



## Volunteer Role Description

### Scottish Wildcat Feral Cat TNVR Volunteer

#### What's involved?

The role is assisting SWA project officers in locating, trapping, neutering, vaccinating and returning (TNVR) feral cats in Scottish Wildcat conservation priority areas, in order to protect rare wildcats from hybridisation and disease. This will involve live trapping of feral cats using humane methods, transferring them to vet clinics for treatment and returning animals afterwards to original locations. It will also involve monitoring colonies of feral cats, working closely with local communities and landowners and the team of staff, vets and other volunteers.

#### Where?

One or more of these Scottish Wildcat Action Priority areas: Strathbogie, Strathpeffer, Upper Strathspey, or Angus Glens in Scotland. Exact locations within these areas are flexible according to volunteer's interests and ability to travel. Some but by no means all sites may be remote, as feral cats are found in town and rural areas.

#### When?

Our peak TNVR season runs from November to the end of February each year, although some work goes on year round. Flexible time contribution – from a few hours per week to intensive blocks of several days or weeks, according to your availability. Live trapping will be done on designated days coordinated with local vets and on these days volunteers will need to be willing to check traps every 12hrs.

#### Who with?

You will volunteer with the local Project Officer for the priority area, who will provide training and guidance, but you will also be willing to carry out manageable fieldwork tasks on your own.

#### What will the experience provide?

Volunteering will give you the opportunity to learn more about the rare and elusive Scottish Wildcat, and techniques for its conservation. You will gain hands on experience handling feral cats and live traps, as well as trail cameras. This is an excellent opportunity to gain work experience and develop new skills in practical mammal trapping and handling.

We'll provide you with full in depth training and ongoing support from our SWA team. We provide all equipment and PPE needed to undertake practical tasks. You will be reimbursed for travelling expenses associated with your volunteering on SWA work, up to a maximum agreed amount.

We cannot provide accommodation for this role, so it is best suited to people based in or near the Wildcat Priority areas.

#### The skills you need/ will have the chance to develop in this role:

You will need to be at least 18 years old. You'll be interested in Scottish Wildcats and their conservation, and will need to have a keen awareness and care for all cats' welfare. You will be a person willing to be outdoors in all weathers and seasons, and be reasonably physically fit. You will have a responsible attitude to health and safety, be well organised and practical, and be prepared to do some lone working. You will need good interpersonal and communication skills, patience and perseverance. Recording keeping and some admin skills are also needed.

Volunteers undertaking this role may be required to provide two referees who will be contacted with your consent.

#### More information

The best source of information on the SWA project is on our website:

[www.scottishwildcataction.org](http://www.scottishwildcataction.org)

**How to apply:** Please send an email to [volunteer@scottishwildcataction.org](mailto:volunteer@scottishwildcataction.org) or contact your local Scottish Wildcat Action Project Officer.