



## **Activity: Charities and volunteers**

**Resource: Animal centre volunteers**

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### **Overview**

**In this video two volunteers (Val and Stephanie) from an RSPCA animal centre explain why they volunteer for the RSPCA and what they enjoy most about volunteering.**

### **Learning outcomes**

- Children can describe some of the different types of work that volunteers do for the RSPCA.
- Children can identify the reasons why people volunteer for the RSPCA.
- Children can explain how charities are set up and why they are important.
- Children understand the role and importance of volunteers.

### **Discussion points**

- How does Val and Stephanie's work differ from the work that Charlie and Craig do?
- Do you think Val's work is as important as Stephanie's work? Why?
- How do the RSPCA, other paid staff and members of the public benefit from Val and Stephanie's work?
- Why do Val and Stephanie volunteer?
- What do they find hard about volunteering?
- Do you think some people might find it distressing to volunteer in an animal centre? Why?

### **Did you know?**

- Without volunteers, the RSPCA would never have existed and without their continued commitment, the RSPCA would not be able to deliver improvements to the lives of millions of animals year after year.
- Anyone can volunteer for the RSPCA, however you cannot work directly with animals unless you are over 16.
- The Society has 175 local branches throughout England and Wales carrying out local animal welfare.
- The RSPCA rehomed 69,900 animals in 2005 - mostly through the Society's network of branches.
- Each RSPCA branch is a separately registered charity that relies on volunteers to enable them to do something positive for animals. RSPCA branches undertake a wide range of work in their local area and volunteers carry out a variety of roles such as welfare work, fundraising, shop work and trusteeship.
- It is estimated that there are approximately 7,500 volunteers working to help their local branch.
- The RSPCA runs a number of animal centres, wildlife centres and hospitals, which all have volunteers who provide an invaluable service to animals across England and Wales.
- Volunteering for the RSPCA is a great way to meet like-minded people and to be involved with a group of individuals who share the same enthusiasm for animal welfare.
- Being a volunteer enables people to gain new skills or develop existing ones and can provide an opportunity to make a real difference.

## QCA Unit 3 Animals and us

### Key Stage 2

Who else looks after animals?

Taking responsibility – what can we do?

### English curriculum links

	Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
<b>PSHE and Citizenship</b>		<b>Preparing to play an active role as citizens</b> Pupils should be taught: 2a to research, discuss and debate topical issues, problems and events 2e to reflect on spiritual, moral, social, and cultural issues, using imagination to understand other people's experiences 2h to recognise the role of voluntary, community and pressure groups <b>Developing good relationships and respecting the differences between people</b> 4a that their actions affect themselves and others, to care about other people's feelings and to try to see things from their point of view

### Welsh curriculum links

	Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
<b>PSE</b>	<b>Attitudes and Values</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Show care and consideration for others</li><li>• Begin to take responsibility for their actions</li><li>• Be concerned about their environment</li></ul> <b>Skills</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Begin to express their own views and ideas</li></ul> <b>Knowledge</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Know about the different jobs and workplaces within the community</li><li>• Understand how the environment can be made better or worse to live in and how they can make a difference</li></ul>	<b>Attitudes and Values</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Take an active interest in the life of the community and be concerned about the wider environment</li></ul> <b>Skills</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Listen carefully, question and respond to others</li><li>• Express their views and ideas confidently, and take part in a debate</li><li>• Empathise with others' experiences and feelings</li></ul>

[www.rspca-education.org.uk](http://www.rspca-education.org.uk)