

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. Each year WRC treats nearly 15,000 wild animals. Our mission is to release these patients back into the wild. Our care/husbandry policies and procedures are designed to ensure our patients remain wild.

WRC has a staff of 21 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. A listing of housing options in the area is available upon request. 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 will be able to use WRC as a reference and get a letter of

recommendation upon request, 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
- Collect natural foods and enrichment outside
- Must be able to lift 30lbs, be on feet for 4+ hours, 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 location so a vehicle will be necessary.



Nursery managers evaluate our 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.

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 mid-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 at intern@wrcmn.org with your availability dates.
- You are required to commit at least 20-30 hours per week. More hours are available if desired, 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 expected to stay for your entire shift.
- 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:

- Send a cover letter, resume, and one letter of recommendation to intern@wrcmn.org.
- 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/ex/portal.dll/ap?ap=788133380>

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the nurseries internship positions, please contact intern@wrcmn.org or visit <https://wrcmn.org/>.