



Volunteer **Handbook**



Welcome!

Thank you for registering to join the SAFE volunteer team!

We hope to provide you with the resources, information and motivation to get out there and advocate for animals.

But first, there are some things you need to know.

SAFE volunteer centres

There are SAFE offices in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. This is where our largest and most active SAFE volunteer groups are. All other SAFE centres are run by local coordinators who are volunteers themselves. Feel free to contact your local coordinator to introduce yourself, or you can wait to hear from them. Their contact details can be found in your registration email. If you don't have this email and would like to make contact with your local SAFE coordinator, please contact volunteering@safe.org.nz.

Attending an Induction

If you live in Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch you'll soon be invited to a New Volunteer's Induction session. We'll walk you through the various ways you can help SAFE to help animals, and you'll be able to meet other new volunteers in a relaxed environment.

For those living close to one of our smaller SAFE centres you'll be invited along to a local event or action, where you will get to meet with your local coordinator.

If you don't live close to a SAFE centre, don't worry. There are still plenty of ways in which you can help as an individual and you'll find some helpful guidelines in this booklet.

Facebook

Once you register online as a SAFE volunteer you'll be invited to join the **National SAFE Volunteer's Facebook Group**. You will also be invited to your local SAFE Facebook group if you live close to a SAFE centre.

These groups are an excellent way of keeping in touch with other SAFE volunteers, sharing what you've been doing, keeping informed and supporting one another. We regularly post small actions for volunteers to take part in, such as online actions and letter writing.

Not on Facebook?

That's OK. You will receive the 6-weekly volunteer E-newsletter 'SAFE Good Sorts' to keep you up to date with volunteer activity throughout the country. We will also contact you by email when a SAFE event is happening in your area.

You can also contact us at volunteering@safe.org.nz to find out how you can help or to offer any skills you may have.

Our campaigns

There is a world of information on the **SAFE Website**, along with recent New Zealand footage to give you an idea of what it's like for animals on New Zealand factory farms, **cows on dairy farms** and animals used in entertainment such as **rodeo**. The SAFE website is a great place to start to learn about the current issues New Zealand's animals are facing.

What do SAFE volunteers do?

There are many different ways you can help SAFE to help animals. For our more outgoing volunteers, there are opportunities to man stalls at events such as expos, festivals and markets. There are street actions such as petition signings, food giveaways and demonstrations. There are fundraising opportunities such as collections and donation box management. For those living close to our three offices, there may be administration tasks such as letter writing and data entry. Perhaps you're a keen photographer, an arty/crafty type or a great organiser. Whatever your skill, we can help you put it to good use. Raining outside? There are a number of ways you can help us without even having to leave the house!

SAAN (SAFE's Animal Action Network)

Are you a keen letter writer or cyber activist? Then SAAN needs you!

All SAFE volunteers are automatically added to our online action team. You'll be sent email alerts when we need you to take action. This could be as simple as sharing a Facebook post or writing an email or letter. Never underestimate the power of the pen (or the keyboard)!

Online actions

The simple action of sharing a SAFE Facebook post can have a huge impact and reach many people. Please like and follow the SAFE Facebook Page and like, share and comment away!





Letter writing

There will be times when we encourage volunteers to write letters and emails. For example, writing to a supermarket, café or restaurant to ask them to stop serving/selling cage eggs or factory farmed products.

It is important to write as yourself, rather than on behalf of SAFE. Your voice as an individual customer is often more valuable than speaking on behalf of an organisation.

Understanding SAFE's vegan policy

SAFE is a vegan organisation, which means that all SAFE events, including social events, are vegan and we ask that our volunteers respect this policy.

For example, if you're holding a fundraising event for SAFE such as a baking stall or sausage sizzle, please make sure that your baking is vegan and your sausages too!

Remember SAFE is opposed to the use of animals for food, clothing, entertainment or scientific experiments.

While we understand that not all of our volunteers will be vegan, we ask that you respect SAFE's vegan policy when speaking or acting on behalf of SAFE.

Representing SAFE

Before you can publically represent SAFE at events such as stalls and street actions you will need to attend a 'New Volunteers Induction'. If you live in one of our smaller SAFE centres, you will most likely be invited to work alongside the local SAFE coordinator for some 'on the job' training.

For public actions such as stalls you'll be provided with a SAFE volunteer's zip up vest and badge. It's especially important that while wearing your uniform you act in a professional manner that reflects SAFE's views and values.

Some basic things to remember are smiling, being polite and non-judgemental, and never arguing with members of the public. It's also a good thing to 'meet people where they are at', meaning that you tailor your approach to the level of their understanding. For example, for someone new to the idea of animal rights perhaps start by explaining the basics of factory farming, i.e.; battery cages and crates for pigs. For someone who is already vegetarian, perhaps talk to them about making some small changes into veganism, such as swapping cow's milk for soy or almond milk. It's all about encouraging people to make the next easy step.

Matching your skills to the task

Our volunteers have a range of talents and qualities and where possible we will match the volunteer to the task at hand. If you're new to animal rights you may wish to start with something simple such as collecting signatures for a petition or some simple online tasks.

If you have a particular issue you're passionate about, such as battery cages, you may choose to focus on that. Our vegan volunteers might enjoy promoting plant-based eating, and our non-veggie volunteers may choose to stick to other issues such as factory farming and animals used in entertainment, such as the rodeo.



Eat Kind

SAFE's 'Eat Kind' programme is an ongoing free resource aimed at helping people make kinder food choices and adopt a plant-based diet for the animals, the planet and their health.

For our 'Eat Kind' stalls and actions we do specifically ask for vegan volunteers. This means they can speak from the heart and their own experiences as a vegan, and help to support new vegetarians and vegans by offering tips and advice.

Factory Farming

Battery cages for hens, farrowing crates for pigs and intensively bred chickens raised for meat all fall under the umbrella of 'factory farming', which basically means intensive indoor farming. Animals living on factory farms suffer immensely every single day of their lives and are deprived of everything natural to them. This is why we won't stop until these cruel and outdated systems are abolished.

Our campaign to stop factory farming is our longest running and most prominent campaign, so chances are once you start volunteering with us you will become an expert on factory farming in no time at all!



Fundraising

SAFE is a non-profit organisation and relies on the goodwill of our generous supporters and dedicated volunteers. For volunteers with a flair for fundraising, there are various ways in which you can help raise much needed funds for SAFE. From collections to garage sales, sponsored fun runs to bake sales.

Visit www.safe.org.nz/fundraise-safe for ideas and inspiration.

We're relying on your reliability

It can be really tricky to find replacement volunteers at the last minute, so we ask that if you make a commitment, particularly to a shift on a stall or at a fundraising collection, where other volunteers are counting on you, you treat that commitment as if it was your regular job.

Failing to show up for a shift can result in other volunteers having to stay longer or work alone. It can also result in us having to pull out of an event.

We also understand that life happens and people get sick, but we ask that you give us as much notice as possible if you cannot make it to your shift.

Got a burning question?

Check out FAQ's or email Volunteering@safe.org.nz

H&S

We take the health and safety of our volunteers seriously. That's why we ask that you read our 'health and safety for volunteers' document. It's not just tripping hazards and high vis vests! There are important rules and guidelines about personal safety and respecting each other.

We want you to enjoy your time spent volunteering for SAFE and we aim to make your working environment as safe and enjoyable as it can be.

Thank you once again for joining the SAFE volunteer team. We look forward to achieving great things for animals together. We couldn't do it without you.

Happy Volunteering!