

Role Description

Taronga Wildlife Hospital

Pathology Volunteer

Cluster	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Agency	Taronga Conservation Society Australia
Location	Taronga Zoo, Sydney
Kind of Employment	Volunteer
Time Commitment	1 day per week or fortnight, 9am-4pm (minimum 12 months)
Training Required	Volunteer Induction & eLearning modules
Date of Approval	September 2026
Agency Website	taronga.org.au

Agency overview

Taronga Conservation Society Australia (Taronga) forms part of the **Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)** Cluster and the Environment and Heritage Group. It is established under NSW Government legislation and is governed by a Board appointed by the NSW Minister for Climate Change, Energy, Heritage & Environment. Taronga's vision is to create a shared future for wildlife and people. Through its efforts Taronga protects endangered species, increases understanding of wildlife and inspires community action.

Primary purpose of the Taronga Volunteer roles

Taronga volunteers support the Taronga Conservation Society to achieve their vision of 'Securing a Shared Future for Wildlife and People'.

Primary purpose of the Pathology Volunteer role:

Assist the Taronga Wildlife Hospital Pathology department in the maintenance and organisation of pathology workspaces and a range of animal tissue and bone specimens. You will support the team through activities such as necropsy suite cleaning and restocking, cataloguing and maintaining zoological bone collections, preparing zoological and wildlife bone specimens, organising tissue banks, managing digital records and supporting pathology project work.

Key accountabilities

- Necropsy suite cleaning and restocking
- Cataloguing and maintenance of zoological bone collection
- Preparation of zoological and wildlife bone specimens
- Organisation and cataloguing of frozen and fixed animal tissue bank
- Digital record organisation including pathology photographs
- Data analysis for project work
- Management of bone and other specimens for guest and hospital display

Key challenges

- Working with deceased animals and animal specimens, including exposure to blood, tissue, bone material and associated odours
- The nature of this work may be confronting or emotionally challenging for some individuals
- Undertaking repetitive physical tasks such as cleaning, lifting and carrying
- Adhering to confidentiality and security of cases, records, and specimens
- Ability to work independently for extended periods

Key relationships

Who	Why
Internal	
TWH Veterinary Pathologist and Pathology Assistant	- To provide general task support as advised - General day to day communications as required
Other TWH and ARWH employees, Volunteers and Students	- Occasional task support - General day to day communications as required
External	
Guests	Upholding Tarongas reputation and values during interactions with Zoo Guests whilst out on site
General Public	- Represent Taronga in a positive and respectful light. - Point of contact and ensures that enquiries are appropriately addressed in a prompt manner, referring issues to Coordinator/Supervisor.

Role dimensions

Decision making

At times, volunteers will be required to work autonomously and make minor decisions, however this position works under close supervision and direction of the Taronga Wildlife Hospital Veterinary Pathologist and Pathology Assistant.

Reporting line

This position reports to the Taronga Wildlife Hospital Pathology Team

Direct reports

There are no positions reporting directly to the Pathology Volunteer.

Budget/Expenditure

Nil

Essential requirements

- Current or previous background or demonstrated interest in veterinary, wildlife, animal care, forensic, or medical fields advantageous
- Confidence/comfort working with animal cadavers, tissue, and bone specimens essential
- Excellent attention to detail
- Ability to work independently for prolonged periods
- Digital competency advantageous, such as ability to use Microsoft Excel, organise and catalogue digital images
- Ability to acquire vaccination against and/or demonstrate immunity to designated infectious agents
- Commitment, punctuality, reliability and a professional, friendly manner

Please note: this role will have no direct animal contact