdays
when the phone line and the Centre are closed.

When we receive your application, you'll be invited to the Animal Centre to learn more about your volunteering role.

The different aspects of volunteering will be explained and you'll be able to look around the Centre and ask any questions you may have.

References will be required and will be taken up.

Volunteer enquiry email info@rspcacornwall.org.uk
www.rspcacornwall.org.uk



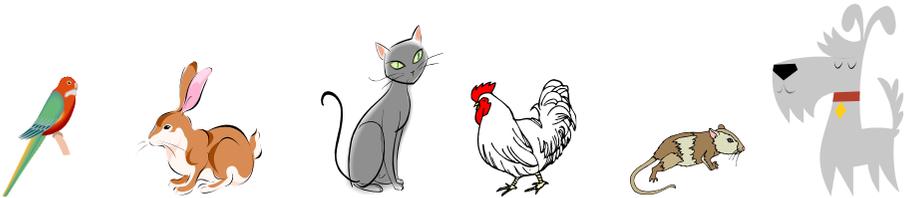


RSPCA Cornwall Branch
Registered Charity No. 1024808

Is volunteering right for me?

Before you complete the application form please take a minute or two to read this leaflet. We'd like to tell you more about the volunteer jobs we have to offer so you know how you can best help us and the animals in our care.

If you wish to volunteer as a Home Visitor, please see page 3.



RSPCA Cornwall Branch, like every one of the 162 Branches that make up the national RSPCA in England and Wales, is a separate registered charity. We rely on public support as we do not receive regular funding from RSPCA Headquarters in West Sussex.

We are not financed by the government nor can we apply to the lottery for help. In fact we could not exist without public donations and volunteer help.

Each Branch must raise sufficient income to run whatever animal facilities it provides. Some Branches run animal clinics; RSPCA Cornwall Branch owns and runs the Venton Rehoming Centre at St. Columb.

The unpaid volunteer Trustees of the charity have to raise £500,000 every year in Cornwall to run the Centre and pay the vets' fees for the abused or injured animals that we make well and rehome.

If you would like to give the gift of your time to animal welfare and you are age 18 or over, there are several volunteering opportunities you might like to consider.

The number of paid staff at the Centre is kept to a minimum and that is why we rely on volunteers supporting the Animal Care Assistants. **If you want to help**

with hands-on care of the animals you will be trained to safely handle animals and learn about relevant Health & Safety issues.

You will be supervised until you feel confident about what you're doing but you must be capable of following written and verbal instructions from the staff.

To **walk dogs, socialise cats or be a kennel assistant**, you'll need to be

- *able to work on your own* i.e. not need to be accompanied following your training as crowding cats and dogs that are unused to being in kennels can be stressful for them
- quiet around the animals so as not to frighten them
- patient but confident in your approach to animals
- physically fit to be able to hold or restrain animals
- not allergic to fur or feathers
- understand and support RSPCA policies.



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We also need help at the Centre with

- **maintaining the grounds, trimming hedges, mowing grass and painting fences**
- **small, unskilled d.i.y. repair jobs and redecorating**
- **driving the Centre van to collect donated goods and deliver them to the charity shops, or taking injured animals and birds to RSPCA West Hatch Wildlife Centre in Somerset.**



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Raising money to pay for the Animal Centre

RSPCA Cornwall Branch raises funds to maintain the Centre and pay for vets' bills, animal food and medication. **Fundraisers are needed** across the county, arranging flag days and supermarket cash collections.

We are under-represented in the county and need fundraisers who are reliable and trustworthy and can

- **organise charity events e.g. a sponsored dog walk, a sponsored cycle ride, or hire a local hall for the Branch to run a quiz evening or a microchipping event**
- **be ambassadors for the RSPCA and support RSPCA policies.**





Home Visitors play an important part in the rehoming process. Before any animal can be adopted, a trained volunteer Home Visitor goes to the adopters' home to gather information about the suitability of the adoption e.g. where the animal will live, garden size and security. A follow up visit is carried out three months after rehoming to ensure the wellbeing of the animal.

To be a Home Visitor you should

- be able to work on your own, as well as part of the rehoming team
- not be breeding from your own animals which should be neutered or spayed
- be able to communicate well and draw out information - not just yes/no answers
- be flexible about the times of visits i.e. evenings and weekends as well as during the day
- always remember that it is the Centre Manager who makes the decision as to suitability for adoption
- be willing to attend occasional refresher courses at the Venton Centre.

If you wish to volunteer as a Home Visitor, please request the specific application form and notes by emailing gillian@rspcacornwall.org.uk

If we do not have a vacancy in your area we'll tell you immediately and ask if we can keep your details and contact you if a vacancy arises.

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Working in one of our charity shops

RSPCA Cornwall Branch runs three charity shops where all the staff are unpaid volunteers, sorting and pricing donated goods, doing three hour shifts on a rota, Monday to Saturday, either from 10am to 1pm, or 1pm to 4pm.



The shops are in Bude, Camborne and St. Austell.

If you want to make new friends and directly support the Animal Centre, you'll need to be

- friendly and reliable
- able to work as part of a team
- fit to lift bags of donated clothes and goods.