

# Animal Volunteer Vacancies



Get into Volunteering in Cumbria!

[www.cumbriacvs.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.cumbriacvs.org.uk/volunteer)

## Get involved in volunteering to support animal charities in Cumbria!

There are a wide range of volunteering opportunities that support animal charities including dog walking, cat cuddling, animal care, fostering animals, supporting children to horse-ride, carriage driving, grooming, and tacking up ponies

There are also opportunities to get involved administration, retail, drivers, woodworkers, trustees, gardening, fundraising and more!

Volunteering brings so many benefits to volunteers by spending time with animals, gaining experience, sharing skills, meeting new people, accessing training opportunities and learning something new.

This information sheet highlights some of the organisations in Cumbria that support animals, what volunteering opportunities they have and how you can register and become a volunteer.

As well as the locations listed on the sheet, there are other locations across Cumbria within the same organisation. It is always worth contacting the organisation to see what vacancies they have near you!

**If you would like further support with volunteering, please contact Cumbria CVS**

Telephone: **01768 800350** Email: [info@cumbriacvs.org.uk](mailto:info@cumbriacvs.org.uk)

Website: [www.cumbriacvs.org.uk](http://www.cumbriacvs.org.uk)



**Here are some of the latest volunteering opportunities available:**



Oak Tree Animals' Charity seeks to support pet owners, helping them overcome issues that may lead to them losing their pets. This may be through various financial veterinary support schemes, behavioural or animal management advice or through our A Helping Paw scheme which offers foster care of animals belonging to people made temporarily homeless or those who need to seek refuge from domestic violence.

Unfortunately, there are times when animals can no longer be cared for by their owners and we will admit these onto site for rehoming. Such relinquishments can be for any number of reasons but are mainly due to changes in family circumstances such as relationship breakdowns, redundancies, ill-health, and bereavement.

Behind the scenes we have a team of fundraisers and charity shops providing the income for us to continue our work. The charity is a full and active member of both the Association of Cats and Dogs Homes and the National Equine Welfare Council and often works in partnership with other charities sharing information and best practice.

We have lots of great opportunities to get involved with through volunteering:

- **Cat and Dog Fosterers**
- **Charity Shop Assistants – Carlisle, Keswick, Maryport and Cockermouth**
- **Tearoom Assistants**
- **Artists**
- **Joiners**
- **Equine support and Tack Shack**
- **Community and TNR Support**
- **Cattery Support**
- **Kennel Support**
- **Gardeners**

All shifts start between 8.30am & 10am for a minimum of two hours and we have online training available to all our volunteers.

**The first step is to fill in our application form indicating which advertised volunteer position you wish to apply for via our website here:**

<https://www.oaktreeanimals.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer.html>

**Alternatively, if you would prefer to discuss your options or can offer specific skills, please contact us on **01228 560082** ext. 224 or email [volunteer@oaktreeanimals.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@oaktreeanimals.org.uk)**



## RSPCA Westmorland Branch

Registered Charity No. 232236

Volunteering for the RSPCA is a fantastic way to get involved in helping an abused or neglected animal get a second chance in life.

Here at the Westmorland Branch in Kendal, we could not even begin to help any animal in need without the help of our Volunteers.

We alleviate suffering and rehabilitate neglected animals finding them their very own loving 'forever' home.

We promote neutering & microchipping campaigns around our area and offer financial assistance towards veterinary treatment for those pet owners in receipt of means tested benefits.

We also feel it is important to provide information and on-going educational campaigns regarding positive animal welfare.

Volunteers are needed for the following roles:

- **Dog Walker**
- **Fundraising**
- **Charity Shop Assistants**

In the company of one of our dogs that are awaiting rehoming, walk along the leafy lanes and across dedicated footpaths in the beautiful countryside surrounding our kennels. Or perhaps you would like to meet likeminded members of the public as a fundraising volunteer who can organise events, rally the troops and generally be innovative in raising the much-needed funds that enable us to continue supporting local people and local animals. Or if you love animals, the public and a bit of retail therapy then one of our shop assistant volunteer roles could be the one for you. Volunteers are always essential in our busy High Street shop in Kendal to help organise, display, and sell items that are constantly being donated by the public.

And don't worry if you lack experience, full training and guidance will be given. If you have a passion for animals and their welfare and some time to spare then please get in touch.

