



## Wildlife Rehabilitation & Animal Caretaker Apprentice Program Outline 2018

**Title:** Apprentice

**Duration:** 12 months

**Stipend:** \$350-450 per month

**Requirements and Prerequisites:**

- Bachelor's degree required, animal-related field preferred
- 6 months experience in professional animal care, wildlife rehabilitation preferred
- Commitment to completion of the one year 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, insurance, and clean driving record are required

**Shifts, Duties, and Responsibilities:**

- Rehabilitation hospital shifts, AM and PM
- Rescue Hotline- daily and overnight
- Diet preparation shifts
- Donation Pick-up Runs
- Rescues and Transport as required
- Enclosure maintenance, landscaping, and enrichment
- Data entry
- Non-native Bird and Farmed Animal Sanctuary- PM Shift (after 3 months)
- Facility and enclosures cleanliness and sanitation

**Training and Skills: Classroom hours and practical training**

Progression through the training program is based on positive evaluations as well the immediate demands of the Rehabilitation Hospital and Sanctuaries. Training order is dependent on the session start date and species specific demands at any particular time of year.

- Introduction to Animal Care (Natural history, enclosure and housing set up, diet and feeding methods) for species which may include: Songbirds, Doves, Waterfowl, Squirrels, Opossums, Raccoons, Skunks, Turtles and Tortoises, White-tailed deer
- Introduction to Animal Handling and Restraint
- Introduction to Medication (administration methods, homeopathy, medical observations)
- Hospital Cleaning and Sanitization (laundry, dishes, enclosure cleaning)
- Basic Behavioral Observation
- Safety Protocols
- Diet Preparation and Nutrition
- Vehicles and Equipment
- Data entry and recordkeeping of statistical patient information



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### Training Progression Timeline

- First 4 weeks AM Rehab Hospital and Rescue Hotline Training
- Week 5 and 6 Sanctuary Diet Prep in Nutrition Center and Donation Run Training
- Weeks 7 and 8 PM Hospital and Medication Training
- Weeks 8 through 12 Continued Training; Vectors and Late Species (start VTA & CA)
- Week 12 Evaluation
- Week 12 Second Above Sanctuary Shifts
- Week 20 Evaluation
- Week 20 Team Lead Species and First Above Sanctuary Shifts
- Week 24 Intake/Triage Training
- Week 24 Evaluation
- Week 24-52 Advanced Training on Rehab Species and Advanced Sanctuary Shadow

### Requirements for Successful Completion:

- Exhibit a positive attitude in work environments
- Efficient and detailed worker both individually and as a member of Animal Care team
- Display an understanding of safety protocols and correct use of personal protective equipment; maintain high safety standards
- Demonstrate intermediate skill level in animal husbandry and handling
- Pass written, practical, and oral tests encompassing all aspects of training
- Efficiently complete diet preparation shifts with proper nutrition requirements and knowledge; consistently increasing efficiency and quality on shift
- Complete assigned projects in all areas of work consistently and thoroughly, going above and beyond on a daily basis
- Ability to handle Hotline and Animal Receiving in a professional and positive manner; interact well with the public in person and over the phone while offering exceptional customer service.
- Observe the dress code and maintain a professional demeanor while representing WRR
- Adhere to the high standards associated with our philosophy
- Complete an individual project to improve or build on an existing animal care practice
- Evaluation: Continuous with progress evaluation reports after 12; 20; 24 and 36 weeks

### **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.

-Start date for the WRR Apprentice Program in San Antonio are as follows: Spring session starts in February, winter session starts in October.

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  
Attn: Apprentice Supervisor  
P.O. Box 369  
Kendalia TX 78027  
E-Mail: [Education@wildlife-rescue.org](mailto:Education@wildlife-rescue.org)  
Fax: (830) 336-3733