

**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 not-for-profit wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centre that specialises in the treatment, care and release of injured, orphaned and sick native BC mammal species. We offer an internship program for individuals with a passion for wildlife and the drive to make a difference. In joining us you will be involved in the treatment and care of many species including squirrels, skunks, opossums, raccoon, black bears and many more. Critter Care intakes around 3000 animals each year and with your help they are given the care they need to recover and return to their native habitat and get a second chance at life. You will gain hands on experience with caring and handling wildlife, administering medications, creating enrichment and bottle and syringe feeding orphaned animals as well as much more. You will make lifelong friends from across the globe. You will also receive a written reference at the end of your stay to help you future job/ volunteering opportunities.



A day in the life of an intern at Critter Care

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

6am - During baby season this can 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 depends on the animals age and weight and 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 of your animals have fresh food, water and a potty change. You are also expected to be dressed, ready, breakfast and dishes done by this time. Everyone gathers on deck for a brief meeting with one of the members of staff to go over the tasks list for that day and any important matters that need discussing.

9am - Morning clean - 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 tasks daily. Although we are closed to the public it is important to keep everywhere clean and presentable for people bringing in animals, the interns themselves as well as disease control.

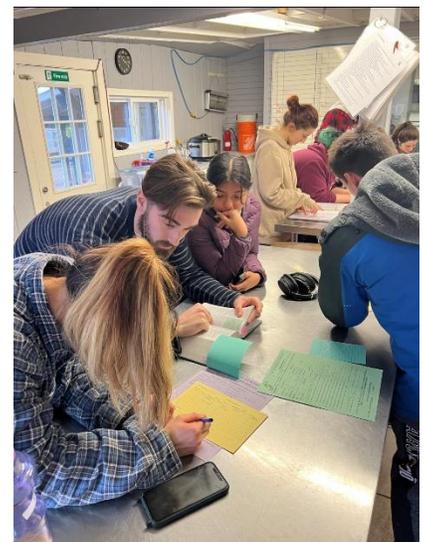


Daily tasks- Once morning clean is complete interns disperse to start their daily tasks for the day. The jobs are shared among all interns and can include laundry, food preparation, cooking chicken and eggs, sorting through and putting away donations and organizing closets etc. On top of the daily tasks interns will also have a to do list with other jobs on that they are to work on through the day.

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 any 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. You may have several milk feeds throughout the day at different times

and with different species and it is very important that you are on time to all of your feeds.

Breaks - You 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 to ensure not everyone is on break at the same time and so 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 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 of your animals have been given their dinner, fresh water and potty change etc. before enjoying your downtime! Please bare 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 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 due to baby season. 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. Please bear this in mind when deciding which time of year you are wanting to come for.

Accommodation and food

Critter Care currently has 4 intern cabins housing up to 30 interns in total at one period of time.

Accommodation is provided as part of the program at no extra cost. It is dorm style with bunk beds. **Cabins are unisex.** We try to mix up who is living in each cabin every few months so that you get to experience living with as many different people as possible 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 you are not assigned to, this allows cabins to be a quiet space for people trying to rest. Wi-Fi is accessible around site and in all cabins.



There are two intern bathrooms on site. Due to restrictions on hot water, we have a shower schedule for interns to shower every other day. We also ask people limit their time in the washroom to 15 minutes.

There is one intern kitchen so bare this in mind for cooking. There is also a common room downstairs in the basement set up with couches, smart tv, board games, DVD's etc., for socializing as well as a study room with a computer for anyone needing to do school work.



Basic food amenities are provided free of charge including but not limited to: bread, butter, milk (including milk alternatives), rice, eggs, cheese etc. As well as foods that are frequently donated such as

fruit, vegetables and meat. However, there is not certainty on what will be donated/available. Please note for specialised diets i.e. Vegan or If you are just wanting other items such as sweets, chocolate, meat etc. you are expected to buy this yourself. We are around a 20 minute drive from all the local groceries stores or some, such as Walmart, will deliver to our centre! There are two industrial washers and dryers on site which can be used once a week per intern for personal laundry after working hours. 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. There is also the option of using a laundromat but you would be responsible for this yourself including getting there and back etc.

Scheduling - You are scheduled to work 5 days a week with two non-consecutive days off. For example you may have Wednesday and Saturdays off. The schedule is consistent and your days off will most likely stay the same throughout your entire stay but is subject to change. If you are needed 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, after 6 months you are allowed another week off. This is to be discussed in advance with staff and we typically avoid weeks off during peak baby season due to the attachment of babies in your care. 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 this is not a guarantee. You are free to go off site and explore on your days off just make sure you sign out and that your animals are taken care of.



Location - We are not located within walking distance of any stores just the regional park next door. 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 food places. Most interns use Uber for going off site or their own car if applicable.



Items to bring

During working hours and when you are with your animals you are not allowed to wear tank tops, shorts or open toed shoes.

We recommend bringing:

Old clothes that you do not mind getting dirty or ruined
a pair of sturdy close toed work shoes i.e. boots or trainers

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

Head lamp

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 meds, pain relief

Travel and health

Critter Care Wildlife Society is based in Langley, BC. Our full address is: 481 216th Street, Langley, V2Z 1R6. For international interns travelling to Canada, we recommend getting a direct flight into Vancouver 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 settled. You will have your first day or two off, allowing you to unpack, adjust to the time change and settle in.

Please note 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. These are quick and straight forward to get. Make sure you use the official government website when applying.

For stays more than 6 months - we recommend looking into the IEC/ 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 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 not 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 come and 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.