

Wildlife Center of Virginia
Attn: Leigh-Ann Horne, LVT, CWR
P. O. Box 1557
Waynesboro, VA 22980
eml- lhorne@wildlifecenter.org
phn- 540-942-9453

The Wildlife Center of Virginia is a non-profit wildlife hospital nestled in the mountains of central Virginia. The Center was founded in 1982 and since then has grown to become one of the nation's leading teaching wildlife hospitals. In 2007 The Wildlife Center of Virginia was awarded the National Conservation Achievement Award for an Organization by the National Wildlife Federation. In 2019 the Center was the focus of a PBS television series, *Untamed*, which spotlighted the Center's medical and conservation work. In its history the Center has treated more than 45,000 wild animals, representing over 200 species of native birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibian. At any time, there may be from 80 to 250 animals on the premises. Students from all over the United States and abroad have come to the Center to gain skills and experience in treating and caring for numerous wildlife species.

The Center itself is a full service veterinary hospital with an onsite laboratory, radiology and surgery suite. The Center also includes a large area of outdoor flight conditioning pens and other rehabilitation enclosures for all native species in Virginia. The Center also provides training classes to those interested in wildlife rehabilitation and includes an environmental education department that travels the state teaching conservation lessons to schools, nature groups, and other organizations.

For more information about the Wildlife Center of Virginia please visit our website at www.wildlifecenter.org.

The goal of the veterinary technician training program is to provide technicians and tech students a hands-on experience in all aspects of wild animal handling, maintenance, and treatment. Throughout the technician's time at the Center he or she is taught anatomy, physical restraint, anesthesia, radiography, laboratory analysis, emergency triage, first aid, medications and hospital maintenance. In addition, animal housing requirements, husbandry, and the legal aspects associated with wildlife medicine are learned.

Responsibilities- assisting with daily treatments, diagnostics (including radiology, hematology, parasitology and cytology), hospital maintenance, record keeping, surgery prep, animal husbandry and enrichment.

Project- depending on the length of stay and credit requirements, the student may be asked to give an informal presentation to the staff on a topic to be decided on by the student and a member of the veterinary staff. Topics may include a case report on a patient they helped treat, information on a common disease seen in patients admitted to the Center, or a short cross training class given to the Center's staff.

Hours- 40+ hours per week. Start dates are flexible. Externships are competitive and can fill up 9-12 months in advance.

Supervision- veterinary staff including 3 veterinarians and 3 LVTs, as well as the rehabilitation staff.

Stipend/Housing- no stipend is given, however housing and transportation may be available (no pets).

Credit- information can be provided to the student's school as needed.

Application- send CV, cover letter stating dates preferred, and three letters of reference by e-mail or mail.