



Wildlife Volunteer Program

Wildlife Volunteers are an integral part of the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary team, assisting our keepers with daily operations to ensure the best possible care for our animals. This hands-on role requires dedication, physical stamina, and a true passion for Australian wildlife. While the work can be physically demanding, it is also incredibly fulfilling and a unique opportunity to contribute to wildlife conservation.

Who can apply?

To join the Wildlife Volunteer Program, applicants must:

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Be currently enrolled in, or considering, a career or studies in the wildlife or animal care field
- Demonstrate a high level of physical fitness and be comfortable with tasks involving prolonged standing, bending, lifting, and twisting
- Be reliable, responsible, and capable of working both independently and as part of a team
- Have a friendly and outgoing nature
- Be comfortable working outdoors in all weather conditions, including heat, humidity, and rain
- Be able to work in environments with dust, vegetation, insects, and close proximity to animals
- Have strong English language skills (written and verbal)
- Be able to follow written and verbal instructions accurately
- Have regular access to email communication

Wildlife Volunteer Availability

- The wildlife volunteer program runs every day, including weekends
- Wildlife volunteers can select which days they would like to apply for
- Minimum requirement is 1 day per week for a minimum of 3 months
- International volunteers must commit to volunteering 4–5 days a week (unless studying) for 6 weeks and up to a maximum of 12 weeks

Positions are limited and subject to availability.



Wildlife Sections

Volunteers begin by assisting in the animal sections below in this order. Progression is determined by performance and assessed by wildlife keepers.



- Birds



- Macropods



- Barn



- Mammals



- Koalas



- Reptiles



- Raptors

Please note: All volunteers must attend a mandatory induction session prior to commencing the program. These are held monthly on Sundays at 2:30 P.M and must be booked in advance.

A four-day probation period applies to all new volunteers. Continuation in the program is subject to approval by supervising keepers and the Volunteer Coordinator.



Wildlife Volunteer Duties

Husbandry

Wildlife keepers spend most of their day cleaning animal exhibits and making sure they are well maintained. You will be assisting with the following:

- Cleaning enclosures (removing waste, hosing, sweeping, raking)
- Weeding, mulching, and substrate changes in exhibits
- Removing cobwebs and cleaning glass
- Exhibit maintenance, including painting

Food Preparation

Preparing food for animals is another major part of being a wildlife keeper. You will be assisting with the following:

- Cutting fruits, vegetables, and meat
- Washing and drying animal dishes
- Collecting browse (leaves, flowers, grasses)

General Sanctuary Assistance

Wildlife volunteers may be asked to assist with some of the following tasks

- Supporting and monitoring visitors in the kangaroo reserve
- General grounds maintenance (rubbish removal, drain clearing, garden upkeep)
- Assisting guests with enquiries and photo opportunities

Wildlife Volunteer Daily Schedule

- Volunteer shifts run from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Includes a 20-minute morning tea break and a 30-minute lunch break
- Volunteers may bring their own meals or purchase food from our onsite cafes
- There are 2 allocated volunteer break areas, indoors and outdoors

If you are unable to attend your scheduled shift, please notify Sandy McStay at sandymc@koala.net or call (07) 3378 1366.



Frequently Asked Questions

Can I be a volunteer in the animal hospital?

No. Our wildlife hospital is not equipped to accommodate volunteers.

Will I be handling animals?

No. Animal handling is not part of the volunteer program.

Do I need prior experience?

No experience is required, though priority is given to applicants studying in the wildlife field or with previous experience. Proficiency in English is essential for safety and communication.

Is there a cost to volunteer?

No. Uniform shirts are provided free of charge but must be returned at the end of the program.

What Should I Wear?

- Volunteer shirt (provided)
- Comfortable, modest work-appropriate pants or shorts (no rips, mesh, or low-rise styles)
- Fully enclosed shoes (e.g., joggers, hiking boots)
- Hat, raincoat, sunglasses
- Optional: sunscreen and insect repellent (available onsite, but personal preferences welcome)

Is Accommodation & Transport Provided?

No. Free parking is available. Public transport options are accessible via Brisbane City Council buses. Visit www.translink.com.au for details.



Is There Free Wi-Fi & Secure Storage?

Yes. Free WiFi is available throughout the sanctuary. Lockers are provided; please bring your own padlock.

Does Lone Pine Assist with Visas or Sponsorships?

No. Visa and insurance arrangements must be managed independently prior to arrival.

Benefits

In return for your valuable time and dedication, wildlife volunteers receive a range of benefits including behind-the-scenes access, opportunities to observe native wildlife up close, ongoing support/training, and recognition for your contributions through appreciation awareness.

You will also receive:

- Unlimited free entry into the sanctuary
- Entry discount for immediate family members
- Discount on food and beverages
- Discount on wildlife 'Experiences'
- Discount in retail outlets (excluding sale items)

How to Apply

Simply complete the [Wildlife Volunteer Application Form](#) and email it to Sandy McStay at sandymc@koala.net. You will be notified of your application outcome via email. Please do not follow up by phone or additional emails.

Contact Details

Head of Birds | Wildlife Volunteer Coordinator

✉ sandymc@koala.net

📍 Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary

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