

**YOUR GUIDE TO BEING AN
INTERN AT CRITTER CARE
WILDLIFE SOCIETY**



**CRITTER CARE
WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

REG Charity #896439387RR0001

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Who are we and what do we do?

Our mission: Rescue, Rehabilitate, and Release.

Critter Care Wildlife Society, based in Langley, BC, are a nonprofit wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centre that specialises in the treatment, care, and release of injured, orphaned, and ill native BC mammal species. We offer an unpaid internship program for individuals with a passion for wildlife and the drive to make a difference. In joining us, you may be involved in the treatment and care of many species including squirrels, skunks, opossums, raccoons, black bears, and more. Critter Care intakes around 3000 animals each year and, with your help, they are given the care they need to recover, return to their native habitat, and get a second chance at life. You will gain hands on experience in wildlife care and handling, administering medications, creating enrichment, and bottle and syringe feeding orphaned animals plus so much more. You will make lifelong friends from around the globe. You will also receive a written reference at the end of your stay to help you in future job/volunteering endeavours.



A day in the life of an intern at Critter Care

Your day to day can vary heavily depending on time of year and which/how many animals you are working with/ are in care. Below is a glimpse into a day in the life of an intern during baby season (April – August, our busiest season).

6am - During baby season, this will often be the time of your first feed. You may have multiple animals to feed before the official working day begins. The amount and timing of feeds will depend on the animals age and weight, and the number of feeds will drop as they grow.

8:45am - Morning Meeting - This is when the official working day begins. By 8:45am you are expected to have finished all of your morning feeds and made sure all your animals have fresh food, water, and a potty change. You are also expected to be dressed, with your breakfast and dishes done and ready to start work



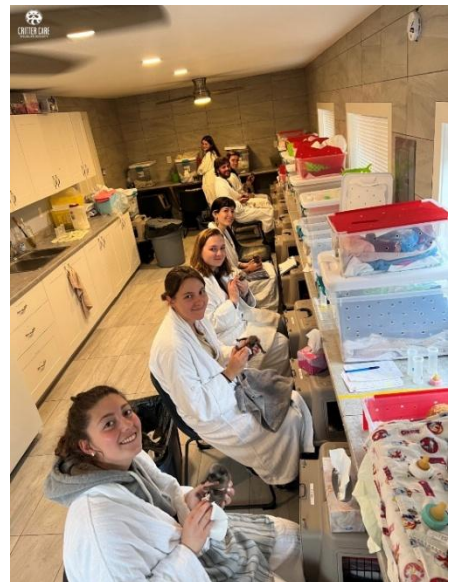
by this time. All interns who are scheduled to work that day will gather on deck for a brief meeting with one of the members of staff and we will go over the tasks list for that day and any important matters that need discussing.

9am - Morning Clean - This is done every morning after our meeting. The entire team gathers to do a clean of the triage centre and all nurseries/facilities. The tasks remain the same for this each day, but we mix up who is assigned to each task daily. Although we are closed to the public for animal viewing, it is important we keep the centre clean and presentable for people bringing in animals, the interns themselves, and for disease control.

Daily Tasks - Once morning clean is complete, the interns will disperse to start their daily tasks. The jobs are shared among all interns and can include laundry, food preparation, cooking chicken and eggs, sorting through/putting away donations, and organizing closets, etc. On top of the daily tasks, interns will have a to-do list with other jobs that they are to work on through the day. Please note that not all the work here is animal based. There will be a lot of cleaning and site maintenance.

Cage Cleaning and Animal Feeds - As well as your daily tasks, you will be expected to regularly clean your animal cages and attend any milk feeds needed for babies in your care. Cages are to be deep cleaned every other day unless stated otherwise. We sometimes get volunteers in to assist with these cleans. You may have several milk feeds throughout the day at different times and with different species. It is very important that you are on time to all of your feeds.

Breaks - You will get 3 breaks throughout the working day. You are allowed one 15-minute break mid-morning and one 15-minute break mid afternoon. You also get a 30-minute lunch break (including cooking time). For now, these breaks are not scheduled but occasionally in the summer you will have set break times. This is to ensure not everyone is on break at the same time and that there is adequate room in the kitchen.



Evening Clean - Once tasks are done for the day, interns gather again to do evening clean. This is the same as morning clean just at the end of the day. This clean is done to make sure everything is cleaned down before we close for the night. The start time for evening clean heavily varies. In winter it can be as early as mid-afternoon and, in the summer, it typically starts around 7/8pm but can start much later depending on the workload for the day.

Once evening clean is done, it is time to ensure all your animals have been given their dinner, fresh water, and a potty change, etc. before enjoying your downtime! Please bear in mind you may still have milk feeds after the working day has ended.

Please Note - Not all the work at Critter Care is animal based. There will be a lot of cleaning, site maintenance and food preparation. The time of year you come can heavily influence which species you work with, as well as how many. For stays between March – September, we require a minimum of 8 weeks commitment. During this season you can expect to see more animal intakes, particularly milk fed babies. During October – February we only require a minimum of 4 weeks commitment and as this is our quieter season, we see significantly less animal intakes. The extra down time in winter can open more learning opportunities as staff will have more time to organise lessons and training. Please bear all of this in mind when deciding which time of year you are wanting to come.



