Rehabilitation interns at TreeHouse have a unique opportunity to experience all facets of the operation of a wildlife rehab facility. Animal care interns are involved in every stage of rehabilitation, from admission to release. An ordinary day could involve building a platform for a new cage, assisting with an educational program, or intubating an owl. Interns learn about the care and rehabilitation of native Illinois wildlife from experienced rehabbers and gain hands-on experience in wild animal husbandry. Students majoring in veterinary medicine, biology, zoology and environmental sciences would benefit from a TreeHouse internship.

- Stipends are currently not available
- Interns have the opportunity to live on site
- Internships typically last from 4 to 8 weeks
TreeHouse also offers internship opportunities in areas other than animal care. If you have a particular interest that might be mutually beneficial to a non-profit, animal orientated organization, such as fundraising, public relations, grant writing, etc. please send us an e-mail at treehousewildlifecenter@gmail.com and let us know.

Please See Internship Application Below
INTERNERSHIPS AT TREEHOUSE WILDLIFE CENTER

TreeHouse Wildlife Center is a non-profit wildlife rehabilitation and environmental education center established in 1979. In 2010 we moved to our current location on 8-1/2 acres near Dow, Illinois. We are located near the confluence of three major rivers, the Mississippi, Missouri, and Illinois, as well as many miles of state and federal parks and refuges.

Rehabilitation: TreeHouse accepts both orphaned and injured birds and mammals -- though not of all species -- averaging 300-500 patients annually. We work under permits from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the Illinois Endangered Species Board. Our veterinary services are provided by Dr. Paul Myer and the staff of Hawthorne Animal Hospital.

Our rehabilitation clinic includes an exam room, nursery, mammal ward, admissions office, laundry, isolation ward, exercise room, and various indoor and outdoor caging. In development is our avian ward, as well as additional outdoor rehabilitation caging.

Environmental Education: TreeHouse offers in-house environmental programs which are based in our education center. Group tours of the facility are also available, and our permanent resident birds and mammals are on public display throughout the center both indoors and out. TreeHouse's outreach programs bring birds of prey to area schools and organizations.

Interns: Our interns are students or recent graduates in the fields of biology, zoology, veterinary medicine, wildlife ecology and management, and environmental science and education.

Interns must be at least 18 years of age.

TreeHouse does not pay a stipend, but interns are provided with living quarters at the center. Interns will need to supply their own food as well as means of transportation.

Our center can house four interns.

Internships are available year-round. Time blocks start at a minimum of 4 weeks. We are a 24/7 operation. Interns will be required to work 5 days/week with varied days and hours.

Local students wanting an internship but not requiring housing will be asked to work a total of 80 hours. Hours may vary and will require some nights, weekends and holidays.
**Intern Duties:** A TreeHouse intern is immersed in every aspect of the center. Every activity that takes place daily in a large rehabilitation and environmental education center may at some point be performed or supervised by an intern.

Duties include, but are not limited to, daily cage cleaning, feeding (including orphaned mammals), laundry, keeping crates clean and work areas tidy, animal physical exams and medications, record keeping, and managing the volunteer schedule. TreeHouse volunteers work on a 2 schedule system – day shift and evening shift. Interns will fill in or assist volunteers where needed.

Other duties may include transporting animals to the veterinarian for x-rays or surgery, cage construction, assisting the education director with programs, conducting tours, animal rescues and releases, and special projects.

**Intern Requirements:** Raptor food prep is probably the one area people tend to have the most difficulty with. Some of our raptor food is purchased and generally “ready to serve”. Most of the donated raptor food, however, requires some “processing”, as in cutting up whole chickens or the occasional road killed deer.

Wildlife rehabilitation is often very physical work. An intern must be able to lift and carry items such as large bags of dog food.

Interns need to be flexible with their hours, be able to move from one type of work to the next during the day, and work in all kinds of weather.

Interns must also be able to face the emotional reality that all animals that come into our center may not be saved. Some will die due to their injuries and others have to be euthanized.

Interns need to be self-starters, capable of ensuring that the necessary daily duties are always carried out, with or without close supervision.

Interns will be trained in techniques used by TreeHouse and will be required to follow instructions. Interns must be committed to their job, as these animals need care daily.

