



Dear Friend:

Thank you for your interest in volunteering at Walden's Puddle. Walden's Puddle is a non-profit organization that provides care and treatment to injured and orphaned native wildlife, in addition to providing educational experiences to the community to develop a greater understanding and appreciation of wildlife.

Walden's Puddle is growing, with over 3,000 animals admitted and cared for last year. Volunteers provide many necessary services including assistance with animal care and administration. Some volunteers assist in the diet preparation and feeding of animals. This may include activities such as weighing a baby animal, feeding a specific amount of food to the animal and of course cleaning up what comes out the other end!

We embrace a hands-off rearing and caring policy. This means we have a minimal amount of contact with the animals in our care. It is our goal to release each of our animals back into their natural habitat with the least amount of interference. For safety reasons, volunteers do not work with some adult wildlife. such as raccoons or foxes. We will not ask you to work with animals with which you are uncomfortable.

We admit "wild" animals. These animals are not tame and may bite or scratch without provocation. Although it is rare, some animals brought to our center may be infected with diseases communicable to other animals, including domestic pets. as well as diseases communicable to humans.

Some animals you may see and work with as a volunteer at Walden's Puddle include various types of song birds, squirrels, rabbits, opossums, groundhogs, raccoons, owls, hawks and turtles.

Our basic requirements for volunteers include:

- you must be at least sixteen years of age
- animal care volunteers should commit to one 4-hour shift per week.

At Walden's Puddle, volunteers are needed seven days a week with hours dependent on the type of volunteer activity you do.

If you feel you would like to join us as a volunteer, please read over the enclosed information, then complete the volunteer application and return it to us. If you have questions about our services or programs, please feel free to call us.

Warm regards,

The Staff at Walden's Puddle

Volunteer Responsibilities

Care and Cleaning:

Volunteers provide animal care under the supervision of a staff member. Various tasks include cleaning the indoor and outdoor animal areas. Cleaning and care goes on rain or shine in the heat of summer or the cold of winter. The animals consider this a top priority and are very thankful for the people willing to do it, Your responsibilities may include:

- Washing animal dishes and bedding
- Cleaning of work rooms/areas
- Cleaning of cages and enclosures
- Animal diet preparation
- Animal feeding

Practical Support:

Volunteers provide assistance on a regular basis or as needed. Your responsibilities may include:

- Facility maintenance; dusting, sweeping, vacuuming, or mopping.
- Folding, stuffing, stapling and labeling of appeal letters or newsletters.
- Specialized areas such as repairs, maintenance or other needs.



These baby Virginia Opossum's need to have clean bedding and a clean incubator each day. They also require fresh water and a specialized diet.

Opossums can be quite messy especially when they get older and conspire against us in hope of escape. This of course means more work for all of us!

It is not unusual for us to admit over 250 Virginia Opossums each year.

Wildlife Diseases

Zoonosis is any animal disease that can be transmitted to man. There are about 150 known zoonotic diseases. These diseases include: Leptospirosis, rabies, salmonellas, tularemia, and a variety of other bacterial, viral and parasitic diseases.

A contraction of infectious, zoonotic disease presents potential health hazards for employees and volunteers working with animals. The animals admitted to Walden's Puddle usually have no known health history. They may be infected with a disease and not show any symptoms.

We strongly recommend that individuals accepted into our volunteer program check with their doctor about receiving a current tetanus inoculation, and inform your doctor that they will be working with native wildlife as the doctor may have other recommendations.

Volunteers who may be immune-compromised and women who are pregnant should inform their doctor of their volunteer work. Their doctor may make recommendations to reduce their exposure to disease.

To minimize hazards at Walden's Puddle, volunteers are encouraged to practice measures that will reduce their risk of physical injury and exposure to disease. Awareness, hygiene and sanitation are the keys to prevention of zoonosis. We expect volunteers to comply with all safety precautions, for the protection of themselves, coworkers, the public and the animals.





<http://www.waldenspuddle.org/>

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone(home) _____ (work) _____

Birth date _____

E-Mail _____

Best time to reach you _____

Employer _____

Job Title _____

How did you hear about the volunteer program at Walden's Puddle?

Please list any current or previous volunteer experience, when you served and the length of time served.

Briefly describe any background experience in working with wildlife/animals.

Please list any hobbies, interest, skills or any other information you feel may be applicable to a volunteer position at Walden's Puddle.

List any pets you have.

Why do you want to volunteer at Walden's Puddle?

References: Please give the names, addresses and phone numbers of three persons not related to you that you have known for at least one year.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Please indicate what day(s) and times (s) you are available:

Monday _____ Tuesday _____ Wednesday _____ Thursday _____

Friday _____ Saturday _____ Sunday _____

Areas of interest:

_____ Animal Care (direct)

_____ Education

_____ Animal Care (supportive)

_____ Events

_____ Carpentry/Construction

_____ Administrative

_____ Grounds/Landscaping

_____ Housekeeping

_____ Other - _____

Signature _____ Date _____