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.

Participants will spend the first eight to ten 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 session. 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:

- Learn the natural history, life stages, diet, daily care and housing requirements for a variety of Texas native avian, mammal and reptile species
- 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 care taking 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 (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
- 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: Annual Wildlife Rehabilitation Apprentice & Veterinary Apprentice sessions begin in February. A one-year commitment is required.

Compensation: A monthly stipend of $400 dollars is granted. On-site housing is provided.

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 | Kendalia, TX 78027
Fax: (830) 336-3733

Email: Education@wildlife-rescue.org
Email Subject Line: “Apprentice Application Your Name”