

## American Heritage Wildlife Foundation wildlife internship general information

### 2018 Intern Duties and Anticipated Tasks List

Key responsibilities: Wildlife caregiving - including but not limited to providing appropriate nutrition and medical attention for injured or orphaned wildlife. Ensuring the enclosures the animals are being kept in are clean and secure. Assisting the public by responding at all times in a professional and knowledgeable way. Working with volunteers, in a friendly manner, to ensure safety and enjoyment as well as task completion. Retrieving (or arranging with volunteers to deliver) wildlife patients from the nearby veterinary clinics.

Primary risks: working alone and unsupervised, providing care for species that may be carriers of potentially zoonotic diseases.

Qualifications: must be over 18 years of age; preferred but not required a degree in wildlife, and experience working with wildlife in a rehabilitation facility appreciated but not mandatory. Must have some type of animal husbandry experiences. Vaccinations such as tetanus or rabies are a choice of personal preference and not required. Drug testing may be asked prior to hiring.

Time Commitment: the internship shall last no longer than 16 weeks. Every effort shall be made to ensure a stable schedule however the nature of wild animal care is ever changing. Consistency of care is the key for survival with wild animals. It shall be known that some species require feeding every 15 minutes for 16 hours each day seven days each week, other species require round the clock care. Volunteers may be contacted to assist with the work load and every attempt to provide time off will be accommodated but the primary care shall be provided by the intern.

Training/support provided: Training shall be provided by the lead wildlife volunteer. Training topics will cover wildlife feeding, cleaning, restraint, confinement, and personal safety. Reference manuals will be readily available for use as needed. Office procedures and telephone protocols shall be detailed. Social Media and Outreach programs will be discussed. If interested additional duties and pay may be acquired.

Reporting relationship: daily care of wildlife shall be documented on the daily reports. Any other activities shall be reported to the founder Kathleen St. Clair—McGee.

Benefits: The intern stipend shall be limited to \$50 per week with a maximum duration of 16 weeks. Fuel reimbursement, for completing AHWF services, at a rate of 25 cents per mile, shall be provided once the mileage reimbursement form is submitted and board of director approval. A self-contained RV shall be provided for living arrangements. Our facility is in an area without internet or cell service.

### Intern physical and mental requirements

#### Education:

A preferred candidate has some type of degree in animal sciences. Knowledge of or interest in learning biology, physiology, and behaviors of native wildlife.

#### Experience:

Hands on work in a wild animal facility is preferred but domestic animal husbandry is a must have qualification. This knowledge provides beneficial points of reference. Knowledge of or interest in learning wildlife restraint techniques. Experience with diet preparations is a plus.

#### Skills:

Must be cognizant of time and able to maintain strict consistent schedule. Must have knowledge and skills with educating general public. Must be patient, courteous, and remain calm in stressful situations. Possess a helpful and friendly spirit. Ability to work independently is a plus. Ability to abide by established protocols. Common sense is a skill that is required (if it is open - close it; if it is dirty - clean it; if it is cold - warm it; if it is hungry - feed it) There are countless things to do daily in the wildlife rehab field – do not expect large amounts of ‘down

time' during on the days you are working. Applicant should have the ability or be able to learn to answer phones and correspond to emails in a professional manner as well as document status of this nonprofit on various social media platforms. Self-starter is a skill that is highly appreciated.

**Equipment to be used:**

shovel, rake, disinfectants & cleaning supplies, microscope, syringes, feeding tubes, nets, live-traps, latex (or hypoallergenic) gloves, telephone, computer, printer, power point projector

**Physical demands:**

Occasionally lifting 50 pounds. Sitting or standing for potentially long periods of time. Must be able to bend over repetitively. Must have full range of motion in shoulders and arms and ability to reach over head. Should be stable footed. Ability to drive a car in an urban setting. Ability to manipulate small items. Sufficient vision to see ectoparasites on birds and bacteria under microscope as well as recognize wildlife species from distance of up to 30 feet.

**Mental demands:**

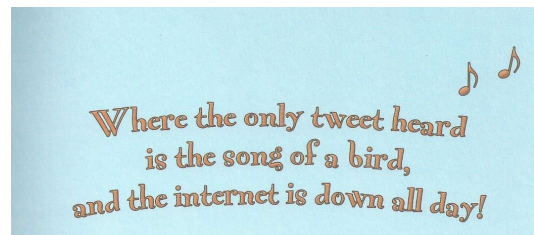
Must be able to do mathematic calculations. Must have the ability to keep mental focus despite long hours. Emotionally stable and able to accept death of wildlife patients. Acceptance of working with bodily fluids of wildlife patients. Must have ability to observe wild behaviors and retain that information until able to document on the daily reports. Must have high level of reading comprehension and listening skills. Ability to ask questions is imperative – lives depend on you. Must be able to multi-task and manage time efficiently.

**Working Conditions:**

Early morning and/or late night working conditions are required. Occasionally round the clock care is required. Both inside and outside work environment regardless of temperature or precipitation. Conditions may be dusty or have strong odors.

This does not constitute the entire work detail. Every attempt to make the tasks safe and enjoyable will be made by the AHWF lead volunteer wildlife caregiver & founder. If improvements are noted they should be brought to the attention of the board of directors.

This internship is your chance to gain valuable hands on experience with a wide variety of native species. Veterinary students will find it useful as well as wildlife biology students and students that want to become zookeepers. Wildlife rehabilitation is a calling not a career. This is your opportunity to identify if it is what you will choose to do. Application is found online at our webpage. [www.ahwf.org](http://www.ahwf.org)



welcome to rural north idaho

Do you have experience living in rural areas? Able to live without urban socializing? Able to go without your cell phone or internet? – try it for one day to make sure.