

**THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA**  
Animal Caretaker Preceptorship (Fall/Spring)

**JOB DESCRIPTION:** The Wildlife Center of Virginia is hospital for native wildlife, with the mission of teaching the world to care about and to care for wildlife and the environment. Each year, an average of 2,500 patients are treated at the WCV. This preceptorship provides students with in-depth, hands-on experience in the field of wildlife rehabilitation and with the addition of the “Critter Cam” in 2011, also emphasizes the importance of educational outreach. Students will learn about animal husbandry, nutrition, hand-feeding techniques for some mammal species, capture and restraint methods, wildlife laws, and release criteria. Students are trained and supervised by the rehabilitation staff.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- ◆ Monitoring progress of patients, recording weights and food intake, and maintaining proper environment
- ◆ Daily exercise of raptor patients
- ◆ Assisting with capture and restraint of patients
- ◆ Feeding orphaned mammals and birds as needed
- ◆ Researching a topic related to wildlife rehabilitation at the Wildlife Center and presenting information to staff through a written paper and brief oral presentation upon completion of preceptorship
- ◆ Providing updates to outreach staff on high-profile patients featured on the Center’s webcam
- ◆ Daily cleaning, feeding, watering, hosing, and scrubbing out pens of all animals housed in facility and outdoor enclosures
- ◆ Sweeping/mopping floors, washing dishes, disinfecting counters/sinks in hospital and animal kitchen
- ◆ Maintaining constant awareness of all animals health and behavior and reporting any changes to staff
- ◆ Identification of local mammals, birds, and reptiles species
- ◆ Maintaining high energy levels throughout a long workday
- ◆ Reporting maintenance and/or safety hazards to the rehabilitation staff and correcting hazards if possible
- ◆ Lifting and hauling items up to 40 lbs., including trash and recycling
- ◆ Assisting with organizational, landscaping, or construction projects, as needed
- ◆ Assisting staff with errands such as raptor food runs, milk pick-up, etc (vehicle provided)
- ◆ Additional duties as requested

**HOURS:** Preceptors should expect to work from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm on days scheduled.

**SALARY:** None. Off-site housing is provided.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Must be a *self-motivated* individual with a sincere interest in working with wildlife and the ability to enthusiastically work long hours. Attention to detail, punctuality, initiative, and a strong desire to learn are required. At least two years of college with related degree *or* equivalent prior animal experience. Ability to lift 40 pounds. Use of a car preferable. Pre-exposure rabies vaccination series is not required, although those who are rabies vaccinated will also receive training with adult mammals and young “high risk” rabies species.

**LENGTH:** Full-time eight-week preceptorships are available (5 days a week), as well as part-time 12-week preceptorships (min. 2 days a week). Spring positions are available from mid-January through May; Fall positions are available from September-December.

**TO APPLY:** Email or mail resume, cover letter, and application to the following:

Amanda Nicholson  
The Wildlife Center of Virginia ■ P.O. Box 1557 ■ Waynesboro, VA 22980  
[anicholson@wildlifecenter.org](mailto:anicholson@wildlifecenter.org)

Application deadline for spring preceptorships is November 15<sup>th</sup>; Deadline for fall preceptorships is June 15<sup>th</sup>.