Job Description: **Wildlife Rehabilitator**  
Directly supervised by the Assistant Director of Veterinary Services

The Wildlife Center of Virginia (WCV) is a non-profit, professionally-staffed, fully equipped, 5,700 square-foot teaching and referral hospital for native wildlife 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 has provided care for more than 65,000 sick, injured, and orphaned wild animals representing more than 200 species. Our goal is to release patients back into their natural habitats. WCV admits 2,500 to 3,000 patients annually and at any time there may be 80 to 250 animals on the premises.

The successful candidate will be an integral member of our Veterinary Department which consists of an ACVPM-boarded Veterinarian, Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator, Veterinary Fellow, Veterinary Intern, Licensed Veterinary Technicians, numerous students, and volunteers. As part of the rehabilitation team, the staff rehabilitator will be responsible for a variety of tasks, including animal care and most importantly, training. Primary duties of this position include:

**Duties**

I. **Training**  
- Train, supervise, and mentor rehabilitation intern, rehabilitation externs, and animal care volunteers.  
- Train and mentor rehabilitation apprentices as needed.  
- Respond to rehabilitation related questions from the public when needed.  
- Assist in teaching veterinary and veterinary technician students about rehabilitation/caretaking protocols.  
- Assist in creation of a collection of photographs of mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds for classes, workshops, and educational/promotional materials.  
- In conjunction with veterinary staff, develop and improve rehabilitation protocols for birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals.  
- Teach and develop outreach rehabilitation courses for rehabilitators, law enforcement and others as needed including classes “on the road”, on-line, and at the annual *Call of the Wild* Conference.  
- When travel funding permits, submit one abstract per year to speak at a national conference (NWRA, IWRC, etc.)

II. **Animal Care**  
- Provide excellent rehabilitative care to all animals at the facility.  
- Daily cleaning and feeding of all animals housed at the facility.  
- 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.

- Must be able to handle emotional aspects of euthanasia; may need to euthanize animals under supervision of veterinarians.
- Exercise all flighted raptors daily and record progress in patient record.
- Assist with restraint, examination, diagnostic procedures and treatment of animals, as needed.
- 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.
- Work with Assistant Director of Veterinary Services to transfer healthy juvenile animals out of the hospital. Arrange for transportation to release site as needed.
- On a regular basis and in conjunction with Assistant Director of Veterinary Services, re-evaluate protocols and give input on “accepted” procedures. Strive for consistency.
- Maintain high standards of cleanliness in hospital, kitchen and animal housing areas.

III. Other duties

- 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.
- Maintain inventory of animal food, paper products and cleaning supplies. Order supplies as necessary and budgeted.
- Obtain a personal Virginia Wildlife Rehabilitator Permit (Category IV) within one month of start date. Acquire six hours of continuing education yearly to maintain permit. Renew permit annually.
- 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.
- As a team, coordinate with other rehabilitation staff to ensure daily coverage of hospital [weekdays, weekends, holidays, and snow days].
- Write at least one article per year to be submitted to a National Wildlife Rehabilitation journal.
- Other duties, responsibilities, and special projects, as requested.

Requirements

- Demonstrated experience in the care and rehabilitation of wildlife.
- Demonstrated ability to handle diverse, competing tasks independently, efficiently, and accurately; flexibility is a must.
- Must be even-tempered and diplomatic.
- At least two years of college. Associates or Bachelor’s degree preferred.
- At least one year of prior wildlife handling experience.
- 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.
- 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.

**Schedule**
- 40 hours per week. Availability to work four, 10-hour days on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. A typical day consists of working at least 10 hours [8am to 6pm, 9am to 7pm, OR 10am to 8pm, depending on the time of year]. Weekend and holiday work is mandatory. Schedules are subject to change.

**Salary**
- $11.50 per hour with overtime
- One week paid vacation during the first year of employment
- Paid sick and personal leave
- Medical benefits available at the employee’s expense

**TO APPLY:**
Please email cover letter, résumé, and two letters of recommendation to Dr. Kelli Knight
Assistant Director of Veterinary Services
rehab@wildlifecenter.org

The Wildlife Center of Virginia is an equal opportunity employer.