**Please go to our website to apply today**

<https://www.rspca-westmorland.org.uk/support-us/volunteering.html>

**Alternatively, if you would prefer to discuss your options or can offer specific skills, please contact us on 01539 736 036 or email [support@rspca-westmorland.org.uk](mailto:support@rspca-westmorland.org.uk)**

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We are a member group of the national charity Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) who are enriching lives through horses.

At Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA), our horses benefit the lives of over 25,000 disabled children and adults. With fun activities like riding and carriage driving, we provide therapy, fitness, skills development, and opportunities for achievement – all supported by 18,000 amazing volunteers and qualified coaches at nearly 500 RDA centres all over the UK.

We are a charity, and we can only carry out our life-changing activities thanks to the generosity of our donors, the dedication of our volunteers and the good nature of our fantastic horses. In Cumbria there are groups in Eden, Carlisle, Barrow, Kendal and West Cumbria.

Our West Cumbria group offers therapeutic pony riding to primary school children with learning difficulties/disabilities from across our West Cumbria area, providing opportunities for improving communication, confidence, self-esteem, balance, and co-ordination whilst having fun.

### **RIDING FOR THE DISABLED WEST CUMBRIA**

Our West Cumbria Groups currently cater for groups from schools in Whitehaven, Workington, Plumbland, Maryport and Cockermouth at our two venues in Watch Hill (near Aspatria) and Whitehaven.

Volunteers need no previous experience of working with ponies or children and the volunteer roles can include:

- **Help get the ponies ready for riding**
- **Leading ponies during warmup and riding sessions**
- **Walking beside the ponies to help the rider**
- **Setting up and tidying away equipment before each session**

If anyone is interested in becoming an instructor there are also vacancies for that role for suitably qualified people.

Currently we operate from Aspatria on Monday afternoon and Friday mornings, and from Whitehaven on Wednesday mornings. As we only have outdoor facilities, we only run from Easter till late November during school term times.

We offer practical on-the-job training as well as refresher sessions before Easter and September. There is also a range of online course available from our parent charity website.

You will be asked to fill out an application form and provide two referees before you can join us. You will also need to do a DBS check once you have decided that you are happy to carry on helping us.

**Please email [westcumbriaRDA@gmail.com](mailto:westcumbriaRDA@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering, or get in touch using our Facebook page [\(2\) RDA West Cumbria | Facebook](#) See: <https://westcumbriarda.org/>**



## **RIDING FOR DISABLED WESTMORLAND**

Riding for Disabled Westmorland are also a member group of the national charity Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) who are enriching lives through horses.

We are a local charity providing therapy, achievement and enjoyment for children and adults with disabilities, through riding and carriage driving. We operate from bases near Kendal in Cumbria.

Westmorland RDA need volunteers to help with:

**Grooming, tacking up and harnessing the ponies**

**Setting up equipment**

**Leading ponies**

**Side-walking (assisting) the rider or driver**

**Hat fitting, tea and coffee making, collecting monies**

**Summer school and stable days.**

We meet on Monday afternoon during term time for riding sessions and on Thursday mornings for carriage driving sessions, both in the Kendal area.

Please visit: <http://westmorlandrda.org.uk/> and use the contact page to provide your details if you are interested in volunteering.

If you are interested in volunteering to support other Riding for Disabled Groups in Cumbria please visit: <https://www.rda.org.uk/volunteer/>

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At Eden Animal Rescue we rescue, care for, and rehome animals. Our ability to provide this care is very much dependant on our volunteers. If you would like to join our volunteering team, please have a look at the list of roles and you will find one that's right for you. From sales assistant to DIY master and hands on help with the animals to fundraising. Each one of our amazing team give their time and give the animals a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance.

Eden Animal Rescue are also looking for retail volunteers for their new shop at 3 Devonshire Street, Penrith, CA11 7RS. The new charity shop is over 2 floors requiring at least three volunteers per shift. Volunteer shift times are 10am till 1.00pm or 1.00pm till 4.00pm Mon to Sat. Volunteers help to sort goods, working on the till, keeping the shop stocked, clean and tidy. Every day is different and every hour is rewarding.

At Eden Animal Rescue as well as our retail volunteers we also have opportunities for several other roles. As with all our roles you can gain experience, learn a skill, meet new people, and see the benefits of helping the animals at our centre.

