

Wildlife Nursery Intern

Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota



The Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota (WRC) is one of the largest wild animal hospitals in the country. In 2021 WRC treated over 19,000 wild animals, making us the busiest animal hospital in the country. Our mission is to release these patients back into the wild and our care/husbandry policies and procedures are designed to ensure our patients remain wild.

WRC has a small staff and relies greatly on the efforts of volunteers and especially interns during the busy summer months. WRC provides qualified internship applicants the opportunity to gain hands-on experience working with wildlife. Internships are available in the Avian Nursery or Mammal Nursery.

The WRC is a non-profit organization located in Roseville, MN. Internship positions are unpaid and housing is not provided. Interns must be 18 years or older.

Learning opportunities include: wildlife handling, species identification, nutrition, husbandry, behavior, disease/illness treatments, admit protocols, and working with dedicated and compassionate volunteers. If you complete this internship in a

satisfactory manner you may use WRC as a reference, request a letter of recommendation, and you may qualify for other volunteer opportunities at WRC with the veterinary staff, such as an Advanced Internship or Meds Help Volunteer.

Internship duties and responsibilities:

- Commitment of 20-30 hours/week
- Work closely with volunteers by providing ongoing training and guidance
- Admit new patients: set up caging, prepare food, organize paperwork, and follow protocols
- Prepare food for and hand-feed young patients, using a variety of techniques
- Maintain caging with appropriate furnishings for a wide variety of species
- Learn to recognize signs of illness and notify supervisor when there are concerns about a patient's health
- Administer medications
- Maintain paperwork
- Keep nursery clean and orderly
- Maintain laundry, clean cages, and follow biosecurity protocols
- Must be able to lift 30lbs, be on feet for 4+ hours, work in a humid environment, and able to work in varying weather conditions
- Maintain the wild nature of our patients by following WRC policies and procedures
- Treat everyone including staff, volunteers, other interns with respect
- Interns are not working directly with veterinarians in the treatment room, however, upon completion of >400 hours of internship time, the intern may be considered for an hour of veterinarian shadowing per week
- NOTE for Mammal Nursery interns only: rabies pre-exposure vaccine series and titer are required before beginning your internship. Additionally, shifts will be at Roseville and Grant locations so a vehicle will be necessary.



Nursery managers evaluate interns throughout the internship. Interns who fail to comply with WRC policies and expectations or do not adequately complete duties as outlined in this job description will be informed of our concerns. If corrective action is not taken, interns may be excused from our internship program.



Caring for wildlife since 1979

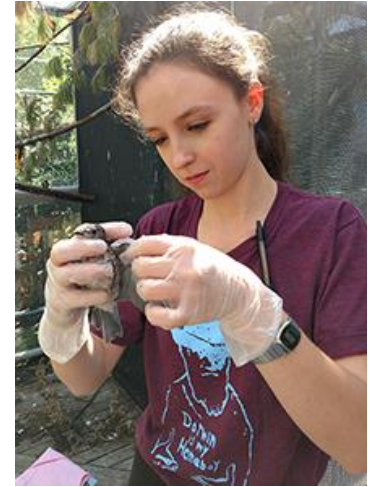
Intern Expectations

Time commitment

- We ask that you commit to an entire intern session *and* a minimum of 300 hours. Session definitions are:

Mammal Nursery Session #1: Mid-March through mid-July
 Mammal Nursery Session #2: Mid-June through late October
 Avian Nursery: Late-April through end of September

- We understand these dates may not work with your schedule. If you can commit to a minimum of 300 hours in the season, email us with your availability dates. We do accept some mid-season (May-August) interns in each nursery.
- You are required to commit at least 20-30 hours per week. More hours are available; the more you are here the more experiences you will have.
- You are required to work some nights, weekends and holidays.
- You are required to be on time for scheduled shifts.
- You are required to stay for your entire shift.
- It is your responsibility to monitor your total hours and ensure you will reach the minimum 300 hours requirement.
- If you know ahead of time that you will not be able to cover your scheduled shift, it is your responsibility to get another intern to cover your shift. It is not your manager's responsibility to find coverage for your shift.
- On your second unexcused absence, you will be excused from the internship.



Scheduling

Animal care is done from 7am to midnight and interns are scheduled in 4-8 hour shifts. For ease of scheduling we prefer interns to have set days devoted to WRC for the duration of their internship. However, we understand the need for other jobs and commitments and can provide a flexible schedule as needed. Unless you request it, you will not always be scheduled to open or close or cover all weekends.

Job expectations

- You are expected to complete the duties outlined in the job description.
- Interns should strive to provide the best care possible to patients.
- Follow animal care procedures and protocols.
- Follow all safety, personal protective equipment and biosecurity protocols.

To apply for a nurseries internship:

- Fill out an online application form. This can be found on the internship page of our website or at the following link:
<https://www.volgistics.com/appform/1824234672>
- A resume, letter of recommendation, and cover letter are required application materials. There is a section to upload these files at the end of the application. If a letter of recommendation is in progress or if your writer prefers to send it directly, please submit this item to intern@wrcmn.org.



If you have any questions regarding the nurseries internship positions, please contact intern@wrcmn.org or visit <https://wrcmn.org/Wildlife-Internships-at-WRC/12/>.

