



# CRITTER CARE

## WILDLIFE SOCIETY



**“Every life is a miracle; every life deserves a second chance”**

*-Gail Martin*

481 216<sup>TH</sup> Street Langley, BC Canada V2Z 1R6  
REG Charity #896439387RR0001

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## Who are we and what do we do?

Critter Care Wildlife Society specializes in the treatment, care, and release of sick, injured, and orphaned native mammal species of British Columbia's Southern and Lower mainland.

Some of species include, Raccoons, River Otters, Bobcats, Squirrels, Chipmunks, Fawns, Beavers, Black Bears, Rabbits, Hares, Mice, Weasels, Marmots, Coyotes and much more

We are the only facility in BC specializing in the care of mammals and one of only three bear rehabilitation facilities in the province.

In addition to rehabilitation, we are involved in community-based education programs at primary levels. We work to educate the public through involvement in civic groups, senior's homes and assist other wildlife management organizations. Our live on-site volunteer program has reached a new landmark this year, extending invitations to more than 100+ young adults from every continent on the planet par Antarctica! So far.





## Our mission

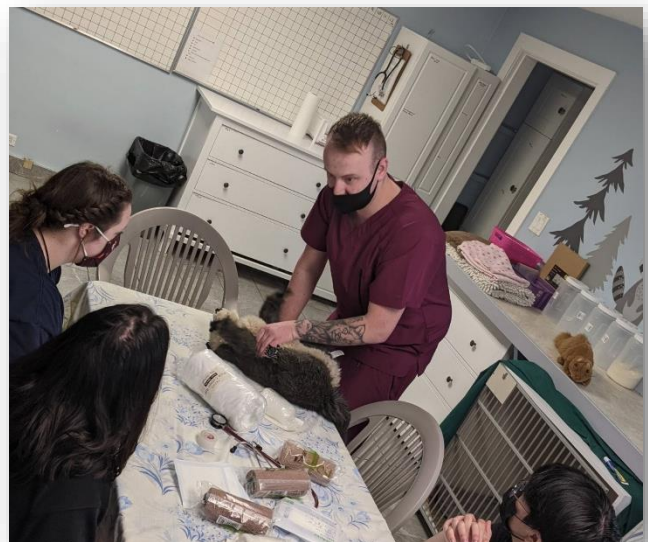


For the last 30 years we have been a part of the Greater British Columbia Community serving its people and its wildlife through education and rehabilitation. We are principally volunteer driven and depend solely on the support of the public. Our motto is "Every life is a miracle; every life deserves a second chance"

We strive to help all the orphaned and injured wildlife we receive.

## Wildlife Education

During your time at Critter Care you will be taught a varied of rehabilitation techniques including how to syringe and bottle feed neonate wildlife. Also, there are opportunities to learn about injections, medications and how to identify signs of illness and disease in wildlife. Furthermore, Volunteers are instructed in facets of animal care, husbandry, examinations, therapy, zoonoses, diet, natural history, and rearing.



## **Wildlife Rehab**

Critical care is a large part of any good rehab facility and Critter Care is no exception. Each year we deal with thousands of animals that have been severely debilitated very often because of human- animal conflicts, including animals hit by cars, animals accidentally (and intentionally) poisoned.

Our Team Critter Care has a full-time staff of five Animal Care Supervisors and our Executive Director, Gail Martin. In addition, multiple Maintenance staff, and Office administrators.



## **What to expect during your time at Critter Care Wildlife Society**

Depending on the time of year you wish to come will be different experiences. Baby season is the most popular which typically is from April – September. Where orphaned animals are brought into care to be hand raised and released back into the wild.

Quieter months are from Oct- March. Typically it is late babies that could not be released before winter, and so will overwinter at the center until spring and caring for injured adult animals that are struggling through the winter.



## A day in the life of a live-in volunteer

### (Baby Season)

6am: During baby season this will often be your first feed. You may have multiple species to feed all before morning meeting. Depending on the species you have and their ages, you may be feeding up to 15 times a day!



8.45 morning meeting – Everyone should be done breakfast and have fed and changed the potties of any animals in their care. This is where the interns are read the “To Do List” which will describe what tasks are to be done that workday. It is also a good opportunity for interns and supervisors to discuss any important matters or any events we have coming up!

Morning Clean- The triage centre has high traffic all day, everyday! It takes a whole team to keep the centre clean. After morning meeting the interns will share the jobs and clean the entire house top to bottom to ensure it is presentable to the public, as well as comfortable for themselves

Cage Cleaning- we often have volunteers attend the centre to assist us with cage cleaning, but it is inevitable that you will have to clean a cage or two! You may be cleaning your Raccoons, Squirrels, Beavers, Bears or maybe all the above!





Daily jobs- the daily jobs are shared amongst interns to ensure everyone is contributing to keeping the centre running. Jobs include laundry, cooking eggs or chicken, making food plates, organising the closets, sorting the deck, changing boot dips and so on. It is our job to schedule these tasks as needed around any animals in your care and the To Do List.