The areas that we are looking for volunteers in are:

- **Retail volunteers**
- **Animal care volunteers**
- **Fundraisers**
- **Bakers**
- **Gardeners**
- **Maintenance volunteers**
- **Fosterers**

Volunteering at Eden Animal Rescue is a very sociable and rewarding thing to do. Each volunteer brings their own skills and they learn new skills along the way. It is very much as rewarding for you as it is for our animals.

So, whether you are a good poop scooper, great cake baker, DIY enthusiast, dedicated dog walker or just love stroking cats you can help us! Please do contact us if you would like to help or get involved in any way.

Please call our centre on **01931716114** or email Sarah [admin@edenanimalrescue.org.uk](mailto:admin@edenanimalrescue.org.uk)

Go to [www.edenanimalrescue.org.uk](http://www.edenanimalrescue.org.uk) for more details or just come and visit us to collect a Volunteer Form in person.

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Animal Concern Cumbria is based on a rural site outside Egremont, Cumbria. Founded in 1971 it has grown into an established Charity dedicated to supporting and caring for animals in need.

We offer a secure and caring environment for animals whose owners, for whatever reason, are unable to care for them any longer and help them find permanent, loving homes along with providing support and guidance for owners who wish to keep their animals. In 2021 thanks to donations and a substantial legacy, the centre is undergoing a refurbishment of both the centre and facilities to make them fit for purpose and safe. If you would like to join our team of volunteers and help us as we begin our next chapter you could help in one or more of the following ways:

- **Cattery and Kennel Volunteers** (volunteers for these roles will be needed when they re-open)
- **Home and Animal Assessors**
- **Fundraisers**
- **Gardening & Maintenance** (volunteers for these roles will be needed when they re-open)
- **Trustees'**

Cattery and Kennel Volunteers are so important to the day to day running of the centre, but also vital to the welfare of the animals who are at the centre. When our animals are ready for their forever home our home and animal assessors visit the homes of potential owners to check the care and environment to be provided. They also assess an animal coming into our care for re-homing.

Fundraisers are always needed to help raise important funds to help us give animals the care and treatments they need. We are always looking for people with ideas and those who can attend Fundraising events in the local area. We can never have enough volunteers so please contact us if you think you could help. It really is enjoyable working with the team at events, meeting members of the public and their furry friends too!

The Mary Irwin Centre sits in a lovely rural setting and the quiet aspect is good for reducing stress and anxieties in the animals staying here awaiting their forever homes. The site has many trees, shrubs and grassed areas and needs regular maintenance so the animals can play and walk around the site safely. We always need help with gardening, painting and odd jobs, there is always a job that needs doing.

Trustees' roles are responsible for running the Charity. We currently have 4 appointed out of a board of 8. We would welcome people to be on the board as a Trustee. The skills we are looking for to complement our existing board are in: Business planning and strategy, marketing & promotions, grant writing & financial management, accounting, investing, IT and HR.

**For more information, please call 07712 330 829 (Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm) or email [animalconcerncumbria@outlook.com](mailto:animalconcerncumbria@outlook.com)**



Our valued volunteers are at the heart of the organisation and without them we could not carry on the vital work we do for animals in need. Each year, volunteers generously give well over 4000 hours of their time to help us.

Based on a rural site near Kendal in Cumbria, Animal Rescue Cumbria has grown from its humble beginnings in 1972 into a well-established Charity, which rescues and re-homes some 300 dogs, cats and kittens each year.

We offer a secure and caring environment for animals whose owners, for whatever reason, are unable to care for them any longer, and help our animals to find permanent, loving homes.

Some of our residents need rehabilitation before moving to their forever home, and our experienced Animal Care Team work hard to give them the second chance that they deserve.

None of this can happen without your help! We rely on the generosity of volunteers and other supporters within our community to carry on this vital work.

We have lots of volunteer roles available so you can either be hands on with our animals and the grounds or more hands on with the running of our shops, fundraising and admin. All as equal as the next in providing care for our animals.

- **Morning volunteers for our Cats** (Help our feline friends with their morning routine)
- **Cat Cuddling** (a key role for the welfare of our Cats and a pawsome volunteer role)
- **Morning volunteers for our Dogs** (Help our captivating canines with their morning routine)
- **Onsite dog walking**
- **Offsite dog walking**
- **Admin and IT Support**
- **Maintenance**
- **Retail volunteers**
- **Fundraisers**
- **Trustees**

**Phone:** 01539 824293

**Email:** [enquiries@animalrescuecumbria.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@animalrescuecumbria.co.uk)

**Our phone lines are open between 12:00 and 15:00, Monday to Saturday.**

**Please call within these times to speak to a member of staff.**

<https://www.animalrescuecumbria.co.uk/>

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## **Animal Welfare Furness**

Animal Welfare (Furness) rescue, rehabilitate and rehome hundreds of cats, dogs and other animals each year in the Furness and South Lakes areas. They are currently looking for volunteers to:

- **help in their shops**
- **sort and prepare items for sale**
- **support the charity's administration and governance on their committee**
- **provide fostering care**
- **help in the cattery**

Training will be provided.

