PARAISO CARLISA NATURAL RESERVE, FARM

& ANIMAL RESCUE CENTER

The Paraiso Carlisa Farm is a 100hectare natural reserve. Together with another adjoining farm, this project

protects more than 300 hectares of land in the central Pacific region of Costa Rica.

It is located 20 kilometers from Parrita and the central Pacific coast and near the beach towns of Jaco and Manuel Antonio

This farm became a private natural reserve based on a 10-year project which reforested around 40.000 species of trees, a lot of them

essential for the country's fauna. The appearance of wild animals in its premises that required protection and care created the need for an animal rescue center.

The natural reserve and animal rescue center are financed with the income of an ecological hotel built on the land.



The animals come to the center for several reasons which forced them to leave their habitat due to deforestation, injuries, accidents and

mistreatment from humans.

The goal of the project is to keep animals no longer than six months in a secluded area. During this time they get veterinarian care to make sure they are ready to go back to their natural habitat.







30% of animals are usually ready to go back to their natural habitat after 1 to 3 months of observation and treatment. The process consists not only on returning them to their habitat, but making sure they can survive on their own.

50% show some kind of trouble in readapting to the wild. It takes them between six months to a year to return to their habitat. These animals are kept in seclusion for six months and the other six months semi-secluded. Project staff and volunteers teach them how to get their own food and how to avoid hunters or getting killed by other animals.

20% are never ready to go back to their natural habitat. They are so domesticated that they would die if separated from humans. These animals are kept in a semi-secluded area or are given to the government



Department of the Environment to be placed in another institution.

The Environmental Department supervises the work of the project, to ensure that the animals are being treated and taken care of the best way possible.

Volunteers Profile

Throughout the years, volunteers have been essential in the conservation of the private refuge. The project requires volunteers with the following qualifications:

- Love and Respect for Animals
- People that are not scared to work directly with animals and that really want to learn from them
- People that are willing to do all kinds of jobs for the animals (cleaning, washing, bathing etc.)
- To be enthusiastic
- People that understand and respect our line of work and don't question our methods
- People that are flexible and adaptable to Costa Rican weather year round.





Work Schedule

Work schedule is 8 hours per day approximately, 6 days a week.

Morning Shift: 7:00h a 13:30h

Split Shift: 9:30h to 13:30h -

15:00h - 17:30h

Breakfast: 6:30h

Lunch: 14:00h

Dinner: 19.30h



Volunteer Activities

Taking Care of the Animals (Daily Jobs)

- Food preparation for the animals (cut fruits & vegetables)
- Cleaning the kitchen where the food for the animals is prepared
- Wash the animals' eating and drinking areas
- Wash utensils used for food preparation
- Separate ripe fruit from green fruit in the storage areas
- Distribute the fruit in the trails and in the rescue center.
- Place fruit in the basket in the terrace for the monkeys
- Put fresh water in the birds' cages
- Once a week, clean the caimans' area
- Clean the animals' living areas.

Monitoring Jobs

- Volunteers have weekly walks in the property's trails to monitor wild animals and provide them with fresh fruits
- If volunteers spot a wild animal they need to inform this and take a picture if possible.
- Saddle the horses to visit the different trails
- Visit the "In Observation" area to check the animals and monitor their behavior.

Farming Area

Prepare the land for farming, removing weeds, watering plants and applying fertilizer

Butterfly Garden



- Repair holes and possible escape areas
- Clean all the spider webs and remove weeds from garden
- Collect eggs, transfer larva to the lab and keep enough food
- Daily cleaning of the lab
- Daily cleaning of the butterfly garden's pond
- Daily cleaning of the larva station area

Greenhouse

- Prepare dirt and fill out pots and bags
- Control the ants and other plagues
- Water the plants in the greenhouse
- Planting special types of trees and plants

Cleaning the Stables

- Clean the stables and wash the floors daily
- Clean the eating areas in the stables
- Provide fruit in the eating areas
- Maintain the stables safe

Operations and Maintenance

- Help clean and repair the premises
- Clean trails and the green areas around the rescue center
- Clean the drains during the rainy season (remove leaves and dirt).
- Pick up leaves and sticks in the green areas
- Help in the construction and repair of the cages
- Paint fences and other areas
- Making and installing signs for the rescue center
- Planting trees and flowers
- Reforestation

Other activities

Once a week the volunteers will submit an information card with different facts from one of the animals at the rescue center.





The volunteers will visit different plantations and collect bananas, papayas, watermelon, cantaloupes and other fruit.

The volunteers will go with one of the supervisors to the veterinarian for the monthly animal check-ups

Volunteers also do constant observation of the animals' behavior and characteristics to be able to keep a file of any changes.

Once a month, the volunteers will visit a local school, or the school will visit the rescue center, so the volunteers can share with the students everything they know about the animals and remind them how important it is to protect and conserve the environment.



Accommodations and Meals

Volunteers will share rooms and bathroom with other volunteers and will receive three daily meals at the project's facilities.

The rescue center's personnel will clean the volunteers' room once a week free of charge, and they will wash the volunteers' clothes and change their linens as well.



Special Activities for the Volunteers

Depending on weather and staff availability

On Wednesdays after lunch, staff will take the whole group to Jaco beach town to spend the afternoon shopping, drinking coffee etc. The group will be back at 6:30pm for dinner.

On Sundays at 10:30am, staff will take the volunteers to Manuel Antonio Beach to spend the day at the beach with a picnic lunch. The group will be back at 6:30pm for dinner.

Friday night, after dinner, around 8:30, staff will take the group to Jaco beach town until 2:30am (this excursion will be done based on the criteria of the volunteers' coordinators).