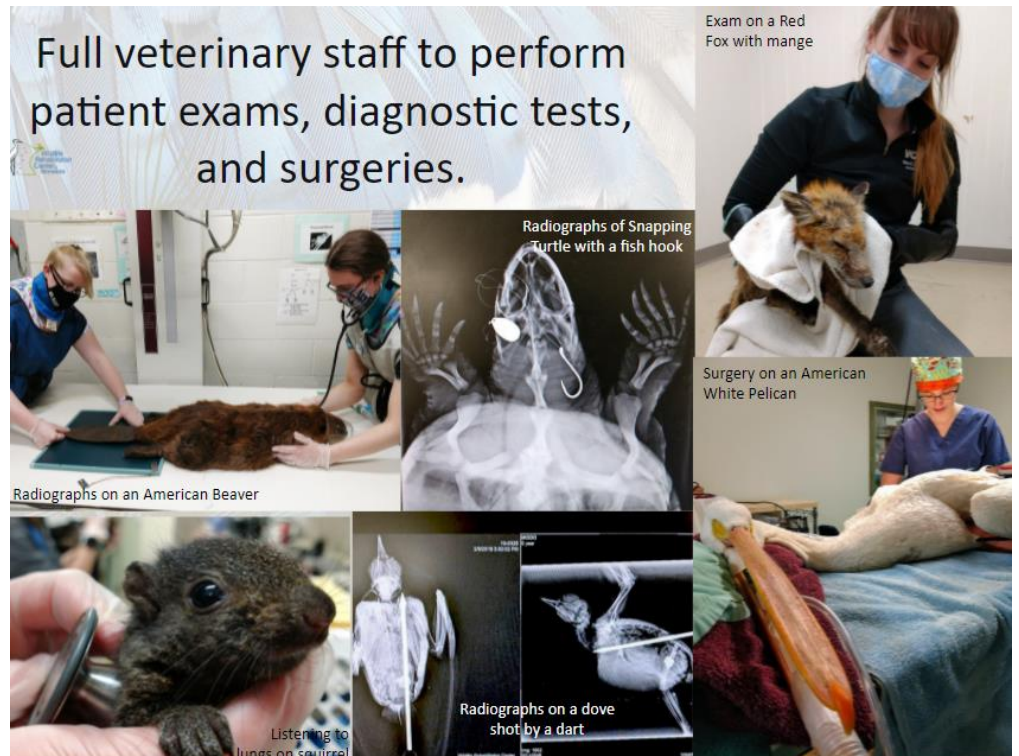
Nursery Internship Information




What happens in the treatment room? Will I be working with veterinarians?

Nursery interns will NOT be working directly with our veterinary staff, though you may interact with them if you have a patient in need of critical care or if you work for 400 hours.

Every single animal that comes to WRC is given a thorough examination by one of our licensed Veterinarians. We are able to perform many diagnostic tests to determine what is wrong with a patient such as radiographs, bloodwork, and lead testing. If an animal is in need of surgery, we have a surgical suite to perform a variety of surgeries here at the center. Unfortunately, our treatment room is an incredibly busy place and we need to be very selective of who is working in there.





 *Caring for wildlife since 1979*



| Mammal | Avian |
|---|--|
| <p>2 sessions: mid-March through mid-July mid-June through late October</p> | <p>Late-April through end of September</p> |
| <p>Who will I work with? Mammal Nursery Staff (Director and Managers), Nurseries Assistants, Advanced Interns, Mammal Interns, Squirrel Volunteers</p> | <p>Who will I work with? Songbird Nursery Staff (Director and Managers), Waterfowl Nursery Staff (Manager), Nurseries Assistants, Advanced Interns, Avian Interns, Songbird Volunteers</p> |
| <p>What will I be doing? Learning proper mammal handling Tube and syringe feeding Subcutaneous fluids Oral and eye medications Preparing daily diets Cleaning (cages, laundry, dishes) Admit patients (fluids, meds, cage) Working in a fast-paced team environment Identifying disease and injury Designing and providing enrichment Working at both Roseville and Grant</p> | <p>What will I be doing? Learning proper avian handling Syringe and hemostat feeding Subcutaneous fluids after 100 hours Oral and eye medications Preparing daily diets Cleaning (cages, laundry, dishes) Admit patients (fluids, meds, cage) Designing and providing enrichment Working in a fast-paced team environment Identifying disease and injury</p> |
| <p>You WILL work with: Eastern Gray Squirrel, Red Squirrel, Eastern Cottontail Rabbit, Virginia Opossum, Raccoon, Eastern Chipmunk, Thirteen Lined Ground Squirrel, House Mouse, White-footed Mouse, Southern Flying Squirrel</p> <p><i>You MIGHT work with: Woodchuck, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Coyote, Weasel species, Mink, Muskrats</i></p> <p><i>You will NOT work with: Porcupines, Beaver, River Otters, Black Bears, Bobcat, Bats, and White-tailed Deer are NOT rehabilitated at WRC (transferred to other rehabilitators)</i></p> | <p>You WILL work with: American Robin, House Finch, Blue Jay, Barn Swallow, Common Grackle, Cedar Waxwing, Brown-headed Cowbird, Black-capped Chickadee, House Wren, Northern Cardinal, Cliff Swallow, American Crow, Chimney Swift, Downy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Goldfinch, Green Heron, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Mallard, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser,</p> <p><i>You MIGHT work with: Pileated Woodpecker, Chipping Sparrow and other sparrow species, Trumpeter Swan, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Ring-billed Gull, Wild Turkey</i></p> <p><i>You will NOT work with: Raptors (owls, eagles, hawks, etc.), Common Loon, Hummingbirds</i></p> |