

# FOUR PAWS

## European Solidarity Corps

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TIERART Wild Animal Sanctuary

Information Pack



# European Solidarity Corps Information Pack- TIERART

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## Table of Content

### I. Welcome!

<b>Our Mission</b> .....	3
<b>TIERART Wild Animal Sanctuary</b> .....	4
<b>The European Solidarity Corps</b> .....	5
What is the European Solidarity Corps?.....	5
Who is eligible?.....	5
What funding is available?.....	5
How do I take part.....	5
<b>Placement availability</b> .....	6
<b>Living</b> .....	7
Food.....	7
Accommodation.....	7
<b>Travelling and Insurance</b> .....	8
Travel	
Expenses.....	8
Visas.....	8
Vaccinations.....	8
Travel insurance.....	8
<b>Allowances</b> .....	9
Pocket money.....	9
Holidays and weekends.....	9
Deposit.....	9
Reimbursement.....	9
<b>Participants Profile</b> .....	10
<b>Why choose FOUR PAWS</b> .....	11
<b>Free Time</b> .....	12



## Welcome!

On behalf of all of us here at FOUR PAWS and TIERART 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 TIERART 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,

TIERART and the FOUR PAWS Team

## OUR MISSION.

FOUR PAWS is the global animal welfare organisation for animals under direct human influence, which **REVEALS** suffering, **RESCUES** 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.

FOUR PAWS aim is

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



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# TIERART

TIERART Wild Animal Sanctuary and FOUR PAWS formed a cooperation in 2013 to care for wild animals.

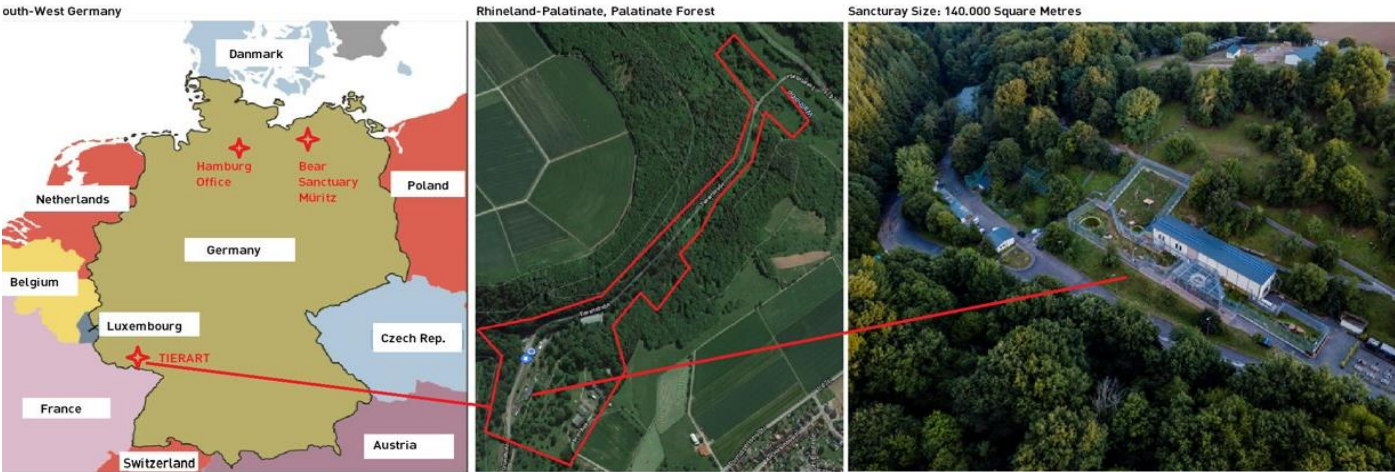
The sanctuary is located in the Rhineland-Palatinate region of south-west Germany, 15 km from the city of Pirmasens. Approximately 14 hectares of this former US military site provide the facilities to rescue and rehabilitate native animals, and where possible, release them back into the wild. Additionally, since 2015, the sanctuary became a life-long home to big cats formerly kept in poor conditions in zoos, circuses or confiscated from private ownership. The new, species-appropriate enclosures allow the big cats the opportunity to display natural behaviours, whilst receiving the necessary professional care they need.

Along with caring for the animals, the sanctuary also actively educates on the topics of animal and environmental issues, not only to the visiting public but also to schools and universities.

The sanctuary has an experienced team made up of two Biologists, eight Animal Caretakers, Finance-Education- and Marketing Specialists and Technical Workers. Along with committed 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?** 3 months

**How many placements available?** 2

**For?** Volunteers from Programme countries only

**Placement activities:**

Volunteers will learn the basics of animal care, and rehabilitation on a variety of animals. This will include native wildlife such as hedgehogs, brown hares and squirrels which the sanctuary aims to re-release, as well as the permanent residents such as the raccoons, foxes and big cats. This placement is an ideal introduction for anyone thinking of a career as an animal keeper. Working one-to-one with a senior keeper you will work towards becoming an assistant caregiver.

**Tasks include:**

- Cleaning enclosures,
- Preparing food
- Making enrichment items.
- Site work, including gardening, painting, cleaning.
- Help with guided tours (dependant on the volunteer's competence and language level).
- There may also be the chance for workshops, and discussions on animal welfare and environmental issues.

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.



Feeding

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Creating enrichment

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Guided tours

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## Living

### Accommodation

Volunteers will live off-site in private accommodation in the form of apartments in the nearby town of Thaleischweiler-Fröschen. The apartments include cooking facilities and equipment, bathroom, living area, TV, WiFi and laundry facilities. Volunteers will be expected to buy their food, cook, clean and generally look after themselves.

Volunteers will be picked-up and dropped-off by sanctuary staff on their working days.

### Food

Volunteers will receive a monthly allowance for food, which they must then use to buy everything they need. It is important that participants can budget properly as the sanctuary is unable to forward allowances early. Food can be easily bought along with other essentials in the village, as supermarkets and shops are within easy walking distance of the accommodation.



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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 and Tick-Borne Encephalitis vaccination, FSME.

### 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.

## 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.

## Participants profile

### 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!** Staying motivated for the duration of your activity 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 or fear of feeding animal carcasses.

Having a severe allergy for animal fur or nuts could be problematic, as is a fear of feeding and handling animal carcasses (chickens, mice, rats, and chicks) 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, and other equipment related to the placement.

### 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

Germany 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 cities such as Kaiserslautern or Saarbrücken.

The city provides ample cafes, an impressive church and castles for keen tourists. It also provides other transport links to cities further afield including Frankfurt, Luxemburg and even Rotterdam and Milan.

Thaleischweiler-Fröschen is where the accommodation is located, which is on the western edge of the Palatinate Forest, the largest continuous forest region in Germany covering around 684 square miles. The forest has plenty of trails for hiking, running and cycling, past rivers, gorges and lakes. It's also famous for its Bunter sandstone landscape such as Devil's Table.



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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.

[tierart@vier-pfoten.org](mailto:tierart@vier-pfoten.org)

**Deadline for applications: 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2023**

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!

TIERART Wild Animal Station

A project by FOUR PAWS - Foundation for Animal Welfare

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Website: [www.tierart.de](http://www.tierart.de)