Interns need good communications skills with staff, volunteers, and the general public. Many people visit the Center during all times of the year and interns will be asked to assist with tours.

Some of our educational programs require assistance by interns.

**Interns will learn:** All the ins and outs of a large wildlife center.

Interns will learn techniques of setting up a stress-reducing environment for animals in captivity, and behavior enrichment programs for our permanent residents.

Interns will learn how to conduct conservation education programs for kids of all ages.

Interns will learn how to conduct a physical exam on patients admitted.

Interns will learn how to safely handle wild birds and mammals.

Interns that work hard and commit themselves to this intensive program will learn a variety of skills and first-hand knowledge about the characteristics of each species we handle, as well as the individual personalities of these animals.
INTERNSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _________________________________________________ Date of birth: ____________________
Address:  ______________________________________________  Home phone:  ____________________
                                                                                             Cell phone:  ______________________
E-Mail:  _______________________________________________ ____________________________________

Name of College or University:  ____________________________________________________________
Name of Advisor:  ________________________________________________________________________
Major:  __________________________________________________________________________________
Education level (freshman, grad student, etc.):  _____________________________________________
How did you hear about TreeHouse’s Internship Program? ________________________________

List any non-animal jobs you’ve held either full-time or part-time______________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
List any animal related organizations you support:  _________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Interns must have their own transportation.  Do you have access to a vehicle?  Yes ____  No ____
Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than a traffic offense?  Yes ____  No _____
If yes, please explain:  ____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

TreeHouse Wildlife Center, Inc.
23956 Green Acres Road, Dow, Illinois 62022
Telephone: 618.466.2990
Website: treehousewildlifecenter.com
E-Mail: treehousewildlifecenter@gmail.com
“Over three decades of giving back to the wild.”
Do you have any medical conditions that would prevent you from performing any aspect of the internship (including allergies)? Please explain:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Do you have an up-to-date tetanus shot? Yes _____ No _____

**Essay:** Enclose a one to two page personal statement discussing your career goals, why you want to intern at TreeHouse, and any special skills or experience you feel would be an asset to TreeHouse during your internship, including any paid or volunteer work experience with wildlife or other animals.

List at least 2 references with their contact information:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

**Emergency Contacts:**

Name: __________________________ Relationship: __________________________ Phone: __________________________

Name: __________________________ Relationship: __________________________ Phone: __________________________

Statement of understanding: I have read the intern job descriptions list and understand the duties I will be expected to perform. I am aware that I will not be handling all of the animals and will not be presenting program independently. I am also enclosing a Hold Harmless Release Form with this application.

Signature of Applicant: __________________________ Date: __________________________
HOLD HARMLESS RELEASE FORM
FOR INTERNS

Name: ________________________________

Address: ________________________________

Birth Date: __________ Phone: _______________ E-Mail: _______________ 

In consideration of your accepting my volunteer participation at TreeHouse Wildlife Center, I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, waive and release all claims for damages which I may have or which I may hereafter accrue to me against TreeHouse Wildlife Center, its sponsors, agents, representatives, or assigns for any damages which may be sustained and suffered by me in connection with my association with or participation in the volunteer program at TreeHouse Wildlife Center.

I further acknowledge that I have been sufficiently informed by TreeHouse Wildlife Center of the laws, rules, and regulations under which the Center operates and that I will abide by those laws, rules, and regulations.

I have been informed of and understand the risks associated with rabies and other diseases in wild animals. If any animal under my care inflicts an injury upon a human, I will report the incident to the Center immediately and will abide by all pertinent policies and regulations. I have received a tetanus shot within the past 10 years and I understand that, in the event of any injury, I should receive a booster if it has been more than 5 years since my last tetanus shot, at my expense.

I attest and verify that I have been sufficiently informed of the risks involved in the program and that I will be sufficiently trained to participate in this program.

Signature of Applicant: ________________________________ Date: __________________

Your signed application and Hold Harmless Release Form can be e-mailed to Adele Moore at treehouse.adele@gmail.com or mailed to TreeHouse Wildlife Center, 23956 Green Acres Road, Dow, Illinois 62022, attn: Adele Moore.