



Wildlife Rehabilitator Intern

Position: Wildlife Rehabilitator Intern

Position Type: May to August 2012

Hours: Full-time

The Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton (WRSE) is seeking applications for our 2012 summer internships. WRSE is a non-partisan, charitable organization that provides compassionate care for injured, contaminated, and orphaned wildlife and educates the public on the importance of wildlife in our community. WRSE is Edmonton's only wildlife shelter and the only organization providing care for wild birds and small mammals north of Red Deer; therefore, there is no duplication of service in Edmonton or Northern Alberta.

The months of May to September are the busiest for WRSE and annually we admit over 1,000 wildlife patients to our facility. Interns will be trained and supervised by relevant staff.

WRSE is located to the west of Edmonton close to Spruce Grove. By car, we are 15 minutes to Edmonton and 5-10 minutes to Spruce Grove. We are situated on a 53-acre property that is leased from the Nature Conservancy of Canada. From our facility, public transportation is not available to Spruce Grove or Edmonton as we are in a rural setting.

WRSE internships are voluntary positions and unpaid. On-site accommodation is provided and interns can expect to share with 3-5 others. Other items provided are: bedding, towel sets, basic toiletries, water, tea and coffee.

Wireless Internet is available and there is desk space and a computer available. Bringing personal laptops is recommended. Interns will have access to phones, but long distance phone cards will need to be purchased by the intern. A moped and bicycles will be available to share for access to Spruce Grove. A company vehicle may be available for interns when scheduled through the animal care manager.

Interns will be scheduled to work 40 hours per week and are expected to arrive between April 25th and 26th 2012 and start their training April 28th. Internships will be from May till end of August 2012.

While interns will be scheduled hours required to work, this position is not a "9-5" job and there will be lots of times when working longer hours will be required. We expect interns to continue to work until required tasks are done, and when needed, to care for patients throughout the night.

There is a lot of work that goes into running a wildlife rehabilitation center, and it is not glamorous. The majority of an intern's work will be cleaning, whether it is the animal enclosures or the facility itself. We have high standards of cleanliness as we are a wildlife hospital and need to ensure our facility is sanitary.

Please note:

If you are not a resident of Canada, you will need to see if a visa is required to intern with our society. We will not be able to help with this process.

Duties and Responsibilities

In accordance with organizational policies, duties include but are not limited to:

- Receive, restrain and assess injured and orphaned wildlife
- Initiate treatment on injured and orphaned wildlife
- Collect lab samples and prepare for testing and perform blood tests as needed
- Provide treatment for wildlife under direction of veterinarians
- Monitor clinical symptoms and patient progress
- Assist with radiology and surgery (off site)
- Provide nursing care and rehabilitation therapies
- Provide euthanasia if necessary
- Administer medications
- Prepare food diets for patients (this includes dead prey for animals that require it)
- Initiate and maintain proper medical records
- Positively and effectively promote the Society in dealings with the public
- Work with a large complement of volunteers and staff in a friendly and helpful manner
- Minor maintenance and repairs of indoor and outdoor animal enclosures
- Ensure the facility's high standards of cleanliness are met
- Participate enthusiastically as a contributing member of the WRSE team to achieve individual and common goals associated with the WRSE vision and mission
- Other tasks may include: planting, grass cutting, maintaining shelter garden
- Perform other related tasks as required

Qualifications and Responsibilities:

- Minimum age of 18
- Able to work more than 40 hours per week when required
- Enrolled in, or received, a diploma or degree program from a recognized post-secondary institute is preferred
- Ability to identify all native mammals/birds and migratory birds in Alberta is an asset
- Volunteer experience in conservation, habitat issues, environmental stewardship or equivalent is an asset
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, and good computer skills
- Demonstrates leadership skills including the ability to work independently, manage change, team player, flexible and able to multitask
- Current tetanus vaccination is required
- Rabies vaccination is an asset
- International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council Basic Wildlife Rehabilitator's Certificate is an asset