



Animal Care Shift Volunteer

3 hours per week for at least 6 months (minimum)

Heartland Farm Sanctuary, which opened in 2010, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping homeless farm animals in Wisconsin, and building connections between animals and vulnerable children and adults. Our sanctuary is a safe, peaceful environment where people and farm animals can come together to heal, grow, and have fun.

How You Will Make a Difference

Animal care shifts take care of the 95+ resident animals that include goats, pigs, sheep, cows, llamas, donkeys, turkeys, ducks, geese, chickens, emus, and one adorable, blue-eyed mini horse named Cookie. There are three (3) shifts per day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year:

- AM shift (9:00 am – 12:00 pm)
- MID shift (12:30 pm – 3:30 pm)
- PM shift (4:00 pm – 8:00 pm)

Animal care can be hard work, but it is also incredibly rewarding. Heartland provides all the tools and equipment; volunteers provide the smiles and elbow grease!

Animal Care Shift volunteers are responsible for helping to:

- Feed and water 95+ animals.
- Move animals. (AM - move animals to outside pastures and pens; PM - move animals to their inside barn stalls).
- Muck (clean) barn stalls, pens and pastures. (Yes, we are talking about picking up stinky poop. Lots of poop. All sorts of shapes and sizes of poop.)
- Prepare fresh produce meals in the AM and PM for various animals.

- Haul, move, stack and re-supply barn supplies like straw and hay bales, limestone, sand, mineral blocks, etc.
- Handle light grounds keeping such as raking, weeding, clearing brush, etc.
- Clean out water troughs and other items throughout the property.
- Prepare the barn for different seasons (i.e. winterize).
- Clear snow during winter.
- Wash dishes.
- Clean and sweep the barn.
- Socialize, enrich, groom, and interact with the animals at end of shifts as time permits.

Who We Are Looking For

The ideal **Animal Care Volunteer** has a unique blend of qualities:

- Reliable, reliable, reliable! (Heartland relies on valued volunteers to help care for the animals. We are looking for dedicated volunteers who will honor their commitments on a consistent basis. Time off, of course, is allowed with advanced notification.)
- Love of and passion for rescued farm animals.
- Not afraid of physical and messy work while having a lot of fun in the process.
- Willing to work under sometimes arduous conditions such as extreme cold or heat.
- Ability to lift up to 50 lbs.
- Ability to be flexible as weekly chores may change from week to week based on season, weather, animal health needs and shift size.
- Punctual.
- At least 16 years of age with reliable transportation.
- Commitment to mission and values of Heartland Farm Sanctuary.

While we strongly encourage people of every race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity to apply, given the physical nature of the animal care work, volunteers must be able to fulfill the expectations of a volunteer with reasonable accommodations.

Expectations

As much as anyone may love animals, Animal Care shifts are not for everyone! It can be physically hard work, especially during extreme weather. We cannot stress enough -- **7 days a week, 365 days a year** -- the animals rely on Heartland staff and volunteers. We cannot do the work we do without **committed, reliable** and **hard-working volunteers** who are willing to do challenging work.

Accountability

Reliability is of paramount importance. Please understand that if you are not able to regularly make your weekly shift(s), Heartland reserves the right to re-evaluate the relationship. Reasons for dismissal include, but are not limited to, frequent unexplained absences and frequent last-minute cancellations. We understand that sometimes life happens. And, of course, volunteers need time off. All we ask is that you notify the Volunteer Coordinator or Shift Leader in advance when you can't make a shift.

Additional Details

Terms of Employment: Volunteer position

Reports to: Shift leader (Heartland staff member)

Location: At the sanctuary located at 11713 Mid Town Rd, Verona, WI 53593

Hours: Minimum one (1) shift per week, three (3) hours per shift for at least six (6) months. AM shifts occur from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Monday - Sunday. MID shifts occur from 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm Monday – Sunday. PM shifts occur from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm Monday - Sunday.

Compensation: None