Lunch- your lunch will be scheduled so that not everyone is in the kitchen at once! You are allowed a 30-minute lunch break, and two 15-minute breaks throughout the day.

Afternoon- More cleaning, the To Do List, hopefully a rescue or exam and we try to schedule in enrichment and team building as often as we can!

Evening clean- The centre is to be cleaned top to bottom once again. Depending on the season, this may be done in the middle of the day too! After evening clean it is time to give the animals their dinner. Potties are to be changed and some animals may be locked up depending on the weather.



## Accommodation and food

Critter Care Wildlife society have 5 cabins on site that can house up to 30 volunteers per period. Accommodation is provided as part of the program. It is in dorm style accommodation with bunk beds. The cabins are unisex. Cabins are inspected frequently to ensure that they are tidy and free of clutter.

There are two bathrooms on site. Because of the restriction on hot water with up to 30 volunteers will be able to shower once every two days.

Basic food is provided items such as pasta, bread, butter, milk, rice etc. As well as food donated which can include meats, vegetables, fruits. However, there is no certainty on what will be available. Most volunteers that have been here do not need to purchase food unless there is something specific, they want e.g. chocolate.

We have two commercial washers and dryers which can be used once per week after work hours.





## Down time

2 days off a week are given for live on site Volunteers, they are not consecutive and spread out across the week. For example, you may have a Monday and Friday off. However, if you are assigned animals, you will still have to care/feed them on your days off, just like a pet. However, you are excluded from any other duties.



We have a lot of board games, DVDs, a TV, Wii, puzzles, and books available in our common area. There is also access to WIFI. While you may have limited downtime, you will find fun things to do on your own or in groups.

Please note, while you are welcome to use your laptop or other devices on your off time, please respect your roommates and refrain from skyping or talking on the phone late at night in cabins.

You may use the computers/printer in admin if required but only after work hours. We are not responsible for the safety of any personal items. Please keep them safe. Critter Care provides towels and bedding so you will not need to bring these with you.

A swimsuit. In the summer we sometimes set up a pool. Interns with cars also enjoy going to the beach or swimming pool. Note

these are not within walking distance- a car would be required. We are not within walking distance of anything except the national park.

Our neighbours across the road sometimes have a food van in summer but otherwise there is nothing close by. You may get a chance for a lift to the shops, but you may also consider having money for a taxi if you wish to leave site. It is roughly a 20min drive to town.

Headphones. You may have one headphone in while you work but never two for safety reasons. And none while you feed. This means no over the ear's headphones. Many interns find Bluetooth headphones ideal as there are no cords to get caught on anything while you work.



At Critter Care we have a common room for the interns to socialize, a BBQ recreational area, trampoline, board games, PlayStation, swimming pool (summer) and pet goats. Critter Care is not located near public transport, so either a personal car, uber/ taxi services would be used if you need to go to town.

## Items to bring

During work no vests, tank tops, shorts or flip flops can be worn working with animals

- Old clothes that you won't mind getting ruined
- A sturdy pair of close toed shoes
- Lots of socks
- Flip flops for use in the communal showers
- Raincoats (winter/ Autumn)
- Waterproof trouser (winter/ Autumn)
- Toiletries, please do not bring excessive amounts.
- Toothbrushes and toothpastes
- Head lamp or small flashlight
- A reliable alarm clock (can be your phone)
- Canadian power adapter
- Maybe an extension cord if you are on the top bunk.
- Extra strength hand moisturizer.

If you are not a Canadian citizen, please bring \$100 - \$200 cash with you in case you require medical attention at a clinic. Up to date tetanus shots and Covid-19 shots are required, and Canadian citizens do not have to pay for them.

Critter Care provides basic medicines such as headache, diarrhea, cold and flu, and allergy medications etc. If you have any specific requirements such as muscle relaxants, migraine, or other medications you should bring these with you. Extra strength moisturizer or hand cream– you will be cleaning with bleach a lot, and although we provide rubber gloves, many interns find their hands get extremely dry and cracked.



## Travel / Health

- The closest international airports are YVR Vancouver International airport & YXX Abbotsford International airport
- You must have your own travel/ health insurance(s)
- Visa typically used are an ETA for less than 6 months or an IEC for longer. We do not do Visa application for volunteers, however, can provide you with a customs letter.
- Two staff members are first aid trained on site.
- We have a health and safety officer that ensures all protocols are kept up to date.
- All Volunteers, staff etc. Must be Fully or partially Vaccinated against Covid-19. Proof will be required.
- A criminal check will be needed.
- A full application is to be filled out, which contains site rules etc.
- You must have an up-to-date tetanus shot

**If you have a couple of months to give,  
give them to orphaned and injured wildlife  
and make a difference today!**

