Gold Country Wildlife Rescue:

Wildlife Intake Center— Winter Sessions—Internship Application Information

Organization: Gold Country Wildlife Rescue

Location: Auburn, CA

Website: http://www.goldcountrywildliferescue.org/

Annual Start/End Dates:

Session I→   October through January

Session II→   December through March

Session III→ February through April

*Dates are flexible depending on intern availability and seasonal needs,

these sessions are not firm*

Salary: Unpaid

Minimum Age Requirement: 18+ years

Minimum Time Commitment: At least 12 hours per week, for a minimum total of 200+ hours over the course of the internship session.

Housing/Transportation: No housing or transportation is provided to interns by GCWR. All housing and transportation arrangements are the responsibility of the intern. Suggestions may be provided by GCWR upon request.

Description:

Gold Country Wildlife Rescue (GCWR) is a 501(c)3 non-profit, volunteer organization, dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of injured and orphaned wildlife. We are permitted through the California Department of Fish & Wildlife, and the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

The Wildlife Intake Center (WIC) Internship provides hands-on experience in the GCWR clinic working with injured and orphaned wildlife.

Interns learn basic animal caretaking procedures, medical protocols, and in-depth species identification and natural histories. Interns will work alongside staff and other volunteers/interns to complete all tasks associated with animal rehabilitation.

Interns will primarily work in the WIC helping with cage cleaning, animal feeding, medication distribution and other daily tasks. Some duties, however, may include animal pick-ups from vets, assisting on phone lines, or special projects as needs arise. Educating the public is a large part of this position and interns will learn how to proceed when faced with public inquires. Interns are expected to work at least 12 hours per week during each of the winter sessions for a total minimum commitment of 200+ hours. Interns will also be expected to attend at least 3 educational classes, provided by GCWR, during their session.

Duties:

- *Medical Care Assistance:* Work alongside staff members in animal medical examinations, preparing and administering medications, tracking medications per individual patient, and administering treatments (such as physical therapy, wing wraps, and leg splints).

- *Food Prep:* Interns will be responsible for making and distributing liquid and solid foods for all species of wildlife that comes through the WIC for care. FoNs, Finch and Sparrow Diet, and Exact are examples of some of the liquid foods that may be necessary during each internship session. Other examples of food prep include mixing appropriate seed dishes, offering and caring for meal worms, cleaning and distributing appropriate fruits, vegetables and other miscellaneous diet ingredients.

- *Public Education:* WIC workers will assist in public education by accepting animals or answering calls from members of the community. Interns will also have the opportunity to attend public events as a GCWR representative. In addition to public events, interns will have the possibility of leading up to 3 projects of their own. Such projects might include: creating and leading an educational class, implementing a new form of enrichment for a certain species of animals, or leading a new volunteer appreciation project. New projects are to be approved before an intern may proceed with the idea.

- *Records:* Interns are responsible for keeping accurate animal records on intake, medication, and feeding sheets.
    - Intake sheets will keep up to date progress of an individual patient's history in GCWR's care. Such information may include the date of its arrival to the WIC, anything known prior to the animal's arrival, any known injuries after a medical exam is performed, any behavioral abnormalities, and/or any other comments that track the animal's stay and separation with the organization. This sheet will also be entered into an online database (WRMD) for best information sharing practices.

    - Medication sheets track an individual's medication history. Such examples might include: pain management, parasite treatment, or infection treatment.

    - Feeding sheets track an individual's daily routine. From how often an enclosure is replenished with fresh water or additional food trays, to the exact amount of liquid food a specific animal is fed each hour over the course of that animal's care at GCWR.

- *Cleanliness and Maintenance:* As an animal caretaker, interns (along with all staff and volunteers) are responsible for maintaining a clean working environment and ensuring our patients are kept in a clean habitat. Some examples of daily chores include laundry, washing dishes, sweeping floors, replacing enclosure liners, caring for lab equipment, and performing facility repairs.

- *Hands-on experience:* Interns will be expected to learn various animal handling and feeding techniques in order to care for wildlife patients properly. Physically handling these animals is a crucial part of this position but is never done without consideration and caution. There is no "cuddling" in this organization and every task performed on behalf of GCWR is done with the ultimate goal of releasing injured and orphaned wildlife back into their natural habitats.

Qualifications:

Required:

- Strong Level of Enthusiasm and Desire to Learn→ Daily activities working with wildlife are often repetitive, however there is more to learn each day! Interns must become proficient in dozens of tasks and be prepared for a new task when unfamiliar circumstances arise. Interns must be willing and excited to learn about wildlife, public education, and veterinary care.

- Detail Oriented→ Interns are often responsible for watching animal behaviors and must report changes or odd behavior of animals to staff immediately. Interns must be aware of enclosure set-ups and confirm proper materials are available on a species-specific level.

- 18 Years or Older→ According to state law, no one may work in the WIC or directly with wildlife in any way, unless they are at least 18 years of age.

- Physically Demanding→ WIC interns may need to stand for long periods of time, be able to lift at least 25 lbs., and hold positions required for animal caretaking.

- Follow Direction→ Interns must follow verbal and written directions by staff and board members. Interns must have the ability and willingness to follow rules, regulations, policies, and procedures laid out by the GCWR organization.

- Team Player and Self-Starter→ Interns will need to work in groups, teams, and independently with limited supervision.

- Basic Customer Service Skills→ As interns will be expected to interact with the public on behalf of GCWR, applicants must be able to handle small groups and one-on-one public interactions.

- Basic Computer Skills→ Interns must be capable of understanding and using common computer programs such as Microsoft Office.

Desired:

- Schooling→ Currently enrolled in, recently graduated from, or pursuing animal related degree. Examples include, but are not limited to: Biology, Zoology, Pre-Vet, and Animal Science.

- Previous Experience→ At least 6 months of hands-on experience with wildlife or domestic animals is encouraged. A previous volunteer position with GCWR or one of the surrounding Northern Californian wildlife rehabilitation centers is highly recommended but not required to be considered for this position.

Applying:

Internship applicants ***must*** submit a cover letter, resume, and at least two references by emailing these documents to GCWR's Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@goldcountrywildliferescue.org.

Individuals must also submit a complete application, along with the standard $25 Volunteer fee, located on the GCWR website at: http://www.goldcountrywildliferescue.org/internships/.

Fees contribute to volunteer t-shirt, name tag, training materials and insurance costs.

Applications lacking any of the previously listed requirements will not be considered for an internship interview.