Accommodation and Food

Critter Care currently has 4 intern cabins. We can house up to 30 interns in total at one time. Accommodation is provided as part of the program at no extra cost. The cabins are dorm style with bunk beds and storage. **Cabins are unisex.** Every few months we do a cabin shuffle to mix up who is living in each cabin so that you get to experience living with different people during your time here. You are expected to keep your cabins clean at all times. Cabins are frequently inspected by staff, without notice, to ensure they are tidy and free from clutter and fire hazards. You are not to hang out in cabins that you are not assigned to. This rule allows cabins to be a quiet space for people trying to rest. Wi-Fi is accessible around site and in all cabins. You will be given the Wi-Fi passwords upon arrival.



There are two intern bathrooms onsite. Due to restrictions on hot water, we do have a shower schedule for interns. You will only shower every other day. We also ask that people limit their time in the bathroom to 15 minutes.

There is one intern kitchen. There is also a common room for socializing in the basement. It is set up with couches, a smart tv, board games, DVDs, etc., We also have a separate study room with a computer, couch, and desk for anyone needing to complete schoolwork.



Basic foods are provided for interns, free of charge. This includes but is not limited to bread, butter, milk (including milk alternatives), rice, pasta, noodles, eggs, and cheese. We also have food items that are frequently donated such as fruit, vegetables, bread, and meat. However, there is no certainty on what will be donated/available. Please note, for specialised diets, (i.e. vegan) or if you are wanting other items such as sweets, chocolate, meat, etc., you are expected to buy these items yourself. We are around a 20-minute drive from all the local grocery stores. Some stores, such as Walmart, will deliver to our centre! There are two industrial washers and dryers each on site which can be used once a week per intern after working hours for personal laundry. You will be scheduled a day for your personal laundry. Please note, these machines are also used for the animal laundry but are cleaned out with bleach/Prevail after each load. You also have the option of using a laundromat, but you would be solely responsible for this, including getting there and back.



Scheduling - You are scheduled to work 5 days a week with two non-consecutive days off. For example, you may have Wednesdays and Saturdays off. The schedule is consistent and your days off will most likely stay the same throughout your entire stay but are subject to change. If you need specific dates off, please let staff know and we will do our best, but it is not a guarantee. Interns staying for more than 4 months are entitled to 1 week off and after 6 months you are entitled to another week off (totalling 2 weeks). This is to be discussed in advance with staff, and we typically avoid weeks off during peak baby season. Please note, you are still expected to look after your animals on your days off. In most cases you may have a co-parent who can cover your days off but, again, this is not a guarantee. You are free to go off site and explore on your days off provided your animals are taken care of. Always make sure you sign out.

Location - We are not located within walking distance of any stores, just the adjoining regional park. Central Langley is around a 20-minute drive from our centre where you will find plenty of grocery stores, malls, thrift stores, and lots of restaurants. Most interns use Uber for going off site or their own car if applicable.



Items to Bring

Whilst we do not have an official uniform for our interns, we do expect interns to follow our dress code. Whilst on site, during working hours and when you are with your animals, interns are **not** allowed to wear tank tops, crop tops, shorts/skirts/dresses, or open toed shoes. Please remember this is a workplace and we are open to the public, so you are expected to dress appropriately.

We recommend bringing:

Old clothes that you do not mind getting dirty or ruined/bleach stained

T-shirts, long sleeved tops, jumpers/sweaters, joggers, leggings, cargos, etc. (weather dependent)

A pair of sturdy close toed work shoes i.e. boots or trainers/runners

Lots of socks

Raincoat

Canadian power adapter

Toothbrush and toothpaste

Toiletries - please note, there is limited storage space so try not to bring too much

Winter gloves, scarf, and hat for the colder seasons

What We Provide:

Towels

Bedding

Pillows

Blankets

Wellies/rubber boots

We do have a few spare head lamps, etc.

Scrubs/rubber gloves

Basic medicines i.e. cold and flu, allergy, pain relief



Travel and Health

Critter Care Wildlife Society is based in Langley, BC. Our full address is: 481 216th Street, Langley, BC, Canada, V2Z 1R6. For international interns travelling to Canada, we recommend getting a direct flight into Vancouver International Airport (YVR). There is also an airport based in Abbotsford (YXX) but as it is a smaller airport, there are fewer incoming flights. If a transfer is required, we recommend transferring within Europe or within Canada. We are unfortunately not able to do airport pickups, so we recommend getting an Uber or taxi directly from the airport to our centre. It does not matter what time your flight arrives. If it is in the middle of the day or middle of the night, we will ensure that there is an intern or member of staff ready and available to greet you upon arrival and show you to your cabin to help you get situated. You will have your first day or two off, allowing you to unpack, adjust to the time change, and settle in.

For travel, we can provide you with a customs letter if needed. Just request one over email!

For stays less than 6 months - you will need an eTA (Electronic Travel Authorization). These are quick and straightforward to get. Make sure you use the official Canadian government website when applying.

For stays more than 6 months - we recommend looking into the IEC (International Experience Canada) or working holiday visa. These can take a lot longer to process but are often valid for 2 years.

** Required visas/permits can vary depending on your country of origin, so please always check the official Canadian government website to be sure**

Vaccinations and Health Insurance

The only mandatory vaccination required to come to CCWS is an up-to-date Tetanus shot. The COVID vaccine is recommended but not required. We do not require interns to have the rabies vaccine. Rabies is rarely seen in any of the species we work with, so it is not a cause for concern. Interns are required to organise their own health/travel insurance before coming to Critter Care.

Thank you for dedicating your time and efforts to be an intern at Critter Care Wildlife Society. We could not do this without you. We look forward to welcoming you!

If you have any further questions regarding the internship, please contact our Internship Coordinator at crittercare7@shaw.ca