If you are interested in volunteering with Animal Welfare Furness, please fill in a volunteer application form on their website at <https://www.animalwelfarefurness.org.uk/volunteering> and take the completed form along with a CV to either of their charity shops or email [animalwelfarefurness@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:animalwelfarefurness@hotmail.co.uk)



### **Calvert Lakes Riding Centre Near Keswick**

The Lake District Calvert Trust Riding Centre is a British Horse Society approved riding establishment. It is fully accessible with instructors who are both [British Horse Society](#) and [Riding for the Disabled Association](#) qualified and are able to take people of all abilities for riding or trap driving sessions. They are currently looking for:

**Calvert Trust involve volunteers as follows:**

#### **Stables Volunteers**

No qualifications are required, but an interest in horses and working with people with disabilities is essential. Duties include Leading a pony and Side-walking with a rider.

Escorting a ride / trap drive session. Assisting with horse care and customer/horse contact

### **Activity Volunteers**

Activity volunteers assist instructors by supporting visitors out on activities. As groups bring their own support staff, there is no care work involved. No qualifications are required, but volunteers must have an interest in working with people with disabilities and experience of outdoor activities will be beneficial.

### **Buddy Volunteers**

'Buddy Scheme' volunteers accompany the visitor on activities and provide additional support around the centre outside of activity time. They may stay in the visitors' accommodation on site.

### **Centre Volunteers**

Your time or specialist skills can provide support in many ways. They have a pool of local people who volunteer during their busy periods or on a regular basis at the main centre for various duties such as maintenance, support in the kitchen, bed-making, gardening, general help with outdoor activities and other tasks to support their guests.

### **Fundraising Volunteers**

This role will primarily involve supporting the fundraising team. These activities will include administrative and general tasks or at local shows and events.

All volunteers working with our visitors must have satisfactory references and enhanced DBS approval prior to working with us. This process may take up to 4 weeks, so please apply well in advance of your intended volunteering dates.

For more information about our volunteer opportunities, contact the centre on 017687 72255, email [enquiries@lakedistrict.calvert-trust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@lakedistrict.calvert-trust.org.uk) or visit their website <https://www.calvertlakes.org.uk/support-home/volunteer-for-us/>

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**Cumbria**  
Wildlife Trust

### **Cumbria Wildlife Trust**

Cumbria Wildlife Trust is the only voluntary organisation devoted solely to the conservation of the wildlife and wild places of Cumbria. The Trust stands up for wildlife, creates wildlife havens, and seeks to raise environmental awareness.

They have a wide variety of volunteering opportunities throughout Cumbria including:

- **Beach Nesting Bird Survey Volunteers**
- **Peatland Restoration Conservation Days**
- **Brownfield Site Surveyor Volunteers – Barrow, Allerdale and Copeland**
- **Volunteer Pollinator Recorders 2022**
- **Volunteer Reserves Guide Directions Checkers**
- **Press and PR Monitor Volunteers**
- **Beach Clean Volunteers**
- **Volunteer Bay Team Event Helpers – Barrow**
- **My Local Catch Online Content Creator Volunteer**
- **My Local Catch Education Assistant Volunteer – Whitehaven**
- **Wildlife Recorder Volunteers – North Pennines**
- **Volunteers – Get Involved in Practical Conservation Work on Conservation Day**

Cumbria Wildlife Trust volunteers carry out a huge range of tasks out in the field on our nature reserves and indoors at their offices. You could find yourself making good use of your organisational, IT, administrative or financial skills.

For more information or helpful guidance please call the Volunteering Officer on 01539 816300, email [mail@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:mail@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk) or complete the Cumbria Wildlife Trust Volunteer Registration form on their website <https://www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/registration-form>

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### **Dogs for Good**

Dogs for Good is a life-transforming charity, creating partnerships between people living with disability and specially trained assistance dogs.

