

Wildlife Nursery Intern

Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota



The Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota (WRC) is the busiest wildlife hospital in the world, treating more than 18,000 patients annually. Our mission is to release these patients back into the wild, and our care/husbandry policies and procedures are designed to ensure our patients remain wild.

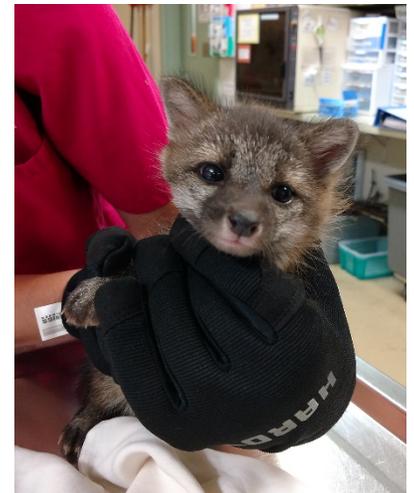
WRC has a small staff and relies greatly on the efforts of volunteers and especially interns during the busy summer months. WRC provides qualified internship applicants the opportunity to gain hands-on experience working with wildlife. Internships are available in the Avian Nursery or Mammal Nursery.

A non-profit organization located just north of St. Paul in Roseville, Minn., WRC is a nonprofit and receives no state or federal funding. As such, internships are unpaid. Every year we welcome interns from around the world. If you are traveling to us for an internship you are responsible for arranging your own housing. 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 the opportunity to work with dedicated and compassionate volunteers. If you complete this internship in a satisfactory manner you may use WRC as a reference and request a letter of recommendation. Upon completion, you may qualify for other volunteer opportunities at WRC with the veterinary staff, such as becoming an Advanced Intern or Meds Help Volunteer.

Internship Duties and Responsibilities

- Work 20-30 hours/week (this is a firm requirement)
- Work closely with volunteers by providing ongoing training and guidance
- Provide initial care to new patients: Set up caging, prepare food, organize paperwork while following WRC 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 all WRC regulations including biosecurity and COVID-19 protocols
- Lift and move items of 30+lbs, work on your feet for 4+ hours, and perform rehabilitative care outside in all weather and temperatures
- Maintain the wild nature of our patients by following WRC policies and procedures
- Treat everyone including staff, volunteers and other interns with respect
- Interns do not work directly with veterinarians in the treatment room. However, upon completion of >400 internship hours, the intern may apply for an additional 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 locations (approx.. 15 minutes apart) so a vehicle is necessary.



Nursery managers evaluate 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 without reference.

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 with your availability dates. We do except some mid-season (May-August) interns in each nursery.
- You are required to commit at least 20-30 hours per week. More hours are available; 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 required to stay for your entire shift.
- It is your responsibility to monitor your total hours and ensure you will reach the minimum 300 hours requirement.
- If you know ahead of time that you will not be able to cover your scheduled shift, it is your responsibility to schedule another intern to cover your shift. WRC is not responsible for finding coverage for your shift.
- On your second unexcused absence, you will be let go 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 weekend days.

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 COVID-19, safety, personal protective equipment and biosecurity protocols.

To Apply for a Nursery 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 our nursery internships, please contact intern@wrcmn.org or visit <https://wrcmn.org/Wildlife-Internships-at-WRC/12/>.



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