

Volunteering Spotlight: Curly Tails pig rescue

Paula Bohan, from Fleet Services, shares her experience of using one of her Kier Volunteering days to support Curly Tails pig rescue, Milton Keynes.



About the Charity

"Curly Tails Pig Sanctuary was set up in 2016, to rescue and rehome unwanted pet pigs. It currently houses 42 pigs on site; most of who would have been put to sleep if the rescue hadn't stepped in. The sanctuary operates on a pre-booked visit basis. On the day I volunteered there were 6 of us and it was very well organised! The pigs are kept in pens; in either singles, pairs or small groups, depending on their preferences



How did you spend your day?

In the morning we helped to feed the pigs, and were introduced to each one individually, learning more about how each resident came to be rescued by Curly Tails. It took us all morning to feed them, as some also needed medication. They are given normal paracetamol or ibuprofen- although hidden in bread as they are too clever to just take them!

After lunch we worked on clearing some very overgrown ground of briars/nettles/weeds in an old pen, and then a wildflower garden.

What did you learn?

Something that surprised me was the noise they made- they were very vocal when they were hungry! I would say they have a lot of the characteristics of a dog; some sit for a treat, some lie down and roll over for a belly rub and others will hold their mouths open so you can throw food in, which was very amusing! Once they were all fed there wasn't a peep out of them for the rest of the day other than running over to say hello when we walked by.

All the pigs have their own personalities, and some were more outgoing than others. One of the pigs had recently lost her buddy and was grieving which was so sad; she had been refusing to come out of her pen so the volunteers and staff go in to sit with her for company. Pigs grieve just as we do, and this was very touching to see.



How did you feel about your day?

I really enjoyed my day at Curly Tails- I will definitely be back in future! I couldn't recommend it enough for a visit, and they run different events over the year.



The Kier volunteering policy is open to all Kier employees. You can volunteer for any project or charity you wish, and donate your time to any activity. Find out more [here](#)