



SPCA Field Officer

Field Officers are a vital part of the SPCA Team. Field Officers work on the frontline every day, rescuing animals who have been in an accident, abused, neglected, abandoned or caught up in natural disaster. Field Officers are at work every day ensuring the protection of New Zealand's animals by providing emergency response and transporting animals to the safety of SPCA's care.

Additionally, Field Officer perform property inspections for those looking to adopt dogs from SPCA.

Staff Interview:

We interviewed Rachelle Rogers about her experience as an SPCA Field Officer and here's what she had to say:



1 Why did you want to become an SPCA Field Officer?

I had previously been a volunteer with SPCA for a number of years and had worked as a canine attendant for the Auckland Council. I thought that being able to help a wide variety of animals would be an interesting challenge as I hadn't had a lot of experience with other species other than dogs. I also thought this role (initially part time/casual) would broaden my knowledge base and it did! Now almost 19 years later (within that time, working in other departments and now back as a Field Officer for the past 10 years), I would be very reluctant to move into another role.





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2 What are the main responsibilities or tasks as an SPCA Field Officer?

As Field Officers, we collect sick and injured animals from members of the public that have found them and cannot locate their owner or they have no owner, we collect animals from vet clinics where they may have received first aid treatment and we also assist other departments within SPCA - like when our Inspectors need help transporting animals to other centres, or doing home checks for our foster and adopted animals. Furthermore, we do a lot of trapping of stray/unsocialised cats for our desexing (TNR) programme.

3 What do you enjoy most about being an SPCA Field Officer?

What I like the most about this job is that I can get up every morning looking forward to my day as I know that no two days are ever the same. I never know where my day might take me and what amazing animals I might encounter.

4 What did you have to do to become an SPCA Field Officer?

I was lucky enough to have SPCA voluntary experience, as well as experience working at Auckland Council. This, along with a passion for animal welfare, helped to give me an edge.



5 What skills do you think you need to be an SPCA Field Officer?

The role itself has evolved slightly from when I first started, but anyone interested in this type of role really needs to have a background in animal welfare, good animal handling skills, be a practical thinker, and have good time management skills.

6 What advice would you give to someone who wants to become an SPCA Field Officer?

In this role you cannot think that you're going to be able to 'save the world' – it is not for the faint-hearted. You will have good days and bad days. But it is the good days and the fantastic outcomes for some of these amazing animals, that you need to focus on. Sadly, we cannot save them all, but we can do our best to give them as much comfort as we can for the time that they are in our care.



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How to become an SPCA Field Officer:

To become an SPCA Field Officer, completing a NZQA L2 Animal Care Certificate (equivalent or higher) is desirable, or willingness to achieve this.

Additionally, having the below experiences and qualifications will help you become a Field Officer:

- Appointment as Auxiliary Officer pursuant to the Animal Welfare Act 1999
- Current first aid certificate from a NZQA accredited provider
- Animal care and animal handling experience
- Experience in working with people from different backgrounds and cultures
- Strong understanding of animal welfare essential
- A sound working knowledge of the Health and Safety legislation and how it affects this role



Fun SPCA Field Officer Fact:

Field Officers assist with SPCA's TNR (trap, neuter, return) Programme by helping spay/neuter stray and unsocialised cats – an operation that prevents animals from having babies. This year, they were able to help over 500 cats in the Auckland region alone which is a huge help in fixing New Zealand's companion animal overpopulation problem.