



# OJAI RAPTOR CENTER

## **Wildlife Rehabilitation Internship**

Full or part-time, Unpaid

The Ojai Raptor Center is a state and federally permitted 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of birds of prey and other wildlife, as well as providing educational programs about wildlife and our shared environment.

Located in Southern California, the Ojai Raptor Center treats around 1,000 native wildlife patients annually, mostly birds of prey. While we specialize in treating raptors, we also receive and triage a variety of other native wildlife. Approximately 85-90% of our patients are avian species.

The Ojai Raptor Center team includes one full-time wildlife veterinarian, 2-4 animal care technicians specializing in wildlife rehabilitation, dedicated volunteers, and veterinary externs. Wildlife care interns will primarily work under the guidance of animal care technicians, with opportunities to collaborate with volunteers, veterinary externs, and wildlife veterinarians.

**SUMMARY:** This internship spans 10 weeks per session, with approximately six sessions offered between March and September 2025. Sessions will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis, and schedules are open for discussion. Applicants with an interest in wildlife rehabilitation and the husbandry of birds of prey are encouraged to apply.

This is a full-time internship, approximately 40 hours per week, and will include weekends and potentially holidays. A part-time schedule may be negotiable; however, preference will be given to candidates able to commit to full-time hours.

Housing and transportation are not provided.

**Application Deadline is March 1st, 2025**

## **Wildlife Rehabilitation Interns will gain experience in the following areas:**

- Identifying common wildlife species of Southern California and gaining an understanding of their natural history
- Learning about the treatment, rehabilitation, and conservation of wildlife
- Providing husbandry for wildlife patients, including cleaning enclosures and preparing species-appropriate diets
- Administering oral and injectable medications
- Learning avian bandaging techniques and tail guard placement
- Assisting with maintaining food and supply stock
- Learning techniques for restraining wildlife, particularly birds of prey
- Maintaining cleanliness and organization in main facilities, medical room, and hospital
- Observing the humane euthanasia of non-releasable wildlife
- Gaining knowledge of infectious diseases commonly seen in Southern California wildlife and understanding the associated medical and ethical considerations
- Understanding release criteria for native wildlife undergoing rehabilitation
- Assisting with the maintenance and cleaning of the rodent breeding room
- Assisting with updating patient records
- Interacting with the general public

## **Requirements:**

- Must be comfortable with the euthanasia of non-releasable wildlife to prevent unnecessary suffering
- Must complete onsite training and follow directions to ensure safety when working with various wildlife species
- Must demonstrate responsibility, professionalism, and the ability to work with minimal supervision
- Ability to work collaboratively within a positive team environment
- Flexibility to work early mornings, evenings, weekends, and holidays as needed
- Ability to multitask and perform effectively under fast-paced conditions
- Willingness to adapt to changing priorities and deadlines as needed
- Must provide own housing and transportation within reasonable proximity to Ojai, CA

## **Physical Requirements and Demands:**

- Frequent need to stand, stoop, twist, walk, and lift animal crates or other objects typically weighing 10–25 pounds; ability to exert up to 50 pounds occasionally
- Ability to stand on a concrete floor for up to 8 hours per day
- Handling and restraining sick, injured, and orphaned native wild animals, with potential exposure to zoonotic diseases, bites, scratches, and other injuries
- Requires handling, use of vision and hearing, and clear communication
- Occasional need for carrying, kneeling, use of foot controls, bending, and crouching
- Rarely requires climbing
- Proficiency in written and spoken English is required

**EEO Policy Statement:**

Ojai Raptor Center's policy is to provide equal employment opportunities to all qualified individuals, regardless of race, color, ancestry, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, citizenship status, or veteran status.

**Application Process:**

1. Please complete the online volunteer application on our website and make sure to specify that you are interested in the internship:  
<https://www.ojairaptorcenter.org/volunteer>
2. Submit the following via email with the Subject line “Internship” to [natasha@ojairaptorcenter.org](mailto:natasha@ojairaptorcenter.org):
  - Current resume and a cover letter
  - Two letters of recommendation
  - Proof of COVID-19 vaccines