

Wildlife Rehabilitation Internship

January 2024

The Wildlife Center of Virginia is an internationally acclaimed teaching and research hospital for wildlife and conservation medicine, located in Waynesboro, Virginia, in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley. The Center's mission is to "teach the world to care about and care for wildlife and the environment." Since its founding in 1982, the Center has cared for nearly 100,000 wild animals, representing 200 species of native birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. The current annual caseload averages about 3,800 patients.

The Wildlife Center has a professional staff of about 30 individuals who work together in the veterinary, outreach, development, and operations departments. While each of these departments carries out different functions, all staff work closely together as a team to support one another and the Center's overall mission.

Training

The Wildlife Center of Virginia (WCV) is currently offering a year-long internship in Wildlife Rehabilitation. Our Wildlife Rehabilitation Internship is a one-year advanced training program in wildlife rehabilitation beginning mid-April or May 2024, running for 12 months. The intern will be supervised by the Wildlife Rehabilitation Supervisor, two certified wildlife rehabilitators, and also reports to the Director of Veterinary Services.

Through this program, the intern will:

- Gain intensive, hands-on training and experience in the field of wildlife rehabilitation focusing on animal nutrition, husbandry, feeding techniques, capture and restraint methods, release criteria, captive animal behaviors, and natural history.
- Learn medical skills from staff veterinarians, such as bandaging, medical math, fluid therapy, zoonotic diseases, and other subjects pertinent to wildlife rehabilitation.
- Develop leadership and mentorship qualities by training and supervising new rehabilitation externs, animal care volunteers, and community service volunteers.
- Receive public relations training in wildlife hotline management.
- Receive training in long-term ambassador care from outreach staff; provide assistance with basic care for education raptors, opossums, and reptiles.
- Develop public speaking skills through delivering didactic lectures and teaching developed courses to externship students, veterinary students, volunteers, and wildlife rehabilitators.
- Have the opportunity to teach a course at the Wildlife Center's annual *Call of the Wild* conference.
- Sit for the IWRC's Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator (CWR) certification exam.

Key areas of responsibility

1. Provide excellent rehabilitative care to all animals at the facility.
 - a. Daily cleaning and feeding of all wildlife patients housed at the facility.
 - b. Assist with evaluating patients for release.
 - c. Monitor patients' health, attitude, appetite, etc., and maintain written records of each animal's progress. Report evaluations to wildlife rehabilitators and veterinarians and participate in daily clinical rounds with veterinary staff to discuss medical cases.
 - d. Exercise all flighted raptors daily and record progress in patient record.

- e. Assist with restraint, examination, diagnostic procedures, and treatment of animals, as needed.
- f. Admit patients and complete associated paperwork. May also examine and initiate first aid to patients or new arrivals in the absence of the veterinarian or technician, within constraints of training and experience.
- g. Assist with food drops and checks for education ambassadors as needed.
- h. Must be able to handle all emotional aspects of euthanasia.
- i. Maintain high standards of cleanliness in hospital, kitchen, and animal housing areas.

2. Training

- a. With rehabilitation staff, lead orientation sessions, develop training plans, train and mentor wildlife rehabilitation externs and animal care volunteers.
- b. Assist with teaching rehabilitation and caretaking protocols to veterinary and veterinary technician students.
- c. Teach developed courses to wildlife rehabilitators and veterinary professionals through the Center's Wildlife Care Academy.
- d. Have the opportunity to teach a course at the Center's annual *Call of the Wild* conference; provide additional support and assistance with moderating classes as needed.

3. House Leader for Student House

- a. Check-in new wildlife rehabilitation externs and coordinate room assignment with the LVT Intern or Volunteer coordinator.
- b. Conduct a walkthrough with wildlife rehabilitation externs prior to checkout.
- c. Assign chores to new wildlife rehabilitation externs and ensure all chores are successfully completed weekly.
- d. Report any housing concerns to volunteer coordinator or appropriate staff
- e. May help to arrange transport for wildlife rehabilitation externs flying into Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport or Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport between 9am and 5pm.

4. Other Duties

- a. Act as primary on-call for the after-hours phone one to two nights per week, as needed.
- b. Daily and seasonal maintenance of cages, grounds, perches, etc. Recognize and correct any maintenance or safety hazards when possible. Report any problems to supervisor or Hospital Director.
- c. Research a topic related to wildlife rehabilitation and present information to staff. Written papers may be submitted for publication in a wildlife rehabilitation journal.
- d. Provide support during WCV's annual Gala and Benefit Auction.
- e. Other duties, responsibilities, and special projects as requested.

Requirements:

- Commitment to wildlife, conservation, and the environment
- Pre-exposure rabies vaccination or valid titer within two years of start date.
- 2023-2024 COVID-19 Vaccine
- Valid driver's license.
- Weekend and holiday work required.
- Associates or Bachelor's degree preferred.

- Demonstrated ability to handle diverse and competing tasks independently, efficiently, and accurately in a high pace environment; flexibility is a must.
- Must be even-tempered and diplomatic
- Demonstrated reliability and dependability.
- Ability to organize, set goals, and meet deadlines; attention to detail is necessary. Must be proactive participant of team, with strong interpersonal and communication skills. Also must have the ability to work independently.
- Professional appearance and demeanor; ability to interact and communicate with the public, law enforcement, veterinarians, wildlife rehabilitators, and others.
- Ability to lift/carry equipment and animals up to 50lbs

Compensation and benefits:

- Free housing is provided at WCV's student house (shared housekeeping responsibilities among all students living in house) as well as a monthly stipend of \$1700 and additional compensation for on-call duties
- 40 hours vacation time (awarded upon successful 90 day evaluation)
- 40 hours of personal time (awarded upon successful 90 day evaluation)
- Reimbursement for the IWRC's Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator (CWR) test fee if a passing score is obtained.

To Apply

Applications are being accepted until Feb 16th, 2024, and the position will be filled as soon as the right candidate is found with an ideal start date of April 2024 or May 2024, however start date may be flexible for the right applicant. Send application including a CV, letter of intent, and two reference letters to

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No phone calls, please. Center phone lines are best kept open for wildlife emergencies.

The Wildlife Center of Virginia (WCV) is an equal opportunity employer. WCV will not discriminate against applicants or employees on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy (including childbirth or related medical condition), disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, military status, citizenship, or any other class protected by applicable law. We reserve the right to alter, change, modify, and/or terminate this job posting at any time without notice, or obligation, to any party.



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