

Fostering Orphaned Juvenile Mammals Requirements

We need volunteer foster carers to look after orphaned baby wild mammals in your own home.

Full training and support is given to all Tiggywinkles' foster carers, but the following criteria are essential to foster orphaned mammals:

- **Volunteers** – All applicants need to be 21 years or over.
- **Time** – You will need to be available most of the time. Juvenile hedgehogs, for example, need feeding every 2-3 hours and can take a little while to feed. Each feed may take 15 to 30 minutes for the group of babies that you would be caring for.
- **Transport** – You will need to be able to collect the juvenile mammals and equipment. The animals need to be brought to the Hospital regularly for checks, and of course, in an emergency if an animal in your care starts to deteriorate they must be brought in immediately.
- **Distance** - All applicants must live within a maximum of 30 minutes drive to the Hospital and have your own transport. We want to minimise the travelling time for these vulnerable wild babies. You will need to be able to collect the baby mammals and equipment, as well as come along for regular check-ups. Also, of course, in an emergency if an animal in your care deteriorates it must be brought in immediately.
- **Household Pets** – Pets are no problem, but you must have facilities to keep the wild animals away from domestic pets. Wildlife and pets do need to be kept apart at all times.
- **Safe area** - you must have an area within the house, where you can care for the baby mammals, which is warm (with electricity to plug in heat mats or lamps), has natural light, no draughts and where your own pets can be shut out.
- **Children** – Children (or other family members and friends) must not be allowed to handle the wild animals (no matter how innocent it may seem). We cannot emphasise enough that wild animals must *remain* wild, as ultimately we want them to be able to be released.

If you are interested in applying, then please send in your completed application.

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