



Volunteer Opportunities

Thank you for considering a volunteer position at CROW. You can make the difference in helping injured, sick and orphaned wildlife by giving your time, talent and abilities through our opportunities below.

All of CROW's patients require daily maintenance which can range from intensive to supportive care. CROW's medical staff is responsible for all intensive care patients and its volunteers contribute a great deal toward supportive care. Responsibilities include cage cleaning, diet preparation, patient feeding and overall support of CROW's medical clinic as deemed necessary.

Volunteer Emergency Rescue and Transport (VERT)

CROW provides services for injured, sick and orphaned wildlife throughout Lee County. However, many of the people who find them, have never encountered a wild animal before and are not equipped to transport them. VERTs are volunteers who are "on call" and trained to capture and safely contain wildlife and transport them to CROW.

Drop-Off Point Drivers (Transport only)

Many of the people who actually find injured animals are unable to bring them to CROW. For this reason, CROW partners with area domestic animal hospitals that act as temporary holding facilities for in-transit patients. Volunteer drop-off-point drivers travel to these locations, pick up patients, and bring them to CROW for treatment.

Admission Desk

CROW provides a Wildlife Hotline for the finders of distressed wildlife to call for emergency instruction. First Responder volunteers work like 911 operators and are trained in various animal emergencies to determine the best method to get the injured, sick or orphaned wildlife safely to CROW.

Clinic Upstairs (*pre-approval or experience required*)

The top floor of CROW hospital holds the intensive and general patient care areas. Volunteers in these areas generally have veterinary experience or are studying to be a veterinary technician or a veterinarian. These volunteers work alongside CROW's vet techs to assist with patient care.

Baby Room - Patient Care and Cage Cleaning

Our babies require round the clock feeding, whether it be baby bird season during the spring, or baby squirrel season during the fall. You will work cooperatively with other volunteers and staff to feed, clean, enrich and medially care for the babies. You will also help with laundry, dishes and overall organization upstairs in the hospital.

Laundry

CROW's patients are stressed, often in pain and fearful. Clean laundry for patient handling and for the comfort of the animals and the cleanliness of recovery cages is critical. Towels keep patients and staff safe during treatment. Volunteers are responsible for making sure that the hospital (both upstairs and downstairs) is readily stocked with clean laundry at all times. This responsibility is shared among all students, staff and volunteers but during busy season, laundry volunteers are invaluable.

Rehabilitation - Patient Care and Cage Cleaning

Outside rehabilitation is the last step in the recovery process for all CROW patients. Before being released, patients must build up their muscles and work on skills they will need in the wild. You will work cooperatively with our rehabilitation staff and other volunteers to feed, clean and enrich patients in our outdoor enclosures. You will also help with laundry, dishes and overall organization downstairs in the hospital.

Raccoons or Opossums (*complete Rabies vaccination required for Raccoon care*)

When baby mammals arrive at CROW, we have the difficult job of providing the necessary nutritional support while also preventing them from becoming habituated to people. Volunteers with the baby raccoons or opossums require a specific training and a special dedication. You will work cooperatively with medical staff and other volunteers to feed, clean and enrich babies. You will also help with laundry, dishes and overall organization downstairs in the hospital.

Gopher Tortoise Grazing

Gopher Tortoises are admitted to the hospital primarily due to vehicle collisions. Before they can be released into the wild, these animals must be able to show signs of mobility and appetite. Volunteers provide supervision necessary for these patients to receive at least one hour of grazing a day. This time acts as physical therapy for the tortoises. While grazing, volunteers complete the "Grazing Chart," noting the patient's progress.

Facilities & Grounds – Maintenance/Repair/Upkeep

CROW operates on a 12 acre campus comprised of the wildlife hospital and its outside enclosures, student housing and the Visitor Education Center (VEC). These volunteers perform duties to ensure the property and buildings are properly functioning, safe, and clean. Duties may include pressure washing, weather treatment, and overall reinforcement of enclosures' foundations, plumbing and electric repairs and maintenance, raking, mowing grass, trimming trees, weeding and planting native vegetation.

Gift Shop

The Gift Shop volunteers welcome visitors to the center, provide a brief overview of CROW and help answer any questions. The proceeds from admissions and the gift shop sales directly support hospital patient care. Gift Shop volunteers ring up sales and admission fees, assist with product selection/customer service and help with cleaning and re-stocking shelves and displays.

Visitor Education Center

The VEC is one of CROW's most vital teaching tools. Visitors receive the CROW hospital experience through interactive displays, live camera feeds and animal exhibits. Volunteers will receive a specific docent training to be able to explain VEC displays to visitors to assist their understanding and appreciation of CROW's work to rescue, rehabilitate and release wildlife.

Administrative Help (mailings, data entry, etc.)

These volunteers help support the CROW administrative staff with various duties -from stuffing envelopes, answering phones, and data entry to compiling lists and doing research. Computer skills are desired but not necessary. Schedules are worked out individually with each volunteer.

In-house and Outreach Education/ Presentation

Education is one method CROW employs to help people understand the inter-relatedness among animals, people and the environment. CROW offers daily presentations in the education center and attends many events off-site for adults and youth groups. Volunteers work with the Education Coordinator and participate in these programs after becoming familiar with CROW, its mission and presentation content.

Events

These volunteers help at CROW's various fund raising events. From the Taste of the Islands to our annual Classic Golf tournament, CROW could not hold these important events without support from our volunteers. Duties include set-up, clean-up, ticket taking, cash handling, etc. No experience is required.

NOTE:

Volunteers must be a minimum of 18 years of age.

All positions require an application, interview, visitor education center and clinic orientation/tour and training.

Expectation is that applicant can commit to at least one regularly scheduled 4/5 hour shift a week (except on-call VERTs) or another routine schedule for three consecutive months.