

## Still want to help?

Our volunteers are our most valuable resource, and the combined knowledge and experience of our staff is enormous. We will be pleased to share that knowledge, to teach you about wildlife and its care, and about south Florida's fascinating ecosystems. In return, we expect to integrate your skills, your work, and your dedication into the furtherance of the objectives of the *Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital*. If your personal goals include animals and the environment, and if you can offer your skills in a *reliable and professional manner*, **we want your help!** Together, we can make south Florida a better place for both people and animals to live. **Help us to help them remain wild and free!**

## Volunteer Enrollment

PLEASE PRINT

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phones (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark ALL that apply to you. I volunteer to work at:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> feeding & cleaning   | <input type="checkbox"/> general labor          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> grounds/construction | <input type="checkbox"/> fairs & special events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fund raising         | <input type="checkbox"/> telephone work         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pick up supplies     | <input type="checkbox"/> office/clinic cleaning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> office work          | <input type="checkbox"/> patient pick-ups       |
| other _____                                   |   |

I am a \_\_\_\_\_ seasonal or \_\_\_\_\_ year-round resident.

If seasonal, \_\_\_\_\_ until \_\_\_\_\_.

Age \_\_\_\_\_ (if under 18)

*Note: volunteers under 18 must be accompanied at all times by a parent or guardian.*

*Minors must also provide insurance information.*

**We will contact you to  
discuss your involvement.**



**TREASURE COAST WILDLIFE CENTER**

*wildlife recovery – human discovery*

**8438 SW 48 Avenue  
Palm City, FL 34990  
(772) 286-6200  
www.TCWH.org**

*A private, nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and conservation of all wild animals, natural environments, and the conditions essential to their preservation.*

## An Overview For Volunteers

Apr 2005



## Goals and Purposes

*The Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital* (TCWH) is a private, not-for-profit corporation dedicated to the improvement of south Florida's natural environment. Major objectives are the rehabilitation and return to the wild of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife, as well as environmental education programs directed toward the public at large.

## Organization

TCWH's present site contains (a) a clinic facility, (b) food preparation and storage area, (c) office, (d) caging for wild patients, (e) caging for non-releasable animals, and (f) director's residence. Our physical plant allows TCWH to function as a fully professional organization. Rehabilitation of wildlife is performed only by trained and experienced persons acting under the direction of qualified veterinarians. Educational programs adhere to a basic philosophy, and involve a coordinated curriculum of topics and areas of study.

A Board of Directors governs the organization by setting policies and goals, and an Executive Director is charged with the daily administration of these. An Education Director coordinates and performs educational programs for school groups, clubs, civic organizations, and others. A Patient Care Coordinator oversees the daily care of patients and exhibit animals, and supervises Hospital Assistants. An Administrative Assistant tends to office duties. All other positions are staffed by volunteers. Several cooperating veterinary clinics make their facilities and staffs available for treatment of wildlife. Dedicated individuals from

throughout the community perform animal care, office duties, wildlife rescues, and a host of other necessary tasks. These volunteers are essential to the continued functioning of TCWH.



## Volunteer Staff

Although both paid and unpaid members of our staff consider themselves to be "animal lovers", professionalism requires that sentiment and personal preference be secondary to the betterment of south Florida's rich natural environment. The animals in our care are not pets, nor is it our intention to make them so, and they usually fail to appreciate the efforts made on their behalf. Sometimes our best efforts are less than successful, and animals must be humanely euthanized. The only rewards lie in seeing an animal returned to the natural system where it belongs.

***Some of the tasks our volunteers perform include:***

**ANIMAL CARE** Cleaning and feeding the wild animals in our care requires perhaps the largest part of our time. Cages must be cleaned

and animals must be fed and medicated sometimes on an around-the-clock basis. This work is often tedious, dirty and tiring. Still, it must be done 365 days a year, regardless of any possible interference. Volunteers who perform these duties are asked to choose a day (or days) of the week, and to be at the Hospital each week on that day. Hours are from 9 AM until about 12 noon.

**ANIMAL RESCUE** Though most new patients are brought to our hospital by the public, occasionally the need arises to pick up an injured animal. From the simplest sparrow in a shoebox to a magnificent bald eagle on an island in the Indian River, both the animal and the people involved must be treated with the greatest respect and dignity. An ability to handle both the animal and the persons involved is critical. Volunteer rescuers must be available "on call" during days and hours chosen by the volunteer.

**FUND RAISING** All activities of TCWH are funded by private contribution, and raising these funds is a necessary function. Solicitations are made of both individuals and groups to acquire these funds. Toward this end, TCWH appears at many fairs and festivals throughout south Florida to promote its work. Volunteers are needed to set up and operate our display booths where we can meet the general public.

**OFFICE TASKS** Telephone work, filing and record keeping, preparation and mailing of correspondence and advertising, all are as necessary to this organization as to any other. There is little glamour to office work, but without it the organization would cease to function.

**CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE** Cages and grounds require constant maintenance. Skills from simple labor for yard work to finish carpentry are provided by volunteers.

## General Summary

It is not expected that any one person will be competent (or even interested) in all aspects of the total operation. Some of our volunteers perform only very specific tasks; others are active in many ways. Please bear in mind, though, that as a professional organization dedicated to the betterment of our natural environment, some things are forbidden.

Volunteer staff **may not:**

treat the wild animals in our care as pets, nor allow or encourage others to do so.

take personal possession of a wild animal for any reason, whether to interfere with its treatment or its humane destruction, or to make personal use of the animal.

represent *Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital* in any way or for any purpose without the express permission of the Director.

