



**EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS**

THE POWER OF TOGETHER.

**BEAR SANCTUARY
Prishtina**



FOUR PAWS

European Solidarity Corps

BEAR SANCTUARY Prishtina

Information Pack



Co-funded by the
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European Solidarity Corps Information Pack- BEAR SANCTUARY Prishtina

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Welcome!

On behalf of all of us here at FOUR PAWS and BEAR SANCTUARY Prishtina we want to thank you for your interest in joining to our team of exceptional volunteers!

We are thrilled that you'd like to volunteer your time and talents and that you are taking the first steps to helping us improve the lives of animals! As a volunteer, you play a vital role in achieving our mission of protecting animals in need.

Volunteering hands-on at BEAR SANCTUARY Prishtina means that your time and effort will directly impact the animals that we strive to support and rescue.

We hope that you will find volunteering with us to be a fulfilling and rewarding experience. We are looking forward to having you join our team and are confident that it will be a mutually beneficial experience.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Once again welcome and thank you!

Best regards,

BEAR SANCTUARY Prishtina and the FOUR PAWS Team

OUR MISSION

FOUR PAWS is the global animal welfare organisation for animals under direct human influence, which **REVEALS** suffering, **RESUES** animals in need and **PROTECTS** them.

About us

Founded in 1988 in Vienna by Heli Dugler and friends, the organisation advocates for a world where humans treat animals with respect, empathy and understanding. FOUR PAWS sustainable campaigns and projects focus on companion animals including stray dogs and cats, farm animals and wild animals – such as bears, big cats, orangutans and elephants – kept in inappropriate conditions as well as in disaster and conflict zones.

With offices in 15 countries, 7 bear sanctuaries, and numerous other animal welfare projects worldwide, FOUR PAWS has developed into a global animal welfare organisation with nearly 800 employees.

FOUR PAWS takes a problem-solving approach and offers animals in distress swift and direct aid. Our aim is to achieve and establish changes in politics, society and the economy that will benefit animals – through projects, campaigns and education. Our work is based on scientific expertise, sound research and intensive national and international lobbying.

The aim for FOUR PAWS is

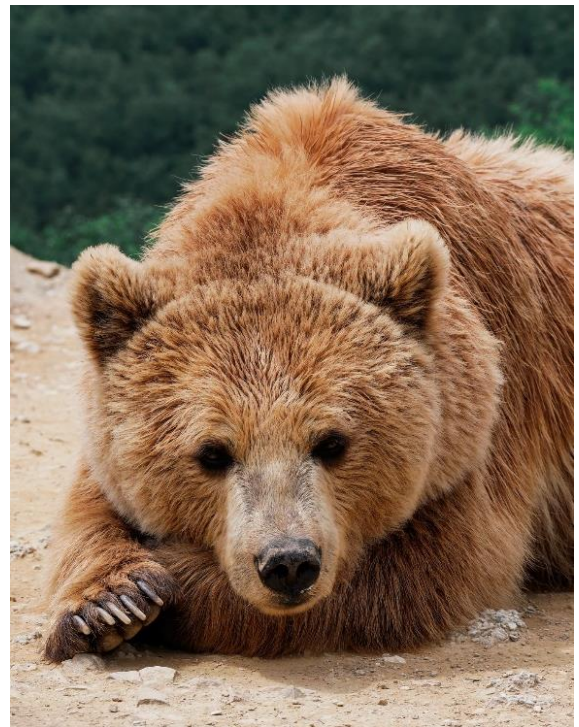
...to be the strong, global and independent voice for animals under human control.

Bear Sanctuary Prishtina

BEAR SANCTUARY Prishtina is situated in a green valley at the Badovc lake around 20km from Kosovo's capital city, Prishtina. The site was established to create a safe haven for the so-called 'restaurant bears' in Kosovo and Albania that were kept in tiny, dilapidated cages next to restaurants for the purpose of attracting customers. FOUR PAWS has rescued all these bears, and thus, ended this cruel form of brown bear abuse in the country for good. Approximately 16 hectare of the site provides all the facilities and natural environment for the 20 rescued bears now permanently residing at the centre.

Along with caring for the bears, the sanctuary also offers educational activities such as forest schools and nature trails as well as presentations and material to college and universities.

The sanctuary has an experienced team made up of 34 employees. Along with an army of volunteers who help keep the sanctuary running with their invaluable work.



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The European Solidarity Corps.

What is the European Solidarity Corps?

