



Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Inc. Apprentice Program

History: Established in 1977, Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation (WRR) is a non-profit organization that receives over 10,000 wild animals per year for rehabilitation and release. WRR also provides permanent sanctuary for over 600 non-releasable native animals and non-native wildlife including large mammals, primates, reptiles and birds as well as farmed animals. Wildlife Rescue has two locations; the main sanctuary and rehabilitation hospital is located on 212 acres in beautiful Kendalia Texas, our other facility is the Sherman Animal Care Complex located in San Antonio.

Description: This program is designed as an introduction to wildlife rehabilitation for individuals who have previous experience in wildlife rehabilitation or animal care and are interested in developing the basic and advanced skills required when pursuing a career in the field of wildlife rehabilitation. The one year program combines hands-on training and classroom instruction during which participants will learn practical skills and general knowledge required to succeed in the fields of wildlife rehabilitation and animal care. The wildlife rehabilitation apprentice concentrates on the care and rehabilitation of injured and orphaned native Texan wildlife, with some attention to domesticated farmed animals, companion animals and small non-native animals. Participants in the programs can expect to spend long and demanding shifts caring for injured and orphaned infant native Texan wildlife.

Participant Duties and Responsibilities:

- Learn the natural history, life stages, diet, daily care and housing requirements for a variety of Texas native avian, mammal and reptile species, including but not limited to: songbirds, doves, turtles, tortoises, squirrels, opossums, raccoons, skunks, fawns, and waterfowl.
- Understand and participate in the process and stages of wildlife rehabilitation including rescues and releases
- Carry out demanding and substantial animal husbandry duties consisting of feeding, cleaning and maintaining enclosures, and enrichment activities while maintaining exceptional standards of care
- 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
- Complete administrative duties including paperwork and recordkeeping
- Participate in public education in person and through the WRR hotline service
- Complete an individual skill or research project



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Requirements:

Minimum six months previous professional animal care experience required, wildlife rehabilitation hospital experience preferred

- Bachelor's degree required, animal-related field preferred
- Commitment to completion of the twelve month program
- Willingness to work evenings, weekends, and holidays
- Ability to work long hours (40-70 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 in 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
- Valid driver's license and clean driving record are required

Availability: Start dates for the WRR Apprentice Program in Kendalia are as follows: Spring session starts in January, summer session starts in May, and winter session starts in September. Sherman Animal Care Complex in San Antonio has start dates in February and October.

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

To Apply: If you are interested in applying email a cover letter, resume, three references and any letters of recommendation to: Education@wildlife-rescue.org

Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation
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