

Practicum Program at BC SPCA Wild ARC

Practicums are unique and rewarding volunteer opportunities aimed at providing valuable career experience under the mentorship of professional wildlife rehabilitators. Wild ARC practicum participants volunteer part or full-time under the supervision of wildlife rehabilitators to perform animal husbandry duties and medical treatments. Participants will also have the opportunity to participate in workshops, access Wild ARC's library of rehabilitation resources, and ask seasoned wildlife rehabilitation staff any questions they may have. Practicum students are expected to put in the time required for the day-to-day operations of the facility, which is often more than 40 hours a week, plus any reporting requirements for their educational credit program.

Practicum Program Options:

- (1) Wildlife Rehabilitation Practicum
- (2) Wildlife Practicum - Herbivore Specialist

All participants will acquire skills in species identification, enclosure setup and proper husbandry techniques, safe animal handling, record-keeping, and data analysis. Participants will also have the opportunity to learn from and support facility volunteers.

Wildlife Rehabilitation Practicum Option

Wild ARC's rehabilitation practicum option provides the opportunity for participants to improve their technical wildlife treatment and medical skills, including patient examination, avian gavage feeding, medication dosage calculation and administration, and laboratory work.

This practicum option is of interest for candidates looking to increase their wildlife rehabilitation skills or those looking to broaden their wildlife welfare knowledge. Prior experience in animal handling and husbandry is recommended.

Wildlife Rehabilitation Practicum - Herbivore Specialist Option

Wild ARC's herbivore specialist practicum option provides the opportunity for participants to specialize in sensitive herbivores like Black-tailed Deer fawns and Eastern Cottontail Rabbits. Participants will gain extensive knowledge and hands-on experience in raising these species. Participants will be closely involved in patient examinations, rearing, medication dosage calculation and administration, and ensuring nutritional and enrichment needs are met.

In addition to gaining valuable wildlife rehabilitation experience, this practicum option is of particular interest for candidates interested in biosecurity and disease management in animals. Prior experience in animal handling and husbandry is strongly recommended.

Practicum Program Requirements:

- ✓ Minimum age of 19
- ✓ Current tetanus vaccination and good physical stamina and health
- ✓ Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- ✓ Ability to work independently and as a team member
- ✓ Strong observation and record-keeping skills
- ✓ Academic background in biological or environmental sciences, veterinary medicine or animal welfare studies preferred
- ✓ Volunteer experience in wildlife rehabilitation, wildlife management or animal care is beneficial but not required

Practicum Program Duration:

Practicums are three, four, five or six months long and are available during the months of:

April to October

*(*Off-season practicum opportunities are occasionally available)*

All positions are voluntary; no stipend or salary is offered. Housing and transportation are not provided. Please note that Wild ARC is not located on a public transit route, and thus reliable transportation is necessary. Insurance is the responsibility of the participant.

Practicum Educational Credit:

Wild ARC's practicum program is intended as an educational or professional development opportunity. For example, the University of British Columbia offers a 6-credit practicum course credit (APBI 496) for the program, which can be a transferable 4th year credit at other institutions. This placement can also be completed to fulfill the practicum requirement for Royal Roads University's Environmental Practice stream. For those not in university, the practicum can be used as credit towards a certificate course in wildlife rehabilitation training by a professional association. *(Note: acceptance into the practicum is required before registering for either.)*

APPLICATION DEADLINE February 22nd of each year