The European Solidarity Corps is an EU initiative which creates opportunities for young people to volunteer in projects in their own country or abroad, that benefit communities and people around Europe and beyond. As the programme is funded, the projects are completely free for volunteers!

Who is eligible?

To take part in the program and placement, volunteers must:

- Be 18-30 years old at the start of the placement,
- Be legally resident in a Program or Partner country only. Please see list [here](#).
- Not be completing the placement as part of a compulsory element of a work experience for a class/module at your college/university.
- Not have previously completed a long-term ESC/EVS placement (except if you are applying for Volunteering Teams placement, then this is allowed).

What funding is available?

- Full coverage of food and accommodation
- Return travel expenses (with a maximum limit).
- Visa's
- Complete health insurance for the entire period of your volunteer stay
- Language training for long term non-native speaking volunteers.
- Monthly pocket money

How do I take part?

Participants must register first as an ESC volunteer. Information on where and how to register as an ESC volunteer can be found [here](#). Participants will also need a sending organisation in their home country to help prepare them for a placement. If a volunteer does not know or have a sending organisation, then the sanctuary will happily help with this.

For more information on frequently asked questions regarding the European Solidarity Corps please see [here](#).

Please note: Participants must register as an ESC volunteer before applying for a FOUR PAWS placement.

Placement availability

Placement title: Animal Care Assistant

When: June and August 2023

How long? 2 months

How many placements available? 1

For? Volunteers from Programme/Partner countries.

Placement activities:

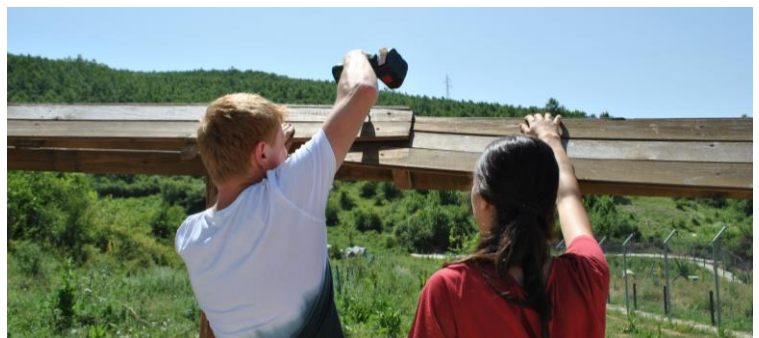
This placement is ideal for anyone looking for a career as an animal keeper. This short-term placement offers the opportunity to gain all the basic skills and knowledge that animal welfare organisations are looking for. Working one-to-one with a senior keeper you will work towards becoming an assistant caregiver by completing and rehearsing tasking until you are competent.

Tasks include:

- Cleaning enclosures,
- Preparing and distributing food and medication
- Making enrichment items
- Conducting behavioural observations of individuals and
- Record daily notes of what you have observed.
- Other tasks may include essential maintenance work in or around the enclosures, and education talks to the visiting public or school groups.

The working day will start from 08:30 - 17:00 five days a week, with lunch and breaks. Participants will not work more than 35 hours a week. Volunteers will also have two consecutive days off as their weekend.

Volunteers will have the chance to take part in workshops and discussions/presentations on the sanctuary work, FOUR Paw campaigns and other related topics.



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Placement availability

Placement title: Education Assistant

When: August and September 2023

How long? 8- weeks

How many placements available? 1

For? Volunteer from Programme/Partner only

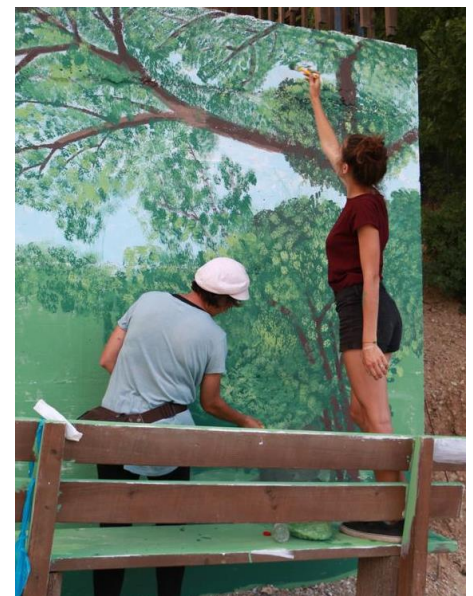
Placement activities:

The participant will work closely alongside the Education Manager and will learn the key skills, knowledge and tools required when educating others on the topics of animal welfare. This placement is ideal for any young person interested in conservation education and would like to experience first-hand the work that is involved. Along with the educational staff, the participant will also have the chance to engage with other volunteers on different placements providing a fully engaging project.

