

Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Internship Program

The Wisconsin Humane Society Wildlife Rehabilitation Center is an urban wildlife hospital with a staff of six licensed wildlife rehabilitators and nearly 150 volunteers. Over 5,000 sick, injured and orphaned wild animals of nearly 150 different species are cared for each year with the ultimate goal being of released back into the wild. Approximately 48% of the animals are birds; 50% are mammals; and 2% are reptiles or amphibians. The Intern Program is a valuable experience for the intern as an opportunity to gain important hands-on experience in the wildlife animal care field. At the end of the internship, interns should have a working knowledge of the basics of wildlife rehabilitation.



At the end of the internship, the intern should have a working knowledge of a wide variety of subjects central to the practice of wildlife rehabilitation.

These subjects *can* include:

- Limiting stress in captive wild animals
- Facility sanitation and animal food hygiene
- Formula selection and feeding techniques for orphaned mammals and birds
- Maintaining accurate animal care records
- Medicating animals by various routes and basic fluid therapy techniques
- General release criteria for rehabilitated wildlife
- Zoonotic disease transmission prevention

Training

Hands-on training will begin by working primarily in our Wildlife Nursery, but also in our Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and Treatment Center (long-term recuperation center). Interns are immediately immersed into the work and function as a valuable staff member. Primary tasks include cage cleaning, facility cleaning and maintenance, animal food preparation and feeding, and administering staff-directed treatments and medications.



A comprehensive Intern Manual which contains departmental procedures is provided to all interns, as well as an introductory class provided by the Wildlife Clinic Administrator once all interns have started. There will always be a staff wildlife rehabilitator available for questions and assistance.

Training may also include assisting with our telephone hotline, animal-intake and reception duties, animal rescues and releases, and more.

Qualifications and Expectations

The WHS Wildlife Rehabilitation Center is looking for motivated undergraduate or graduate students majoring in biology, wildlife, conservation, veterinary studies, or related fields; wildlife rehabilitators seeking more experience will also be considered. Previous animal handling experience is a plus.



Ideal interns are mature, hardworking, reliable, enthusiastic, conscientious individuals who are willing to perform a variety of tasks with a smile. Good communication skills and an ability to effectively work in a team environment are essential. A successful wildlife intern should also be able to work well under pressure. A WHS Wildlife Center Intern will take full advantage of the internship by accepting increasing amounts of responsibility throughout their internship.

Interns must be available evenings, weekends and holidays. They must also be available for the entirety of their internship; vacation requests are very rarely approved. Though we try to limit overtime, working overtime is sometimes necessary to complete essential animal care duties. At times, this can be a physically demanding position. Interns must be able to stand for 8 hours a day, bend, lift, stoop, twist, crawl, and be able to lift 50 pounds.

Requirements

6-8 paid internship positions are available with staggered start dates between April 1 and June 1, with staggered end dates between the end of August and the beginning of October. Interns will be accepted for a minimum of a twelve-week period, but a longer stay is encouraged. Interns are paid \$7.25 per hour, and receive a paycheck biweekly. Interns must be up-to-date on their tetanus vaccinations. Interns are responsible for their own transportation and living arrangements. Candidates must be committed to treating animals with kindness and respect.

Part-time volunteer internships are also available with slightly different objectives. Part-time volunteer intern positions may be available at different times of the year with flexible start and end dates.

How to Apply

Please attach your cover letter and resume with contact information and relationship to three references on our online application (<http://www.wihumane.org/employment>).

