



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 full-time under the supervision of wildlife rehabilitators to perform animal husbandry duties and medical treatments. Participants will also have access to learning lunches or question and answer periods with Senior Wildlife Rehabilitators and 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 Rehabilitation Practicum - Herbivore Specialist
- (3) Wildlife Rehabilitation Practicum - Setup Coordinator

All participants will acquire skills in species identification, cage set-up 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 particular interest for candidates looking to increase their wildlife rehabilitation skills, prospective veterinary technicians or veterinarians, or those looking to broaden their wildlife welfare knowledge. Prior experience in animal handling and husbandry is strongly recommended for this practicum option.

Wildlife Rehabilitation Practicum - Herbivore Specialist Option

Wild ARC's herbivore specialist practicum option provides the opportunity for participants to specialize in sensitive herbivores by gaining in-depth husbandry knowledge, learn the natural history of these species to help select ideal release locations, and use their creative innovation to improve species' in-care enrichment material and protocols.

In addition to those looking to gain rehabilitation experience, this practicum option is of particular interest for prospective sanctuary keepers or other wildlife custodians, animal welfare researchers and advocates, or veterinary assistants interested in an exotic animal practice.

Wildlife Rehabilitation Practicum - Setup Coordinator Option

Wild ARC's setup coordinator practicum option offers the opportunity for individuals to gain knowledge in how to properly prepare enclosures for patients while in care and preparing for transition back into the wild.

In addition to those looking to gain rehabilitation experience, this practicum option is appropriate for those interested in the holistic perspective needed to care for wildlife in a rehabilitation setting.

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 two to three months long and are available during one of the following periods:

March & April
May & June
May to July
July & August
August & September
August 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