

Wildlife Practicum–Wildlife Rehabilitation Stream

Practicums are a unique and rewarding opportunity to help local wildlife, increase your awareness of local wildlife species and their natural history, and learn more about urban wildlife issues and welfare, while under the mentorship of professional wildlife rehabilitators. Wild ARC practicum participants volunteer full-time under the supervision of staff to perform animal husbandry duties, medical treatments, and diet preparation and hand-feeding a variety of young wildlife. 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.

Wild ARC's Wildlife Rehabilitation Practicum stream, in particular, provides the opportunity for participants to work with a broad range of wild species to improve their technical wildlife assessment and treatment, medical diagnostics and laboratory work, and medical skills, including patient examination, avian gavage feeding, medication, dosage calculation and administration, and release evaluations for a wide range of species.

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

Skills and Experience Required:

- Comfortable and patient around a variety of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians
- Excellent communication, teamwork and observation skills
- Strong work ethic and ability to prioritize and work independently
- Previous wildlife rehabilitation or animal care experience is preferred

Responsibilities:

- Clean and sanitize animal enclosures of greenery, enrichment items, food and feces
- Set up enriching indoor and outdoor habitats for wild patients
- Prepare species appropriate diets and administer feedings to adult and juvenile wild patients
- Hand feed a variety of young bird and mammal species
- Laundry, dishes, clean kennels/enrichment items and general cleaning duties (sweep/mop/tidy)
- Administration of medications and treatments for recovering wild patients
- Monitoring health and condition of animals under the guidance of wildlife rehabilitators
- Maintaining complete and accurate records for patient care files

Practicum Program Duration and Time Commitment

This practicum involves a full-time or part-time voluntary placement that can span from 3 to 5 months, and is available from April to October. It is strongly recommended that participants do not take on extra employment during the full-time practicum placement. Please see practicum application for detailed placement options.

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 frequent public transit route, and thus reliable personal transportation is necessary. Insurance is the responsibility of the participant.

Working Conditions*:

- Work outside in a variety of weather conditions.
- Walk on uneven ground (mulch, gravel, grass, concrete), and up/down low grade hills
- Be on feet for long periods of time and bend/kneel/squat.
- Occasionally lift 40 pounds
- Use of fine motor skills (dexterity) for small patient feeding
- Use of Personal Protective Equipment to limit exposure to zoonotic diseases.

*BC SPCA is an inclusive organization and will make reasonable accommodations to working conditions upon request. Please contact us if you have any concerns or questions.

Practicum Program Requirements:

- ✓ Minimum age of 19 years
- ✓ Strongly encouraged to have Tetanus vaccine within last 10 years
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Meet practicum educational credit requirements (see below)

Practicum Educational Credit

Wild ARC's practicum program is an educational or professional development opportunity, and participants must be enrolled in an approved credentialled program. Approved programs include the Applied Animal Biology Practicum (APBI 496) at the University of British Columbia or the certificate course in wildlife rehabilitation training through the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (IWRC). The practicum may also meet requirements for various environmental or animal health programs at other institutions (University Science Program or RVT externship, etc.).

(Note: Acceptance into the practicum program is required before registering for credit.)

Please send completed applications to the Assistant Manager, Kelsi Arnott at wildarcvolunteer@spca.bc.ca.

Application Packages can be submitted from February 1st to 22nd and must include:

- ✓ Completed Practicum Application Form (PDF)
- ✓ Current Curriculum Vitae and Cover Letter detailing career aspirations
- ✓ Two references (at least one former employer)
- ✓ Valid Driver's Abstract (needed for operation of BC SPCA vehicles)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 22nd of each year