Job Description: **Wildlife Rehabilitator & Wildlife Rehabilitation Training Coordinator**

Directed Supervised by the Assistant Director of Veterinary Services

The Wildlife Center of Virginia is a non-profit teaching and referral hospital for native wildlife. The Center is a professionally staffed, fully equipped, 5,700-square foot hospital, research, and environmental education center located in Waynesboro, Virginia. Our mission and passion is to teach the world to care about and to care for wildlife and the environment. Founded in 1982, the Wildlife Center of Virginia has provided care for more than 65,000 sick, injured, and orphaned wild animals representing over 200 species. Each year the center admits approximately 2,300 patients with the goal to release healthy animals back into their natural habitats.

The Wildlife Center of Virginia is seeking a responsible, mature, and creative individual that can fulfill the duties of a wildlife rehabilitator and also take the lead role in growing our student and rehabilitator training programs.

**Duties**

I. **Wildlife Rehabilitator**

   A. **Animal Care**

      o Provide excellent rehabilitative care to all animals at the facility
      o Daily cleaning and feeding of all animals housed at the facility.
      o Evaluate patients for release. Monitor animal's health, attitude, appetite, etc., and maintain written records of each animal's progress. Report evaluations to veterinarians and participate in daily clinical rounds with veterinary staff to discuss medical cases.
      o Must be able to handle emotional aspects of euthanasia; may need to euthanize animals under supervision of veterinarians.
      o Exercise all flighted raptors daily and record progress in patient record.
      o Assist with restraint, examination, diagnostic procedures and treatment of animals, as needed.
      o Admit patients and complete associated records. May also examine and initiate first-aid to patients or new arrivals in the absence of the veterinarian or technician, within constraints of training and experience.
      o Work with Assistant Director of Veterinary Services to transfer healthy juvenile animals out of the hospital. Arrange for transportation to release site as needed.
      o On a regular basis and in conjunction with Assistant Director of Veterinary Services, develop and improve rehabilitation protocols for
birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals. Give input on procedures and strive for consistency.
  o Maintain high standards of cleanliness in hospital, kitchen and animal housing areas.

B Permitting / Certification
  o Obtain a personal Virginia Wildlife Rehabilitator Permit (Category 4) within one month of start date. Acquire six hours of continuing education yearly to maintain permit. Renew permit annually.
  o Obtain IWRC’s Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator (CWR) designation within one year of start date. Acquire two continuing education units (CEUs) biennially to maintain permit. Renew permit every two years.

C Other Duties
  o Respond to rehabilitation related questions from rehabilitators and the public when needed.
  o Daily and seasonal maintenance of cages, grounds, perches, etc. Recognize and correct any maintenance or safety hazards when possible. Report other problems to Assistant Director of Veterinary Services.
  o Maintain inventory of animal food, paper products and cleaning supplies. Order supplies as necessary and budgeted.
  o As a team, coordinate with other rehabilitation staff to ensure daily coverage of hospital [weekdays, weekends, holidays and snow days].

Other duties, responsibilities, and special projects as requested. This is an evolving position in a growing department.

II. Wildlife Rehabilitation Training Coordinator

A Hands-on Training
  o Train, supervise, and mentor rehabilitation interns, rehabilitation externs and animal care volunteers.
  o Train and mentor rehabilitation apprentices as needed.
  o Assist in teaching veterinary and veterinary technician students about rehabilitation/caretaking protocols.

B Educational Outreach
  o Support and promote the organization’s mission of teaching the world to care about and to care for wildlife and the environment.
  o Develop, oversee, and teach WCV’s Wildlife Rehabilitation Training Courses for rehabilitators, law enforcement and others as needed including on-line and “on the road” courses.
  o Work in conjunction with the Outreach Department to contribute and expand our leadership role in the veterinary and conservation communities through education.
  o Serve as a member of the WCV’s Hospital Education Working Group to consolidate, use, market, and distribute existing academic resources and create new material as necessary.
  o Assist the Director of Outreach with the annual Call of the Wild Conference to include planning, conference day operations, and teaching courses as required.
  o When travel funding permits, submit one abstract per year to speak at a national, state, and/or regional rehabilitation conference.
  o Write at least one article per year to be submitted to a National...
Wildlife Rehabilitation journal.

- Assist in creation of a collection of photographs of mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds for classes, workshops and educational/promotional materials.

Requirements

- Bachelor’s degree preferred.
- At least one year of prior wildlife handling experience.
- Demonstrated experience in the care and rehabilitation of wildlife.
- Demonstrated ability to handle diverse, competing tasks independently, efficiently, and accurately; flexibility is a must.
- Teaching experience required, curriculum building experience preferred.
- IWRC Certified Wildlife Rehabilitation designation preferred.
- Pre-exposure rabies vaccination is required. Provide proof of vaccination or adequate titer within the previous two years of start date.
- Demonstrated reliability and dependability; willingness to work weekends and holidays as necessary.
- Must be even-tempered and diplomatic.
- Ability to organize, set goals, and meet deadlines; attention to detail.
- Team player with strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Professional appearance and demeanor; ability to interact and communicate with the public, law enforcement, regulators, veterinarians and others.
- Strong commitment to protection of wildlife and the environment.
- Ability to lift/carry equipment and animals up to 50 pounds.
- Demonstrated experience in effective public speaking and writing skills.
- Demonstration supervisory and managerial experience.

Salary

- Salary based on experience
- One week paid vacation during the first year of employment
- Paid sick and personal leave
- Group medical benefits available
- Cost of VA Permit and CWR designation paid by employer

TO APPLY:
Please email cover letter, résumé, writing sample, and two letters of recommendation to:

Kelli Knight, DVM, CWR
Assistant Director of Veterinary Services
rehab@wildlifecenter.org

The Wildlife Center of Virginia is an equal opportunity employer.