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Internship Program Description

Annually, Wild Care admits between 900 and 1400 animals, native to Cape Cod, the Islands and southeastern Massachusetts for rehabilitation and orphan rearing. Interns receive training and gain experience in rehabilitation techniques, volunteer management, and public education, from staff and veterinarians volunteering their services.



Wild Care accepts interns for the spring, summer, and fall of each year. Maximum length of an internship is negotiable, contingent on performance, and is at the discretion of the Director. At this time we are only reviewing applicants prepared to make a *minimum commitment of eight weeks*.

Interns work under the direct supervision of the licensed staff and in cooperation with the Director and other volunteers. The extent of a student's experience depends on the type of situations presented by the animals admitted, and the comfort level of the intern.

Eligibility & Selection Process

Student must be currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree program in a related field of study, or have graduated within the past two years.

Student must be available to work five days per week for a minimum 40 hours a week. Due to the nature of the work, these hours are subject to change. The application selection process is competitive and we select candidates based on their academic background, CV, Essay and Interview. Extensions of the duration of individual internships will be considered, based on individual performance and is at the discretion of the Executive Director.

Tetanus immunization must be current. Rabies immunization is strongly recommended, especially during baby mammal seasons (spring and fall). For those not immunized against rabies, handling of mammals at Wild Care will be kept at a minimum and to non-vector species. Proof of tetanus immunization must be provided prior to commencement of internship.

Intern Responsibilities:

-REHABILITATION

- 1) Serve as a member of the medical and rehabilitative team.
- 2) Maintain and prepare species and age-appropriate housing, aviaries, and cages.
- 3) Prepare species-specific nutritional diets and feeding regimens.
- 4) Participate and assist in the admission, triage and assessment of wildlife arriving at Wild Care.
- 5) Participate and assist in the planning and delivery of wildlife rescues and releases.
- 6) Maintain and assist with the general maintenance, grounds and life support systems of the center.
- 7) *Work closely with the volunteers in the Baby Bird Program, effectively organizing volunteers and delegating tasks (spring/summer months only).
- 8) Participate in the treatment and routine examination of wildlife patients.

-EDUCATION

- 9) Research local wildlife natural history, behaviors, habits and habitat.
- 10) Learn to identify seasonal native wildlife in juvenile and adult forms.
- 11) Participate, develop and assist in humane education outreach programs.

-CONSERVATION

- 12) Document and assist in record-keeping and database management for research
- 13) Disseminate important information to the general public about local wildlife through our wildlife rehabilitation hotline and in person.
- 14) Research and develop potential non-evasive projects either in-situ or ex-situ for the conservation of local species at the discretion of the executive director.

Interns are required to keep a daily journal of their experience including such content as the species of animals admitted each day, notable phone calls and rescue stories, and general tidbits of information or observations. Before the last day of the internship, the complete journal will be reviewed by a staff member, and a copy will be kept in the student's permanent employment file at Wild Care. Interns are also assigned a project from the Executive Director to be completed during the internship to demonstrate applied skills and

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knowledge for the betterment of the center and program. Interns are also required to write a formal thank you letter generally addressed to donors and grantors who have made their experience possible through financial support. An evaluation form will be given to the intern at the end of the internship to allow the intern to give Wild care feedback on how the program could be improved.

Wild Care will, whenever possible, work within the student's curriculum in conjunction with college personnel to develop research projects. However, in all aspects our first commitment is to the safety, welfare and dignity of our patients.

Applying:

Please download the Application for the Internship Program from our website at:

<http://www.wildcarecapecod.org>

Application deadlines are as follows:

December 31 for Spring internship (from March – May)

February 1 for Summer internship (from June – August)

July 1 for Fall internship (from September – November)

Compensation:

Interns committing to a 40 to 50 hour work-week will receive a weekly stipend of \$100.00.

For interns not living in the Cape Cod area, we recommend looking for local housing services like craigslist (<http://capecod.craigslist.org/>) and hostelling International (<http://capecod.hiusa.org/>). In a few cases when funding is available Wild Care can assist with a small allowance for housing (at a maximum of \$125.00 per person per week) at the discretion of the Executive Director. The competitive pool for students in need of housing is so much larger than the pool of applicants with their own housing. Applicants also must have their own vehicle for transportation.

If you meet the eligibility requirements and are interested in an internship position, please feel free to email your application to internship@wildcarecapecod.org with your completed application, or by mail, c/o the Internship Coordinator. Submission of applications via email (rather than snail mail) is strongly recommended.

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