



Department	Ouseburn Farm Volunteering
Volunteer Role	Small Animals & Reptiles Volunteer
Availability	3 – 6 hours per week (or more if you can offer)
Location	Ouseburn Farm Charity Ltd, Ouseburn Road, Newcastle, NE1 2PA
Category	Small Animals & Reptiles
For more information	Email: volunteering@ouseburnfarm.org.uk or call Sarah on: 07816 978309

About this volunteer role

Our team provides work experience and friendship for vulnerable people and teaches children and young people how to look after the environment. As you can imagine, this is at the centre of the work we do and the services we provide. All activities are inspired by and, indeed, take place in and around our working farmyard, gardens, cafe and popular visitor centre, that attracts 30,000 people every year. While you will not be responsible for our trainees - we have separate volunteers for that - you will be volunteering alongside them and the other volunteers and staff who do.

As a Small Animals & Reptiles you will work directly with the animals and will be required to 'get your hands dirty'. You will be involved in feeding, weighing, training, animal enrichment and handling small animals &/or reptiles as well as general animal welfare.

Role responsibilities

- Follow daily and weekly cleaning rotas to ensure the Small Animals & Reptiles room is kept clean and tidy
- Ensure animal feed stations are kept clean and clear of algae
- Feed animals &/or reptiles in line with feeding guide
- Weigh assigned animals &/or reptiles weekly and complete weighing records
- Groom rabbits and guinea pigs including claw clipping
- Complete regular animal &/or reptile health checks and keep records up to date
- Record animal behaviours
- Make enrichment toys or devices for the small animals &/or reptiles
- Take part in 'animal training' with a minimum of 1 animal per Volunteer
- Be aware of animal welfare
- Share information about the animals with members of the visiting public
- Become familiar with Ouseburn Farm's ethos and history
- keep up to date with current activities and services on offer

Knowledge, skills and experience

- Knowledge of small animal &/or reptile welfare or the willingness to learn
- Willing to get dirty as part of your volunteer role
- Reliability and flexibility to work on a range of tasks
- Willing to commit to this role for at least 6 months for a minimum of one session per week
- A strong interest in small animal &/or reptile care
- Experience of working in a farm/small animals/reptiles/veterinary environment (desirable but not essential)
- Experience working within the disability sector (desirable but not essential)
- Experience in working in a community setting (desirable but not essential)

Check requirements

All volunteers must provide two references. Some of our volunteer roles involve working with vulnerable adults in which case you will be required to complete a DBS check.

Learning and development

- Complete safeguarding adults learning modules online as required
- Attend Ouseburn Farm Volunteer Induction, Program Training and ongoing training as required
- Attend scheduled volunteer meetings

General Information

- We always act in accordance with the Ouseburn Farm Code of Conduct policy
- We are a Safe Place organisation, and all volunteers are required to comply with relevant procedure
- We comply with the Workplace Health and Safety management system
- We demonstrate skill, knowledge and behaviour to work with vulnerable adults in a respectful and enriching way
- Volunteers will be reimbursed for travel in line with our Volunteer Policy
- Volunteers attending for a full day will be offered free lunch and refreshments

What is in it for you?

As well as making a difference to a locally loved community resource, set among the beautiful surroundings of The Ouseburn, this is a great opportunity to meet people from a wide variety of backgrounds and to gain experience of working as part of a small, dedicated team.

You will learn a lot about how we work with animals, the ethos here at Ouseburn Farm and absorbing, first-hand, the day-to-day life here.

As part of our promise to all of our volunteers, you will receive an introductory accredited Volunteer Induction as well as role specific training and support to help you carry out your volunteer role confidently and competently.

As an Ouseburn Farm Small Animals & Reptiles Volunteer you will gain valuable experience of working in a farm setting within a visitor centre and training environment. If you are looking to gain work or move in to a farming/agricultural or veterinary setting, this could greatly enhance your CV.
