



VOLUNTEER INDUCTION PACK



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ABOUT ZOOFUGIO AND OWNERS FANNY AND WILLIAM

Zoorefugio Tarqui was created in 2008 by William López and Fanny Bonilla, their main objective to help the animals that are victims of illegal trafficking.

Fanny used to work as a teacher, until husband William's passion for animals lead them to where they are today. Neither have back-grounds in animal refuge, but they love the animals of the Amazon and could no longer continue to witness mistreatment or animal decline due to anthropogenic or human actions, without doing something.

William is either found by the BBQ in the restaurant or he is out working as an electrician in the local region. These are 12 hour days, long, hard work. If you have the right skills he sometimes requests the help of his volunteers on his work in the field.

The zoo is located in the Amazon region of Ecuador, in a small town called Tarqui, 10 minutes from Puyo city by car. Zoorefugio is set in 2 hectares of land, it has a quarantine area, a nutrition area and an animal clinic, which is shared with 200 animals. Five people with experience work in the zoo, including the veterinarian.

The refuge does not receive any financial support from the government and all Zoo expenses, including employee wages, are paid for personally. This is supported by income from visitor fees (at \$3 per person), the restaurant, the volunteer program and William's work outside the Zoo. At this time they do not make sufficient income via donations or sponsorship.

It's a really brave story, one that many of us dream about doing one day, but most don't. Can you imagine dropping everything you know and call your life today, to start something you know nothing about because your heart tells you to?

Fanny and William and all the animals of Zoorefugio, thank you for your contribution and commitment.

Mission:

Our mission is to preserve wildlife in the rainforest of Ecuador, which is threatened today by anthropogenic activities. For this purpose, we provide specialized care for the welfare of the animal, by promoting scientific research and offering a message of environmental awareness to general public.

Vision:

Our vision is to gather information on behavior, nutrition, and reproduction when necessary, with that object of compiling such information in a database. This information could be accessed by people or organizations to help wild animal care or research.

Our Goals:

- To receive, Rehabilitate and Release wild animals when they need it, in case they are rescued from the illegal Wildlife smuggling or in some adverse situations.
- To conserve wildlife in the Ecuador's Amazon
- To safeguard wildlife and reintroduce them into their natural habitat when we can.
- To conduct scientifically viable research.
- To educate and sensitize the general public, doing tours and talks about environmental education.
- To increase awareness of Ecuador's threatened biodiversity and its importance and value in the field of wildlife conservation

OTHER KEY STAFF – WHO ARE WE?

Veterinarian:

Our resident vet takes care of our animal's health and wellbeing. She checks all animals on a daily basis, including regular testing of animal samples, monitors food intake, the preparation of animal food and maintains the clinic animal history. When we receive new animals our vet will handle the care and transition of them into either captivity, or the release back into the wild. Should an animal become unwell it is the vet's role to recognise this, make an assessment and provide rehabilitation.

Animal handler:

Christian is in charge of feeding all the animals, cleaning the animal enclosures daily, maintaining the food preparation area, checking food intake and animal likes/dislikes and the "deep cleaning" of the enclosures. Please note Christian speaks only Spanish, however for those volunteers with little Spanish it is not difficult to communicate, use the Spanish you know, speak slowly and be patient.

Maintenance:

All Zoo maintenance is provided by Jamie, this includes general maintenance, building of enclosures all repairs and labouring. He also assists in the feeding of some of the larger animals.

Tour supervisor:

Fanny's sister, Silvia, works on the weekends and supervises all volunteer Zoo guides.

Student volunteers:

We regularly receive student volunteers from the High/Secondary School as part of their work experience. They help our animal handlers and veterinarian, on occasions they may be enlisted to assist our volunteers, in the weekends they lead guided Zoo tours.

Please note many of our permanent team speak limited or no Spanish, this is a great opportunity to learn and practise Spanish. Be patient and have fun.

Both the veterinarian and animal handlers manage the volunteers alongside Fanny and William. Please respect them and adhere to any requests they have of you.

THE VOLUNTEERS ROLE

Volunteers help us in so many ways, there are a number of hands on activities that you will take part in, many of which get you up close to all our animals.

Your help with our day to day tasks are essential.

However, if you have a skill in a particular area please let us know early so we can work together to ensure you are adding value in ways that inspire you.

Building, maintenance, cooking, marketing, administration, animal care, research and education and the list goes on, your unique contribution is what will enhance your experience with us.

