



Position: Veterinary Technician Apprentice

Location: Kendalia, TX

Website: www.wildlife-rescue.org

Apply to: wrrapplication@wildlife-rescue.org

Job Type: Apprenticeship

History: Established in 1977, Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation (WRR) receives over 10,000 wild animals per year for rehabilitation and release as well as providing permanent sanctuary for more than 600 resident non-releasable indigenous wildlife, non-native wildlife (large mammals, primates, reptiles, and birds) and farmed animals. Wildlife Rescue is located on 212 acres in the beautiful Texas Hill Country, near Austin and San Antonio.

Description: The six-month training program provides hands-on experience in veterinary medicine and rehabilitation. Participants will learn the practical skills and theoretical knowledge required to excel in the field of veterinary medicine and understand its role in wildlife rehabilitation and animal care. This program is designed for individuals with some prior experience in wildlife rehabilitation or animal care who are planning to pursue a career in veterinary medicine but require more thorough development of medical and laboratory skills, animal handling, and husbandry techniques.

The VTA will assist the Lead Veterinarian, Associate Veterinarian and Veterinary Technicians with day-to-day operations involving physical examination, diagnosis, and treatment of all injured or ill animals received by the hospital, with an emphasis on native wildlife. The VTA's daily duties, in addition to assisting the veterinary staff, will include the cleaning and upkeep of the vet clinic, cleaning and preparation of surgical packs, fecal examination, and urinalysis, morning administration of medications in the hospital, and vet clinic closing duties. The VTA will also be required to complete rehabilitation and animal care shifts as needed.

Primary Apprentice Duties and Responsibilities:

- Undertake basic medical work including administration of prescribed medications and treatments.
- Conduct behavioral observations and maintain detailed records.
- Complete administrative duties including paperwork and record keeping.
- Develop specific restraint techniques to facilitate physical examination.
- Learn to perform fecal examination and urinalysis.
- Develop understanding of pharmacology as it pertains to native wildlife patients.
- Observe surgical procedures and learn basic sterile technique.
- Introductions to IV catheterization, venipuncture, anesthesia monitoring, intubation, hematology, microscopy – cytology, and special staining.
- Begin to develop an introductory understanding of veterinary practices, as patients and workload allow, which may include fluid therapy, wound management, radiology, pain management, anesthesia, dermatology, orthopedics, pathology, parasitology, endocrinology, neurology, among others.

Requirements:

- Minimum one year of previous professional animal care experience required, wildlife rehabilitation and veterinary clinic experience strongly preferred.
- Bachelor's degree required.
- Commitment to completion of the six-month program.
- Willingness to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.
- Ability to work long hours (40 hours per week, overtime as needed) in all weather conditions.
- Ability to lift 50 lbs., twist, bend, and spend long periods of time on your feet.
- Capable of handling physically, mentally, and emotionally stressful situations.
- Possess a strong personal work ethic, positive attitude, and high level of integrity.
- Meningitis, Tetanus, and **Rabies pre-exposure (PrEP)** vaccines are required.
- Negative tuberculosis test result is required within 30 days of start date.
- Valid driver's license and clean driving record are required.

Compensation: A monthly stipend of \$1,000 dollars is granted. On-site housing provided with six-month commitment. Utilities and internet included.

If you have questions about the program, please email wrrapplication@wildlife-rescue.org with your query.

Persons interested in applying for this position should send a cover letter, resume, three references, and any letters of recommendation to:

Email: wrrapplication@wildlife-rescue.org

Email Subject Line: "**Apprentice Application *Your Name***"

By accepting this position, you agree to provide all necessary care even to species you do not feel "comfortable" with. At WRR we treat all animals equally, regardless of the degree of comfort that staff may or may not have when working with certain species. In addition, if your personal feelings towards any species or individual animal are in any way negative, you are still required to speak of them with respect and to provide all necessary care.

WRR is an Equal Opportunity Employer.