

Role Outline - Volunteer Online Retail

Assistant/Researcher

Volunteer Role	Volunteer Online Retail Assistant/Researcher
Charity:	RSPCA Lancashire East Branch (Reg. Charity No: 232253)
Location:	RSPCA Lancashire East Branch Charity Shop 6 St James Street Burnley Lancashire BB11 1NG
Reports To:	Charity Shop Manager (CSM)/duty manager or nominated employee

1. Overall Purpose of the Role

To support the Charity Shop Manager, Deputy Manager and other staff/volunteers to help maximise the sale of donated goods through various online outlets and so raise funds to support the work of the charity

2. Principal Responsibilities

To list donated items for sale on the charity's eBay account and other approved online sales platforms, this may include the following volunteer activities:

- To appraise/research high value items, collectables and specialist donated goods
- To photograph donated goods
- To create attractive listings on the charity's eBay account and other approved online sales platforms
- To help package and despatch items to buyers
- To promote the work of the RSPCA and support its local and national campaigns

Customer Care

- To treat online customers in a polite, friendly, positive and helpful manner
- To refer any customer complaints to the CSM/duty manager

Maintenance

- To report any faulty equipment, lighting, heating, ventilation, equipment etc. to the appropriate authority within the establishment

Security

- To ensure that high value items, collectables and specialist donated goods are stored appropriately

Health & Safety

- To complete all relevant health & safety training, including online training modules

While at work staff & volunteers are required:

- To take care of their own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by their acts of omissions
- To ensure that they follow all procedures laid down in the health and safety manual and as instructed.
- To cooperate with all Branch and Society policies and procedures for health & safety
- To report any health and safety concerns to the CSM/duty manager

General

- To attend volunteer meetings and undertake volunteer training courses (online and face-to-face) as required

3. Role Context

- Voluntary duties are assigned by the CSM/duty manager or nominated employee
- Voluntary duties are carried out in accordance with Branch procedures which are governed by the RSPCA licensing regime and other relevant RSPCA policies, procedures and advice
- Voluntary duties are carried out in accordance with Trading Standards legislation
- Volunteers are supported by the CSM/duty manager or nominated employee

4. Training & Support

- Training in the specific role will be provided as part of the volunteer induction process
- All volunteers are required to undertake basic online Health & Safety (H&S) training as part of the volunteer induction process: this is a requirement of our insurers and upon completion ensures the volunteer is covered by our insurance provider (n.b. we can facilitate access to online training if you are otherwise unable to access the course)
- Volunteers are encouraged to sign up for the Learning Hive (the RSPCA's online training facility), which gives them access to a range of RSPCA training courses

5. Additional Information

- Volunteers may, on occasion, be asked to assist staff & volunteers in the charity shop or the collection of donated goods
- The role may involve the lifting and carrying of heavy items

(n.b. this role outline is a statement of the volunteer role as of February 2025. It should not be seen as precluding future changes that may be deemed necessary by management or the Trustees)

Person Specification

Volunteer Role:

Volunteer Online Retail Assistant/Researcher

Requirements	Essential	Desirable
<i>Education</i>	Good numeracy and literacy skills	GCSE or equivalent in Maths and English
<i>Experience</i>	Experience & knowledge of online marketplaces Experience of selling items online	Previous experience as a volunteer Previous experience in the charitable sector Experience of working with the general public and/or in a customer care environment
<i>Special Skills & Knowledge</i>	Good oral and written communication skills. Good interpersonal skills including the ability to communicate at all levels Proven ability to work under direction but equally able to use their own initiative Good IT skills Knowledge of fashion brands & trends, collectibles and antiques	Knowledge of animal welfare issues, particularly as they relate to RSPCA policy and practice Some basic knowledge of health and safety regulations Flair for visual merchandising, particularly in an online context
<i>Personality & Disposition</i>	Demonstrable willingness to learn and acquire new skills through training Personable and with an open, positive approach to new ideas coupled with drive and enthusiasm A flexible and collaborative approach to colleagues both staff and volunteer Honest, trustworthy and reliable	Ability to remain calm under pressure
<i>Special Circumstances</i>	Sympathy for animal welfare and the work of the RSPCA Willingness to cover extra volunteer shifts when possible Ability to work on the volunteer rota including some weekends	Willingness to assist in the shop when necessary Willingness to assist our drivers with collections if necessary Willingness to drive the shop van when necessary Full valid UK driving licence