Tasks include:

- Assisting with any on and off-site events
- Preparing, and creating educational material for schools and universities.
- Updating on-site information
- Creating content for newsletters, up-coming events, social media and the website.
- There may also be the chance for group workshops, and discussions on animal welfare and environmental issues, as well as presentations from staff on these topics.

The working day will start from 08:30 -17:00 five days a week, with lunch and breaks. Participants will not work more than 35 hours a week. Volunteers will also have two consecutive days off as their weekend. Volunteers will have the chance to take part in workshops and discussions/presentations on the sanctuary work, FOUR Paw campaigns and other related topics.



Living

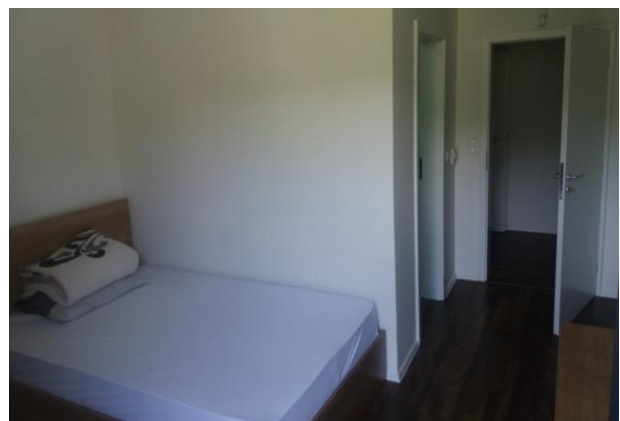
Accommodation

General Volunteers will live either on-site in two person tents provided by the sanctuary, or in a nearby hostel in shared rooms. Other volunteers will live on-site in either shared or private accommodation, depending on what is available. All volunteers will have access to cooking facilities and equipment. Bathrooms, living areas, TV, WIFI and laundry facilities will also be provided on-site, including plenty of outdoor space.

Volunteers living off-site will be picked-up and dropped-off with the sanctuary's minibus.

Food

Food will be provided in the form of the sanctuaries on-site restaurant, where participants are welcome to have all their meals including breakfast, lunch, and dinners. However, if volunteers wish to cook for themselves then they are welcome to do this using food they have bought and cooked themselves.



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Travelling and insurance

Travel expenses

Volunteers will have up to €410 travel allowance for their return travel from their address to the sanctuary. The expenses cover flights, ferries, trains, and car journey but not taxis. The sanctuary encourages volunteers to take the most ecological route, and not use flights where possible. If participants are willing and able to make “greener” travel choices, then there may be additional funding to help with this.

Volunteers must pay for their travel tickets soon after accepting their placement. Confirmation receipts of the travel tickets must be sent to the sanctuary so that is able to reimburse participants after their arrival to the site.

If volunteers exceed the maximum travel allowance, then the remaining amounts must be covered by the participant.

Visa's

All Visa fees are covered by the funding.

Volunteers must apply and pay for the Visa in their home country around 3 months before the placements starts. Participants will be reimbursed soon after their arrival. The sanctuary and the sending organisation will help guide and advise the volunteer through the Visa application process.

Vaccinations

Participants are required to have an up-to-date Tetanus vaccination.

Insurance and Health Care

Participants entitled to a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) must register for free and obtain a card to be provided with medically necessary state healthcare of their hosting country. European Solidarity Corps' insurance plan, Cigna (or Henner) will only cover the remaining eligible expenses not covered by the EHIC. If volunteers are not able to apply for a EHIC card the CIGNA/Henner will become the primary medical insurer.

Cigna/Henner will also cover participants for Third party Liability and repatriation.



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Allowances

Pocket money

Participant will receive €84 a month for their pocket money.

The money will be paid in Euros via bank transfer into the volunteer's account at the end of every month. Volunteers must ensure they have an account that will accept Euro's or register for an account such as Revolut that can accept and exchange foreign currency.

Holiday and weekends.

Volunteers will work five consecutive days a week followed by a two-day weekend; however, this may not necessarily be Saturday and Sunday. Participants staying over a month are also entitled to 2 days of holiday a month as well as any national holidays.

Deposit

As a way of securing a placement, volunteers are asked to pay a €50 deposit within 3 weeks after officially accepting. This deposit will be returned to once the participant arrives. However, the deposit will be kept in the event of the volunteer dropping out of their project before the placement has begun. This will be to cover the administrative time spent.

