



<b>Department</b>	Ouseburn Farm Volunteering
<b>Volunteer Role</b>	Placement Support Volunteer   Small Animals & Reptiles
<b>Availability</b>	2 – 4 hours per week (or more if you can offer)  Small Animals & Reptiles Workshops run on Fridays 10.30-12.30 then 1-3. You would need to be available for one or more of these workshops.
<b>Location</b>	Ouseburn Farm Charity Ltd, Ouseburn Road, Newcastle, NE1 2PA
<b>Category</b>	Care Farm
<b>For more information or to apply for this role</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:volunteering@ouseburnfarm.org.uk">volunteering@ouseburnfarm.org.uk</a> or call Sarah on 07816978309

### About this volunteer role

Our team provides holistic experience, creative development and friendship for adults with learning disabilities/difficulties and ASD (Autistic Spectrum disorder). Our adult placements are at the centre of the work we do and the services we provide. All activities are inspired by and, indeed, take place in and around our working farmyard, gardens, cafe and popular visitor centre.

As a Placement Support Volunteer, you will provide individual assistance to people with learning difficulties/disabilities who attend the farm, by supporting them to accomplish their routine tasks. Our trainees work in various areas of the farm, including livestock, horticulture, catering and cooking, arts and crafts, photography and creative arts. Volunteers are required to work directly with trainees to assist in promoting skills development, lift their spirits and encourage independence by ensuring the process is enriching. Specific tasks will depend on the needs of the work area and abilities of the person with disability. Volunteers are allocated no more than two trainees to work with throughout the session.

For this role we are specifically looking for people who have a keen interest in small animal &/or reptile care. As a Small Animals & Reptiles Placement Support Volunteer you will work directly with the animals and will be required to 'get your

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hands dirty'. You will be involved in feeding, cleaning cages & pens, handling small animals &/or reptiles as well as general animal welfare.

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### Role responsibilities

- Motivate and provide general support to our adult placements with learning disabilities/difficulties and ASD in performing day to day tasks in various areas of the farm and workshops
- Helping with the general welfare, health and safety of our placements
- Encouraging a proactive approach to engagement, wellbeing and development
- Finding creative ways for placements to develop their skills and independence
- Feedback to the staff team on the individual progress of placements
- Become familiar with Ouseburn Farm's ethos and history
- keep up to date with current activities and services on offer

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### Knowledge, skills and experience

- Strong personality with excellent interpersonal and social skills
- Volunteers will be expected to give clear instruction and ongoing support to adults with a differing range of skill, ability and capacity
- Caring, patient and positive nature
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Reliability and flexibility to work on a range of tasks
- Willing to commit to this role for at least 6 months for a minimum of one session per week
- An strong interest in small animal &/or reptile care

### Desirable but not essential

- Experience of volunteering/working with adults with learning disabilities/difficulties and ASD
- Experience of volunteering/working in a farm/small animals/reptiles/veterinary environment
- Experience in working in a community setting

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### Check requirements

- All volunteers working with vulnerable adults/children will be required to complete a DBS check.
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- All volunteers will be required 2 character references.
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### Learning and development

- Complete safeguarding adults learning modules online as required
  - Attend Ouseburn Farm Volunteer Induction, Program Training and ongoing training as required
  - Attend scheduled volunteer meetings
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### General Information

- We always act in accordance with the Ouseburn Farm Code of Conduct policy
  - We are a Safe Place organisation, and all volunteers are required to comply with relevant procedure
  - We comply with the Workplace Health and Safety management system
  - We demonstrate skill, knowledge and behaviour to work with vulnerable adults in a respectful and enriching way
  - Volunteers will be reimbursed for travel according to our Volunteer Policy
  - Volunteers attending for a full day will be offered free lunch and refreshments.
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### What is in it for you?

As well as making a difference to a locally loved community resource, set among the beautiful surroundings of The Ouseburn, this is a great opportunity to meet people from a wide variety of backgrounds and to gain experience of working as part of a small, dedicated team.

You will learn a lot about how we work with animals, the ethos here at Ouseburn Farm and absorbing, first-hand, the day-to-day life here.

As part of our promise to all of our volunteers, you will receive an introductory accredited Volunteer Induction as well as role specific training and support to help you carry out your volunteer role confidently and competently.

As an Ouseburn Farm Volunteer you will gain valuable experience in working with people with learning difficulties/disabilities which can be an incredibly positive and rewarding experience. If you are looking to get in to teaching/care work it could enhance your CV.

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