

## Amazon Animal Rescue Centre



This centre was founded in 2006 with the aim of protecting the wildlife of the Amazon region through the rescue and rehabilitation of local flora and fauna.

The animals at the centre have all been abused, neglected or abandoned. Some of the animals were orphaned when their parents were killed by hunters, others were rescued from animal dealers who were trying to traffic the animals out of the country and others have been removed from families who had kept these animals in captivity. Unfortunately the majority have suffered some sort of physical or psychological abuse. Some of the animals have been handed over to the care of the centre by Government authorities who have rescued or taken custody of the animals; others have arrived at the centre by voluntary means from families who have realised that wild animals are not to be kept as domestic pets. There are currently at least 35 different species of animals at the centre which include: oncilla, tayra, capybara, parrots, monkeys, tortoises, caimans amongst others.

The centre is also open for tourists to visit charging a small entrance fee that is the centre's main source of income. As animal welfare is not a high priority for many Ecuadorians, the background and mistreatment of each animal is explained to tourists, with the idea being to educate local and foreign visitors about animal protection issues. In general the visits are not guided, but tourists can read about each animal at the information sign at the cages.

### VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Volunteers are needed to help in the following activities:

- Day to day care of the animals
- Cutting up fruit, preparation of diets, feeding the animals
- Helping new arrivals adjust to the centre
- General maintenance and cleaning
- Construction work; repairing and building new enclosures
- Cage and enclosure enrichment
- Assisting the vet when necessary
- Other activities such as gardening, improving trails, making signs for visitors

### WORK SCHEDULE

You will work from 8am to 1pm and 2.30pm to 5pm, Monday to Friday. On Saturdays, volunteers work for a few hours in the morning as the animals still need feeding and looking after but once all the tasks are completed you are free for the weekend.

### LOCATION

This project is located 10 minutes from the jungle town of Puyo. Travelling in bus from Quito it will take you approximately 5 hours to reach.