**Seasonal Internship Information**

**Interns are a very important part of the work we do.** In fact, admitting over 3,000 mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians, each year is only possible because of caring and hard-working interns. Our interns gain valuable experience, test their career interests (some change career paths), have hands-on experiences with animals, and earn college credit, if their school has a compatible program. Our interns assist the staff in many ways while learning specific skills.

Full-time interns, residential or commuting, receive a weekly stipend of $100. A limited number of double-occupancy apartments with utilities are available on-site. Part-time internships are possible too; stipends vary depending on hours and distance traveled. There’s a minimum of 10 hours per week. Length of internships may vary, but **help is needed the most from April through September**.

As a wildlife center working with mammals, reptiles, birds, and amphibians, we are licensed by USFWS, PA Game Commission, PA Fish and Boat Commission, and USDA to provide humane, professional care for injured, orphaned, and sick wildlife native to Pennsylvania. Education is provided to groups and individuals to improve their understanding and appreciation for wildlife, and to prevent injury or illness to individuals.

Kathy Uhler founded this nonprofit center in her spare bedroom nearly 40 years ago. She and her husband, Eric, have grown a small rescue into a world-class wildlife rehabilitation center on 6.5 acres in eastern Pennsylvania, which serves nine counties. We’re also the only wildlife rehabilitation center that raises orphaned Black Bear cubs.

**Activities interns may assist with, include:**

* Admitting animals and recording information from the rescuer
* Identifying the species of animals
* Assessing of animals upon arrival and during the course of treatment\*
* Creating a treatment plan
* Selecting specific treatments and calculating dosages fluids and medications
* Learning to ensure personal safety and the safety of others
* Developing public interaction, donor development, and communication skills
* Practicing animal husbandry (feeding, watering cleaning, caring for the physical and mental wellbeing of the animals—especially baby birds, squirrels, opossums, and raccoons) \*
* Selecting, preparing, and providing nutritionally-balanced diet to animals
* Observing behaviors, treatments, animal discards (pellets, vomit, wounds, feces, urine) for changes,
* Questioning of anything related to medical, behavioral, interaction, identification of any animal, activity, or treatment
* Learning release criteria for wildlife ready for return to the wild- where, when, why\*
* Releasing wildlife\*
* Assisting at the June Open House event\*
* And clerical tasks; record keeping, writing articles; posting events on relevant websites; setting up and cleaning for programs, tours, and events
* Helping to fix and maintain the facilities
* Using the skills you already have and teaching skills to fellow interns

*Optional, additional activities, when available:*

* Assisting with educational programs and facility tours (Background check may be required)
* Website and social media updates
* Bookkeeping and administrative duties
* Planning and conducting fundraisers or programs

**Prerequisites:**

* Strong work ethic—arrives on time on the days agreed upon, does their best, considers others, sets up and cleans up, team player, positive attitude, and enthusiasm
* Concern for safety of self, others, and animals
* Ability to speak to people without judgement
* A strong sense of curiosity and ability to observe
* Comfortable with blood, guts, raw meat, vegetables, live and dead rodents, and poop

\* **If you don’t have your rabies pre-exposure vaccine, the variety of animals you care for is limited.** A rabies vaccine clinic will be held three Saturday in April. Two weeks after the 3-shot series is complete you will be approved to work with rabies vector species (bats, skunk, raccoons, red fox, gray fox, bobcat, woodchucks). Rabies vaccination is required for working with mammals at a veterinary clinic, zoo, nature center, and other animal-related jobs.

**To Apply, submit an application packet, which includes:**

1. Completed application
2. Two letters of recommendation with contact information
3. Cover email, include anything you would like us to know.

Send your complete packet to Rebecca Lesko

* 1. via email, poconowildlife@gmail.com. Save the file as a pdf with your last name added to the beginning of the current file name.
	2. Or, mail to:
	Rebecca Lesko
	Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Ctr.

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