Volunteers are needed in various roles:

- **Puppy Socialisers**
- **Temporary Boarders**
- **Temporary Boarders (puppy scheme)**
- **Volunteer Drivers**
- **Fundraising Volunteers**
- **Breed Stock Holder**
- **Local Supporter Group Members**

- **Registered Speakers**
- **Fundraisers**

Everyone can volunteer to help and they really appreciate you sharing your time and expertise. However, some of their volunteering opportunities depend on your location. For example, you need to live within a specific location to look after one of their dogs.

To find out more please call 01295 252600 or visit their website <https://www.dogsforgood.org/get-involved/volunteer/>



### Guide Dogs

Guide Dogs ambition is a future where every person with sight loss has the confidence and support, they need to live their lives to the full. Guide Dogs are currently looking for volunteers in various roles including:

- **Puppy Raiser**
- **Sighted Guide**
- **Dog Exerciser**
- **Fundraiser**
- **Fosterer**
- **Breeding Dog Holder – Brood**
- **Breeding Dog Holder – Stud**
- **Admin and reception support**
- **Fundraising Group Treasurer**
- **Collection Box Co-ordinator**
- **Speaker**
- **Dog Driver**
- **Events Day Assistant**
- **Student Volunteers**
- **Fundraising Volunteer**

Guide Dogs offer over 100 different volunteering opportunities and each one plays an important part in their charity. Whether you can spare lots of time, a little time or something in-between, there's a volunteer role for you. Some volunteering opportunities require full time commitment whilst others need no commitment at all - just help us when you can!

For more information call their Volunteering team on [0345 143 0191](tel:03451430191) or visit their website: <https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/how-you-can-help/volunteering-for-guide-dogs/volunteer-role-descriptions/>



### **Susan's Farm**

Susan's Farm is a working Care Farm two miles from Carlisle and mostly need volunteers for weekend days so Saturdays and Sundays. They use a rota system so would work with a volunteer's availability to some extent and plug the gaps with other volunteers, etc. It's ideal if you can volunteer in the morning. This is so if there are any issues with animals being ill it can be dealt with promptly and in daylight when the days are short.

Someone who is keen, reliable and confident is more important than them being able to make every day. That being said someone who is free on a regular basis make the rota a lot simpler and management of volunteers much easier.

For more information please contact Emma Hughes at [emma@susansfarm.co.uk](mailto:emma@susansfarm.co.uk) or call **01228 548336**.



### **The Racehorse Rescue Centre**

The Racehorse Rescue Centre, (RRC) is an animal shelter and re-homing Centre run 100% by volunteers. The RRC received the Points of Light award from the U.K. Prime Minister in 2017 for the work it does with the community and the horses in it's care. The RRC uses rescued ex racehorses to run free programmes to help build confidence and educate in animal welfare for veterans, disabled and young adults suffering from self-harming, depression, trauma, bullying, PTSD, Autism, FASD and ADHD.

The Racehorse Rescue Centre are currently looking for volunteers in the following roles:

- Stable Management in Carlisle, Cumbria
- Horse Trainers
- Fundraisers (A percentage of income generated by professional fundraisers to a maximum of 2.5% can be claimed as expenses and is to be agreed when taking up the role)
- Researcher and bid writer for trust applications, community fundraising organiser, major donor and relationship management, legacies, Public Relations/Marketing/Media etc.
- Website & Online Marketing Volunteers

For more information please contact Nigel Wood at [admin@racehorserescue.org.uk](mailto:admin@racehorserescue.org.uk) or call **01228 672886** or **07766 027162**.

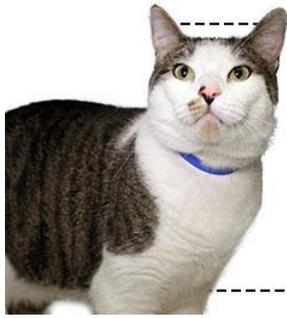


**Dogs Trust** always looking for volunteer foster carers to help care for their dogs until we can find forever homes for them.

**Anyone interested can email [hfhpenrith@dogstrust.org.uk](mailto:hfhpenrith@dogstrust.org.uk)**

For more information see: <https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering/>





WE ARE GRRR-ATEFUL FOR OUR  
**VOLUNTEERS**



Help animals today...  
...become a volunteer!

**Get into Volunteering in Cumbria!**

**[www.cumbriacvs.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.cumbriacvs.org.uk/volunteer)**

