



## **Practicum Program at BC SPCA Wild ARC**

Practicums are unique and rewarding volunteer opportunities aimed to gain 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 also participate in learning lunches 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 Enrichment Practicum

All participants will acquire skills including species identification, cage set-up and proper husbandry techniques, safe animal handling, record-keeping, and data analysis. They 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 Enrichment Practicum Option

Wild ARC's enrichment practicum option provides the opportunity for participants to specialize by gaining in-depth husbandry knowledge of a particular wild species, learn the natural history of wild patients 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.

**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 months long and are available during one of the following periods:

April – May

May – June

June – July

July – August

August – September

September – October

*(\*Off-season practicum opportunities 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 practicum 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 MARCH 1 of each year**