



Veterinary Technician Apprentice Program at Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Inc.

Position: Veterinary Technician Apprentice (VTA)

Location: Kendalia, TX

History: Established in 1977, Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation receives over 8,000 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 beautiful Texas Hill Country, near Austin and San Antonio.

Description: The one year training program combines hands-on experience and related classroom instruction during which 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 who are planning to pursue a career in veterinary medicine and have some previous experience in wildlife rehabilitation or animal care but require more thorough development of medical and laboratory skills, animal handling and husbandry techniques.

Participants will spend the first 12 weeks of the program undergoing basic wildlife rehabilitation training alongside other WRR apprentices in order to gain a thorough understanding of the handling, husbandry and care protocols of the hospital. After this initial training period, the VTA will transition to the veterinary team for the remainder of the term. The apprentice will assist the veterinarian and veterinary technician in their day-to-day operation, which will involve physical examination, diagnosis, and treatment of each new injured or ill animal received by the hospital, with an emphasis on native wildlife. The apprentice'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, the morning administration of medications in the hospital, and evening closing duties of the surgery room. The VTA will also be required to complete rehabilitation and animal care shifts as needed.

Position Duties and Responsibilities:

- Understand and abide by WRR policies, philosophies and code of ethics
- Learn the natural history, life stages, diet, daily care and housing requirements for a variety of Texas native avian, mammal and reptile species
- Understand and participate in the process and stages of wildlife rehabilitation including rescues and releases
- Carry out substantial animal husbandry duties consisting of feeding, cleaning and maintaining enclosures, and enrichment activities
- Undertake basic medical work including administration of prescribed medications and treatments
- Conduct behavioral observations and maintain detailed caretaking records
- Demonstrate proper understanding and practice of safety procedures
- Develop written and interpersonal communication skills



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- Complete administrative duties including paperwork and recordkeeping
- Develop specific restraint techniques to facilitate physical examination
- Learn basic principles of initial stabilization
- 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
- Complete an individual skill or research project

Requirements:

- Minimum 1- year animal care experience required, wildlife rehabilitation and veterinary clinic experience strongly preferred
- Bachelor's degree required, animal- related field preferred
- Commitment to completion of the 6-month program
- Ability to work long hours (50-70 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
- Competent working independently and as part of a team
- Possess a strong personal work ethic, positive attitude and high level of integrity
- Meningitis, Tetanus and Rabies pre-exposure vaccines are required
- driver's license and clean driving record are required

Compensation: A monthly stipend of \$350- \$450 dollars is granted. On-site housing is provided.

Availability: Start dates for the WRR Apprentice Program in Kendalia are as follows: Spring session starts in January, summer session starts in May, winter session starts in September.

If you are interested in applying for this training program, please fax, mail or email a resume, letter of interest, and any professional letter of reference to the address below.

Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation
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Kendalia TX 78027
E-Mail: Education@wildlife-rescue.org
Fax: (830) 336-3733