Reimbursement.

It is essential that all volunteers save enough money to last a few weeks, before they arrive. Participants may have to wait before they are reimbursement their travel, deposit and paid their first amount of pocket money. Unfortunately, the sanctuary cannot pay out reimbursements or pocket money early, so volunteers must ensure they have saved enough.



Clear communication

Being able to speak good English (at least a level B) is important for your own safety and that of your colleagues. As an ESC volunteer, you will work with potentially dangerous animals, so it is important to be able to understand instruction in case of emergencies. Having a good level will also help you integrating into sanctuary. If you cannot follow social conversations, you may start to feel isolated. We want all our volunteers to enjoy their stay with us, so English level is very important.

Motivation

You must be fully committed when applying for a project! For long term volunteers this is especially essential. Staying motivated for the entire year will ensure you make the most the placement has to offer.

Hard working

Working with animals is physically hard, so volunteers should be generally physically fit and healthy. You should also be willing to work outside in all weather conditions.

Can work in a team or independently.

The sanctuary is a fantastic place to work and much of it is achieved thanks to a wonderful team! Volunteers will work and train with several people from different nationalities and backgrounds. Being comfortable with this, as well as working on your own is essential.

Affinity towards animals

Having an affinity towards animals is important to understand why people work hard. Most animals show signs of trauma and need to be re-socialized with members of their own kind. FOUR PAWS have a **'hands off policy'**, so the interaction between the caretaker and the animal should always be minimal. The fact that the animals develop towards a more natural life, should be the cause of satisfaction for the volunteers.

Creative and adaptable

Participants should be able to think creatively and be willing to carry out multiple tasks as well as be flexible in coping with new challenges.

No allergies

Having a severe allergy for animal fur or nuts could be problematic as participants will be exposed to these daily.

Why choose FOUR PAWS?

As an internationally recognised organisation, FOUR PAWS is one of the largest animal welfare charities who employ highly specialised staff to care for our animals. As a volunteer, there are many benefits from working with us including improving professional and personal skills.

FOUR PAWS will ensure all work will take place in a safe environment and the necessary resources will be provided to volunteers to perform their duties. This includes work uniforms, Personal Protective Equipment such as disposable gloves and wellingtons boots.

Benefits include:

- Being part of a professional team and organisation.
- Learn from highly skilled staff.
- Experience in how well organised animal sanctuary is run.
- Understand the work needed to keep the sanctuary running.
- Enhance your employability.
- Develop your professionalism.
- Develop new competencies.
- Develop communications skill.
- Improve English linguistic level.
- Enhance motivation through the sense of achievement.

Volunteers are simply people who want to make a positive difference.

- Enhance strategic thinking and implementation.
- Gain confidence and independence.
- Experience a different culture.
- Contribute to the local host community.
- Enjoy working with other like-minded people.

Free time

Kosovo has a rich and varied culture filled with traditional food, dance, dress and history. Volunteers will have the chance to explore this in their free time in the local villages and in nearby capital Prishtina.

The city also provides ample cafes, an impressive library and monuments (NEWBORN in particular) for keen tourists.

In addition, participants will have plenty of opportunity to explore the beautiful landscape surrounding the sanctuary including Badovc Lake and Gallock Mountains. With endless walking trails, volunteers are guaranteed to see the best of nature that Kosovo has to offer.

For more adventurous volunteers, there are tours to nearby Skopje, the capital of Macedonia, as well as trips to western Kosovo to see beautiful gorges, waterfalls and stone bridges.

As Europe's youngest city, Kosovo is one of the best places to visit in the Balkans.



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How to apply

To take part in a FOUR Paws ESC placement, please ensure you have read the information **carefully** to ensure you are eligible and thoroughly understand the placement you wish to take part in.

Please fill in all aspects of the application form and send this in along with a motivation letter (no greater than 1 A4 page) to the email address below.

Jeton.Hetemaj@vier-pfoten.org

Deadline for applications: 19th of May 2013

Applications sent after this time will not be considered.

For further information please see our website below and the European Youth Portal for frequently asked questions regarding the ESC programme. Please click [here](#).

Otherwise, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to hearing from you!

BEAR SANCTUARY Prishtina

Address: Mramor, near Badovc Lake, 10'000 Prishtina – Kosovo

Phone number: +383 38 606 605

Webpage: www.bearsanctuary-prishtina.org