

Project Title: Wildlife rehabilitation data management systems research and trend analysis

Purpose:

To contribute to ongoing development of Wild ARC's data management systems as well as tracking trends in existing data and identify further research opportunities.

Background:

The mission of the BC SPCA Wild Animal Rehabilitation Centre (Wild ARC) is to provide care to injured, sick, orphaned and distressed wildlife based on rehabilitation standards and the animal's natural history. Each animal in care is treated as an individual case with the goal to release recovered animals back into the wild. In order to keep our animal care protocols up-to-date, detailed and accurate records must be maintained to track patient progress and release status. Patient information is logged electronically from the time of intake, which allows for more efficient use of intake data, key findings, and disposition. The next step is to implement a data management system that can accommodate not only intake data and initial findings but also treatment plans and daily care records.

Responsibilities:

This position will work under the direction of the Manager, Wild Animal Welfare. The practicum involves:

- Researching wild animal rehabilitation database options – WRMD, WILD-ONE, RaptorMed, other – for use at Wild ARC.
- Conducting a comparison analysis of database options in terms of cost, compatibility, number of simultaneous users, web-based vs. installed software, data accessibility by developers, reporting options, and suitability for use at Wild ARC.
- Providing a short (virtual) presentation on the results of the comparative analysis to inform Wild ARC leadership of costs and benefits of different database options.
- Researching trends in existing data to inform treatment protocols and identify future research opportunities.
- Producing a report summarizing trends together with a literature review and recommendations for future analysis.

Candidate:

This practicum is suited for a student who is interested in the management and analysis of wildlife rehabilitation data and has strong organizational and time management skills.

Schedule:

This practicum requires a minimum of 300 remote placement hours, 12 weeks part-time (25 hours/week), starting in June 2020.

Weeks	Activities (estimated total hours)
1-4 (100hrs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete BC SPCA online training (20)• Familiarise with Wild ARC data (20)• Begin database comparative research (20-30)• Begin literature search (10)• Bi-weekly check-in meetings with Field Supervisor (20)
5-10 (150hrs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue database comparative research (20-30)• Assess compatibility for database use at Wild ARC (25)• Research trends in existing Wild ARC data (40-50)• Write up literature review (30)• Weekly check-in meetings with Field Supervisor (15)
10-12 (50hrs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare and deliver comparative presentation (10)• Finish report on trends (30)• Weekly check-in meetings with Field Supervisor (10)