

WCNC Wildlife Rehabilitation Internship

Spring/Summer & Fall 2026 | Position Description

WCNC is pleased to offer internships for the 2026 busy season.

Term 1: April 13 - August 2

Term 2: August 3 - November 22

About WCNC

The Wildlife Center of the North Coast is a licensed nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation hospital and educational facility. The rehab clinic specializes in aquatic birds and sees between 500-1000 patients annually, most of which are admitted in the spring/summer and early fall months during "baby season". WCNC is located in rural Olney, OR, just south of Astoria. Hours of operation are 9-5 daily during the summer. The rehab clinic staff consists of the Rehab Coordinator, Senior Wildlife Rehabilitator, and Wildlife Rehabilitator. Animal care volunteers work in shifts (9-1 and 1-5) to assist with daily hospital tasks, such as cleaning and diet preparation.

Objectives

Interns will:

1. Gain hands-on experience in wildlife rehabilitation
2. Build animal care skills and knowledge relevant to careers in veterinary medicine and wildlife conservation
3. Complete a project of their choosing to benefit WCNC's rehab clinic operations

Position Description

Term 1: 4/13 - 8/2

Orientation: Sat 4/11

Workshop dates: 4/25, 5/9, 5/23, 6/6, 6/20, 7/11, 7/25, 8/1

Term 2: 8/3 - 11/22

Orientation: Sat 8/1

Workshop dates: 8/15, 8/29, 9/12, 9/26, 10/10, 10/24, 11/7, 11/21

Interns are assigned 2 full-day shifts (8 hours, generally 9am-5pm) per week in the rehab clinic to assist with medical exams and procedures, patient care, cleaning, diet preparation, and other activities as assigned. Interns will also meet with rehab staff on site every 2 weeks for an afternoon workshop. Workshop topics will be announced in advance and interns should come prepared with relevant questions.

Interns will also complete an independent project of their choice to benefit the rehab clinic.

Example ideas include:

- Construct perches for indoor or outdoor housing
- Create puppets or decoys to use for rearing young animals
- Make a photo guide to diet preparation
- Compile a database of blood values at intake for certain species

Interns are welcome to assist each other with their projects. Project selection should be completed by the end of the fourth week. At the final workshop, interns will present their projects to the group.

At the conclusion of the internship, interns will have gained experience to add to their resume and may request a letter of recommendation from the rehab staff. Interns are welcome to continue their work with WCNC as clinic volunteers.

Internships are not limited to high schoolers and college students - anyone of any age is encouraged to apply! In summers past, existing volunteers have made some of the most prepared and skilled interns.

Qualifications

- Works well in a team of staff, volunteers, and other interns
- Reliable and accountable
- Flexible, adaptable to changing priorities
- Can work quietly, respectfully, and efficiently around patients
- Has transportation to and from shifts - carpooling is encouraged
- Can work two weekly 8-hour shifts and attend half-day workshops every other weekend
- Strongly recommended: up-to-date Covid vaccines and tetanus booster

A Note on Avian Influenza (HPAI)

Concerned about bird flu? So are we! WCNC has admitted a handful of patients with suspected or confirmed HPAI. These patients stay outside during intake and do not enter the clinic. Staff

dons PPE to handle these patients, which are euthanized promptly and may be sent to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Wildlife Health Lab for testing. Interns will be taught to recognize possible signs of disease as well as proper PPE and precautions that WCNC takes to minimize health risks, but are not expected to handle any potential HPAI cases. Interns may observe the intake and euthanasia process from a safe distance if they wish. Fortunately, so far HPAI cases have only accounted for a few patients per year since 2022.

As a preventative measure, interns should designate a pair of shoes or boots to wear only at WCNC. A few pairs of boots are available to borrow from WCNC if needed. This is especially important if an intern has birds at home.

To Apply

Please email your resume and cover letter as attachments to ginger@coastwildlife.org and include "Internship Application 2026 - Term [1 or 2]" in the subject line.

Term 1 (4/13 - 8/2)

Deadline to apply: 2/7

Term 2 (8/3 - 11/22)

Deadline to apply: 5/31