

THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA
Animal Caretaker/Orphan Raiser Preceptorship (Summer)

JOB DESCRIPTION: The Wildlife Center of Virginia is a 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; May-August are the busiest months of the year. 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 a variety of orphaned species, capture and restraint methods, wildlife laws, and release criteria. Students are trained and supervised by the rehabilitation staff.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- ◆ Hand feeding orphaned mammals and birds
- ◆ Feeding, cleaning, monitoring progress of orphaned fawns
- ◆ Monitoring progress of orphans, recording weights and food intake, and maintaining proper environment
- ◆ Daily exercise of raptor patients
- ◆ Assisting with capture and restraint of patients
- ◆ Researching a topic related to wildlife rehabilitation and care and giving brief presentation to staff 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
- ◆ General cleaning including sweeping/mopping floors, washing dishes, disinfecting counters/sinks
- ◆ Maintaining constant awareness of all patients’ 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 any maintenance and/or safety hazards, if possible
- ◆ Lifting and hauling items up to 40 lbs., including trash and recycling
- ◆ Assisting with organizational, landscaping, construction, or web-based projects as needed
- ◆ Assisting staff with errands such as raptor food runs, milk pick-up, etc (vehicle provided for these errands)
- ◆ Additional duties as requested

HOURS: Preceptors work from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm on scheduled days. Weekend work is often required. Preceptors will have two consecutive scheduled days off. Schedules are subject to change, though typically remain consistent throughout eight-week period.

SALARY: None. Off-site housing is provided at no cost.

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* 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: 8-week commitment. Summer positions available May-August (see application)

TO APPLY: Email or mail **résumé**, **cover letter**, and **application** by March 1st to:

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