

EDEN

Farmed Animal Sanctuary

Liberty Equality Veganism

Est. 2008

Working Description

Introduction & Background

Eden was the first vegan sanctuary to offer a home to farmed animals in Ireland. It was established in 2008 and is now home to more than 230 rescued animals.

Eden is part of the global animal rights movement that seeks to change the status of other animals as human property, and to completely eradicate all human use of them. Its ethos is based on respect for the fundamental rights of other animals not to be bred, used, owned, or killed by us. Most of the residents at Eden were rescued from animal agriculture where they were bred and used as food. Eden opposes and calls for an end to all animal use including research, clothing, entertainment, labour, etc. Through its individual residents, we have the opportunity to radically revise how we think and feel about other-than-human lives, to respect them as our equals, and to recognise the right of the individuals of other species with whom we share this earth, to live free from our oppression.

Working at Eden

Eden is a state-of-the-art sanctuary with the facilities necessary to give the animals the best possible standard of care. It is run by its Founder and Director, Sandra Higgins, with full and part-time staff, contract workers and volunteers.

We value the assistance of those who work hard, reliably, and responsibly on the tasks that make life worth living for the residents of Eden.

The golden rule at Eden is that we work, minute to minute, by taking the perspective of the animals in our care. Only by mentally swapping places with them, can we accurately attend to their needs.

You need to be fit enough to walk the fields several times a day checking on the animals, and capable of carrying out the necessary tasks to ensure they have food and water, and clean out houses and barns daily. Work also involves assisting with health care and veterinary visits. Applicants need their own transport and must be flexible enough to fit their working hours around the animals' needs.

While most of our day to day work involves the practical tasks of making sure the animals have clean houses, and sufficient, appropriate food, and health care, it is best suited to those who regard other animals as unique, feeling beings who have rights and are worthy of respect. Working at a sanctuary is the practical application of the view that other animals are our equals.

From time to time, non-vegans visit the sanctuary in the course of maintenance and sanctuary deliveries. It is important that sanctuary staff are able to speak to non-vegans knowledgeably about our anti-speciesist stance and the moral imperative of veganism. We welcome applications from candidates with a thorough understanding of the abolitionist approach to animal rights and anti-speciesism which is a necessary part of our approach to vegan education.

Eden offers the privilege of getting to know the individual personalities and histories of the residents and being part of the team effort to give these courageous survivors of human oppression a safe home.
The Working Day

The sanctuary operates seven days every week, 365 days of the year. You will be required to work on bank holidays and through periods such as Christmas and New Year. Holidays must be taken at a time that suits the animals' needs.

Flexible working hours are necessary due to the nature of life at a sanctuary. In general, we aim to be in the sanctuary no later than 8am to begin our work for them.

In winter the residents retire at about 4.30 pm and as it is dark much of the outdoor work ceases at this time. Indoor work for hospital residents etc. continues until about 5.00 or later.

In Summer our day ends when the residents have gone to bed, sometimes as late as 10.00 or 11.00pm. Some preventative medical care is only possible when they are going to sleep. Very young animals such as lambs and sick animals require round-the-clock care.

Many of the residents at Eden have special needs that affect their senses and mobility. They require additional specialist care.

Animal care requires heavy work such as bringing bales of hay and straw to the barns, cleaning barns, hoof care and other veterinary care of heavy animals. Previous experience and/or willingness to learn are essential aspects of the work.

An induction period will help you become familiar with the routine at Eden. Our full-time team will be on hand to help with you and will assist with any queries you have.

We value workers with the following characteristics:

- Ability to follow direction exactly
- Ability to both as part of a team and independently
- Ability to complete tasks in a timely manner
- Ability to be flexible with respect to daily chores as our work is dictated by the residents' needs
- Ability to be flexible with respect to work hours and to adjust as emergencies arise
- Ability to remain calm when dealing with trauma, illness and injury, including death, in sanctuary residents
- Reliable, honest, dependable, punctual, responsible

- Respectful of other animals' rights and of the ethos of a vegan sanctuary which regards them as our equals
- Confidentiality: all workers and volunteers must respect our stringent requirements for confidentiality during and after your time with us.

Duties:

- Keen observation and checking of every individual several times daily
- Immediate reporting any evidence of illness or unusual behaviour in the animals to the Sanctuary Director
- Give fresh food and water two or three times daily
- Moving bales of hay and straw
- Cleaning residents housing daily and full barn cleaning weekly
- Assisting with routine checks and health prevention duties (e.g. parasite control, foot trimming)
- Parasite control within houses
- Stocktaking sanctuary supplies of food, bedding, medicine etc.
- Carrying heavy items such as food and bedding
- Transport of residents for veterinary treatment and rescue
- It is desirable that you can catch and hold heavy animals such as sheep when they require veterinary care in an efficient manner that respects their need to feel safe
- Calm and efficient movement of residents for health care, including cows pigs, sheep and goats
- Administration of medicines; wound care, etc.
- Care of special needs residents
- Providing company to any resident who is ill or alone (e.g. during initial quarantine period)
- Assisting with animal rescue (preparing habitat and houses for new residents, transport etc.)
- Keeping excellent intake, health, and veterinary care records