



RIDEAU VALLEY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Wildlife Intern Program

The Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary rehabilitates about 400 orphaned wild mammals annually, such as raccoons, skunks, groundhogs, squirrels, chipmunks, rabbits, weasels, porcupines, muskrats and foxes. Volunteer wildlife interns play an integral role in helping to care for these animals and release them back to the wild. Wildlife rehabilitation is a rewarding experience, but is also a physically demanding, fast-paced and repetitive environment.



The Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary is located between North Gower and Kemptville in a rural environment, about 45 minutes south of Ottawa, Ontario.



Benefits

Wildlife interns learn about all aspects of wild mammal rehabilitation, including the basics of wildlife identification, wildlife natural history, wildlife behaviour, environmental enrichment, human/wildlife conflict resolution, animal handling, animal husbandry, diagnostic procedures, fluid therapy, medicine administration, hygiene and quarantine protocols, release criteria and release site selection. Interns also gain valuable work skills, such as

working independently as well as part of a team with staff and volunteers, dealing with the public, time management and setting priorities.

Although internships are volunteer positions, we offer a stipend of \$100 per week and also provide housing. Interns will share a private four-bedroom bungalow in a rural setting, located about 15 minutes from the wildlife centre and less than 30 minutes from Ottawa. Interns will each have their own bedroom, and will share kitchen, bathroom, laundry and other house facilities. The house comes fully furnished and equipped, with a one-acre fenced yard. Interns are responsible for their own food and drinks.

Public transportation is not available at the house or wildlife centre, but car pooling may be available. RVWS provides interns with protective work clothing.

Job Duties

The majority of interns' time, particularly in spring, will be spent on direct animal care, but we expect all interns to contribute equally to all duties. Job duties include, but are not limited to:

- answering phones
- admitting and examining new patients
- setting-up cages and enclosures
- preparing formula and food
- formula-feeding animals and providing fresh water and solid foods





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- cleaning cages and enclosures
- calculating and administering medications (under supervision)
- performing diagnostic procedures (under supervision)
- performing fluid therapy and wound management (under supervision)
- monitoring animal health
- maintaining records
- transporting and releasing animals
- maintaining and building cages
- cleaning facilities and maintaining grounds



Requirements

Ideal interns are mature, hardworking, reliable, enthusiastic, conscientious individuals who will commit to their full term. Applicants must be 19 years of age or older. Most applicants are involved in biology, wildlife, environmental or veterinary-related studies, but we will consider all applicants who demonstrate an enthusiastic, hardworking attitude and who will become an integral member of our rehabilitation team. Previous experience is not necessary (though an asset), as we provide on-the-job training.

Work is often repetitive and requires working outdoors in all kinds of weather (and with mosquitoes, though we provide repellent). You should be able to perform physically demanding tasks, such as lifting. All interns will be required to provide proof of vaccination for tetanus and rabies.

Internships are for a minimum of three months, maximum of six months. Daily shifts are an average work day, but overtime is sometimes necessary to complete essential animal care duties. On your working days, you may be required to take baby animals home for overnight feedings. Interns work a rotating four-week schedule including days, evenings, weekends and holidays. Interns receive an average of eight days off each month, including every second weekend. Internships begin April 1 and end September 30.

Applications

Please provide a covering letter (including your availability and how you will contribute to our team), resume and two written references to info@rideauwildlife.org. Applications will be accepted up to March 26, 2010.

