



**Job Title:** Wildlife Rehabilitation Intern

**Company Information:**

*Name* – Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge

*Location* – 3051 Cloptons Circle, Navarre FL 32566

*Phone* – (850) 684-1485

*Website* – [www.emeraldcoastwildliferefuge.org](http://www.emeraldcoastwildliferefuge.org)

**Number of Openings:** 5

**Hours/Week:** Full Time, 40 hours

**Wage/Salary:** Unpaid Internship

**Internship Start Date:** February/March of 2022

**Internship End Date:** May/June of 2022

*\*Exact start and end dates can be flexible with each candidate – as long as the 15 week requirement for the internship is fulfilled.\**

**Job Description:** Wildlife rehabilitation requires tapping into all aspects of animal care, such as husbandry, nursing, and medical care. With this training, the intern will be able to participate in actual patient care and practice hands-on wildlife rehabilitation skills for native Florida wildlife. Interns are responsible for habitat cleaning, diet preparation, hand-raising orphaned wildlife, and providing veterinary care to injured or sick wildlife patients.

**Job Qualifications & Requirements:**

- Must have completed at least one year of undergraduate schooling and be pursuing a relevant degree.  
→ Recent graduates (0-2 years) with a relevant degree are also welcome.
- Ability to control the urge to play with/pet the wildlife.
- Ability to lift, push, or pull 30 pounds.
- Ability to stand, walk, kneel, bend, etc. for extended periods of time.
- Ability to work outdoors in all weather conditions, *especially high heat and humidity.*  
→ Exposure to mosquitoes and other small insects is likely.
- Ability to cope with the preparation of raw fish and meat-based diets for animals in our care.
- Ability to perform basic math calculations.
- Ability to understand basic medical terminology.
- Ability to understand decision-making concerning quality of life issues and euthanasia for patients.
- Once trained, must be able to work with minimal supervision, yet must recognize limitations in knowledge and abilities and ask for help when needed.
- Ability to work independently for long periods of time, as well as work in a professional manner within a team atmosphere with other interns/volunteers/staff.



**Essential Job Functions:**

- Complete daily exhibit/cage cleaning.
- Prepare diets, feed animals, and record appetite/health/behaviors.
- Handle and restrain various wildlife species for examination.
- After hours care for avian and mammalian neonates.
- Create/provide enrichment to ambassador animals and certain long-term rehabilitation patients.
- Perform target training sessions and train various behaviors with ambassador animals.
- Administer medications and treatments to wildlife patients.
- Train new volunteers in various animal care areas of the facility.
- Answer rescue hotline and coordinate wildlife rescues.
- Monitor animal areas and provide exemplary guest service to visitors.
- Provide educational tours about ECWR history and ambassador animals to members of the public.
- Assist education staff when needed for planning/helping with education events.

**Learning Objectives and Benefits:**

- Hands-on wildlife experience through handling, feeding, cleaning, and rehabilitation procedures.
- Understanding of how non-profit animal care organizations operate.
- Avian and mammalian specialized neonatal care.
- Perform initial exams and assessments of injured or orphaned native Florida wildlife.
- Learn to calculate medicine dosages, administer fluids, give injections, bandage techniques, etc.
- Thorough understanding of all aspects of wildlife rehabilitation, including animal husbandry, captive animal behavior, wildlife release criteria, animal nursing, and veterinary medicine.

**Additional Information:** ECWR is a non-profit organization and therefore does not provide housing, transportation, or a stipend for the internship. These costs can be significant out-of-pocket expenses, so please give this due consideration before applying.

**To apply:** Please email a cover letter and resume to our Intern Coordinator, Michelle Pettis, at: [michelle@emeraldcoastwildliferefuge.org](mailto:michelle@emeraldcoastwildliferefuge.org)