We embrace your ideas and suggestions for continuous improvement.

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP US AS A VOLUNTEER:

- We also ask all our volunteers to become active members on our Facebook page. We want to use our online network to encourage donations via our website
- Please post photos and updates of your time with us on our Facebook page (Zoorefugio Tarqui Puyo Pastaza)
- Share our link with all your Facebook friends
- Please help us grow our Facebook friends, stay connected and share our interesting news with the world
- Help generate donations, send a message to your Facebook friends about your volunteering and attach this link <http://www.zoorefugiotarqui.com/donation/>

DAILY SCHEDULE (6 day week schedule)

Breakfast from 7am – 7.30am, in the main restaurant. Volunteers must prepare their own breakfast and clean all breakfast dishes. You can help yourself to fresh bread, eggs, fruit and spreads.

The morning shift is between 8am and 11.50am, volunteers meet at the Animal Nutrition area at 8am. Tasks will be allocated to all volunteers at this time and may include preparation of animal food, cleaning of animal enclosures and assisting Fanny. Once all animal feeding is complete, move onto the Daily Tasks, if you have nothing to do return to the kitchen to assist with the preparation of lunch.

Lunch is from 12pm – 12.30pm, at the restaurant. On Mondays volunteers must assist Fanny with the preparation of lunch. From Tuesday – Sunday lunch is prepared for all volunteers and zoo staff. Lunch includes sopa (soup), a main dish and jugo (fruit juice). Volunteers must clean their own lunch dishes. Please remember the restaurant kitchen is used by all, leave it better than you find it.

Seista is from 12.30pm – 1.50pm, volunteers own time.

The afternoon shift is between 2pm and 4pm, volunteers meet at the Animal Nutrition area for the preparation of afternoon feeding and allocation of tasks.

Dinner preparation is from 6pm, all volunteers to meet at the restaurant. Dinner is prepared by the volunteers for all zoo staff, volunteers and family. You must clean all dishes before closing up the kitchen area and retiring.

DAILY TASKS

Daily tasks are to be completed after the feeding of the animals.

A list of all daily tasks are displayed at the volunteer casa. This includes jobs like cleaning and sterilising of the Clinic and Quarantine or Nutrition area and rubbish collection.

GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING OF THE VOLUNTEER CASA

Please remember to respect your fellow volunteers and the casa.

It's really important to maintain the shared living areas and keep your room tidy. A full list of internal rules are displayed in the volunteer casa, but in general we only ask that you be clean and proactive, sharing the cleaning duties.

VOLUNTEER CASA

- All linen and blankets are provided, if you are prone to chilliness, we recommend bringing a sleeping bag for extra comfort.
- The house has electricity
- The house is located into the zoo
- There is hot water, 24/7
- There are private bathrooms and communal bathrooms
- There is a communal area in the house and also a hammock to relax
- The rooms are double, simple, and 1 big room for 4 people
- There is space for up to 12 volunteers at one time
- There is a sink to wash your clothes.

VOLUNTEER PERKS

- You can request one day off per working week, please talk with Fanny about days off
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner (all delicious, healthy and huge) per working day
- Cheap beer (\$1.50)
- Free Wifi
- A full day Jungle experience (small amount of money required for lunch and activities – not more than \$15)
- You can visit to the local sugar factory if time allows (which it probably will), a pool, and an animal experience most will never get the opportunity to have.

Remember all food is your responsibility on your day off.

VOLUNTEER FEES

We ask for a volunteer fee which is used to support Zoorefugio activities, such as the purchase of medicine, food for the animals, special care of baby animals or those arriving to us in bad condition. The fee is \$150 per week, this includes, lodging, 3 meals per day, internet, swimming pool, and an amazing day visiting the indigenous communities, the waterfalls and the biggest fish of the Amazon.

The volunteer program is a minimum of 2 weeks and maximum of 3 months.
Payment of fees to be made in cash on the day of your arrival.

HOW TO GET TO ZOOREFUGIO

The nearest airport is located on the north side of Quito city, it is called Tababela airport. You will have to go to the south of the city to get to the bus station and take a bus to Puyo city. When you are in Puyo, either take a bus to Tarqui (almost 30 minutes, costing 25 cents) or you can take a taxi (10 minutes, costing 3 dollars)

CONTACT

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pastaza_Province
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecuador#Language>

ANIMAL BIOS