



Position: Veterinary Technician Apprentice

Location: Kendalia, TX

Website: www.wildlife-rescue.org

Apply to: Education@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 one-year training program combines hands-on experience and related classroom instruction. 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 veterinarian and veterinary technician 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 serving the veterinary staff, will include the cleaning and upkeep of the surgery room, cleaning and preparation of surgical packs, fecal examination and urinalysis, morning administration of medications in the hospital, and evening surgery room 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, special staining.

- Begin to develop introductory understanding of a variety of veterinary fields, as patients and workload allow, which may include fluid therapy, wound management, radiology, pain management, anesthesia, dermatology, orthopedics, pathology, parasitology, endocrinology, and 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 twelve-month program.
- Willingness to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.
- Ability to work long hours (40-50 hours per week) in all weather conditions.
- Ability to lift 50lbs, twist and 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** vaccines are required.
- Negative tuberculosis test result is required.
- Valid driver's license and clean driving record are required.

Availability: Annual Wildlife Rehabilitation Apprentice & Veterinary Apprentice sessions have a flexible start date. A one-year commitment is required.

Compensation: A monthly stipend of \$400 dollars is granted. On-site housing and cost of pre-exposure rabies vaccines provided with one-year commitment. Utilities and internet included.

If you have questions about the program, please email Education@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 (email preferred):

Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation, Inc.
Attn: Apprentice & Training Supervisor
P.O. Box 369 | Kendaia, TX 78027
Fax: (830) 336-3733

Email: Education@wildlife-rescue.org
Email Subject Line: "**Apprentice Application Your Name**"