

MARINE MAMMAL Rescue & Rehabilitation INTERNSHIP

California Wildlife Center

Winter Session – one position
Spring Session – three positions
Summer Session – one position

December 21st through February 1st
March 3rd through May 25th
May 26th through August 10th



Application Deadlines: Accepted until the positions are filled.

Time Commitment: 28-40 hours per week, four to five days per week
(Caseload dependent)

Summary/Program Description

The California Wildlife Center (CWC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of injured, orphaned, and sick native wildlife. CWC fulfills this mission through marine mammal rescue and rehabilitation, and treatment of avian and terrestrial wildlife in our rehabilitation hospital. This internship will provide an exciting and challenging educational experience in the marine mammal rehabilitation field. Working closely with the Marine Mammal program staff, individuals are exposed to various aspects of pinniped stranding response and rehabilitation, including logistics, assessment, capture, restraint, transportation, husbandry, data collection, and public relations. The marine mammal team also perform rescues on native marine avian species, providing interns a view into the skills necessary for capture and transport of these species. *To minimize cross contamination potential, all rehabilitative care of non-marine mammal species is handled solely by the hospital personnel.*

Intern Responsibilities

Under supervision of Marine Mammal staff, duties will include:

- Assessing stranded marine mammals on the beach.
- Assisting or leading responder teams in the capture and handling of stranded marine mammals needing medical attention.
- Providing appropriate transport conditions for stranded marine mammals to the rehabilitation facility.
- Maintaining detailed records of daily activities including reports of stranding, human interaction, and patient health status.
- Performing daily husbandry tasks in the marine mammal enclosures for patients admitted to the on-site rehabilitation facility.
- Working closely with Marine Mammal department staff to provide patient-specific rehabilitative care.
- Adhering to all safety guidelines set forth by California Wildlife Center and the Marine Mammal Department.
- Participating in releases of healthy marine mammal patients back to their Pacific Ocean home.
- Maintaining good rapport with representatives of various public agencies, as well as members of the public.
- Assisting with marine mammal necropsy and sample collection.

Winter Session will focus on rescue and rehabilitation of California sea lion pups, and facility preparation for the busy season.
Spring Session will focus on in-house rehabilitation of Northern elephant seal pups. All other species and age classes rescued during this session are transported to other rehabilitation centers. Spring stranding months are the busiest and most demanding.
Summer Session will focus on responding to larger California sea lions and releasing rehabilitated Northern elephant seals.

Intern Qualifications

This internship is open to all applicants at least 18 years of age or older. Undergraduate students and non-students alike are encouraged to apply. If an intern intends to receive academic credit, they will be responsible for making all arrangements with their educational institutions. Due to the unpredictable nature of marine mammal stranding response, interns may be requested to work beyond their normal scheduled hours. Interns must be able and willing to work flexible hours including weekends and holidays. Interns will be required to have good physical strength and the ability to lift/carry 50 lbs. Interns need to have the ability to multitask and work in a fast-paced environment. Animal care and/or marine mammal experience not required.

Housing/Transportation

Housing and transportation are the sole responsibility of the intern. Must have own transportation and current drivers' license.

Application Process

Interested individuals should submit the following:

- Letter of intent
- Resume
- Proof of COVID Vaccination

Your letter of intent must state the session(s) that you are available/applying for and detail your interests and experience.

Submit the above items via email to:

Heather Henderson / hhenderson@cawildlife.org

Visit our website for more information about the programs at CWC: www.cawildlife.org