



Wildlife Hospital Volunteer Position

Think Wild is a Wildlife Hospital and Conservation Center located just East of Bend. Our mission is to inspire the High Desert community to protect and care for native wildlife through education, conservation, and rescue/rehabilitation. Think Wild's Wildlife Hospital will provide treatment to mammals, songbirds and raptors in 2020 and expand to include waterfowl and corvid in 2021.

The Position

A Wildlife Hospital Volunteer assists staff with the rehabilitation of injured and orphaned native wildlife. Volunteers typically work one 4 hour weekly shift with another volunteer (1-4 volunteers per shift), and work under the supervision of the Director of Wildlife Rehabilitation. This role is mainly husbandry based, including but not limited to cleaning, diet preparation, handling and restraint of wildlife for procedures, and assisting with procedures as the volunteer becomes more experienced. Volunteers may also be asked to perform some administrative tasks as needed (stocking supplies, inputting data, updating medical charts, etc.).

Primary Responsibilities

Under the direction of the Director of Wildlife Rehabilitation, help provide care for injured and orphaned wildlife. Majority of tasks are husbandry and cleaning, but as volunteers progress, more opportunities to learn and work will occur.

Qualifications

- Work well with staff/volunteers/ public, and be a good team player.
- Able to volunteer on a recurring schedule (same weekly shift) with few absences for at least 1 year commitment (we can work with you depending on level of commitment). We ask that if you are unable to make your shift or are taking a trip, give us notice in advance if possible provided and make a reasonable attempt to find coverage with another volunteer.
- Experience handling animals or working in a veterinary hospital is helpful and preferred.
- Current tetanus vaccination (within the last 10 years) is strongly recommended.



- Rabies prophylaxis series is recommended though not required (is required if you want to work with rabies vector species such as skunks, bobcats, bats, foxes, and raccoons).

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND WORK ENVIRONMENT

Wildlife hospitals are often fast-paced, intense, and an emotional environment for staff, volunteers, and members of the public. Volunteers should be able to:

- Stand on a solid hard-surface floor for around 4+ hours/day
- Frequent need to stand, stoop, twist, walk, lift large and potentially heavy kennels and other objects up to 25 pounds without support, and 50 pounds with support.
- Capture, handling, and restraint of sick, injured, and orphaned wild animals. Exposure to zoonosis, bites, scratches, and other potential injury.
- Pre-exposure rabies vaccinations are required to handle or be exposed to rabies-vector animals (including but not limited to bobcats, skunks, bats, foxes, and other mammals).
- Exposure to allergens normally present in an environment containing wildlife.
- Think Wild is a drug-free, smoke-free environment.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

- Frequent standing, fine dexterity, walking, lifting, sitting, reaching, pushing/pulling, balancing, and twisting. Occasionally requires carrying, kneeling, foot controls, bending, and crouching. Rarely requires climbing.

NON-PHYSICAL DEMANDS

- Frequently requires time pressures, frequent change of tasks, performing multiple tasks simultaneously, working closely with others as part of a collaborative team, tedious or exacting work, and noisy/distracting environment. Occasionally requires emergency situations.

Hours and Professional Development Benefits

Hours



Shifts are available every day of the week. Applicants should be available for the same weekly shift during a one year period with limited absences.

During the off-season (September - March), 2 shifts are available each day.

1st Shift: 8:00am - 12pm

2nd Shift: 12:00pm - 4pm

During the busy-season (April - August), 3 shifts are available each day.

1st Shift: 8:00am - 12pm

2nd Shift: 12pm - 4pm

3rd Shift: 4pm - 8pm

8A-12P and 12P-4P shifts are year round, while the additional shift in the busy season (4P-8P) are seasonal - but expected to substitute for at least 1 shift a month during the off-season to maintain skillset. Option for weekly seasonal volunteers to obtain a regular year-round shift is possible and encouraged.

Benefits of volunteering in the Wildlife Hospital:

- Treat and rehabilitate native birds and mammals - providing species specific care for birds and animals that become orphaned or injured so they can be successfully released back into the wild.
- Learn about the field of wildlife rehabilitation and conservation, meeting and working with community members dedicated to protecting and caring for wildlife in Central Oregon.
- Constant learning and improving skills of wildlife rehabilitation, gaining valuable skills in animal husbandry, assisting with medical procedures, and animal handling and restraint.
- Act as a voice for wildlife to strengthen advocacy for conservation as a Wildlife Hospital Volunteer.

EEO POLICY

It is the policy of Think Wild to afford equal opportunities to all qualified individuals without regard to their race, color, ancestry, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, citizen status, veteran status,



gender identity, gender expression, or any other characteristic or status that is protected by federal, state, or local law.

Position Availability

1-4 volunteer spots are available on each shift, every day of the week. This means Think Wild is searching for 28 year-round volunteers, and 14 seasonal volunteers. Additional volunteers may be added on a waitlist, and if desired, they can be substitutes covering for any shift which opens up while a regularly scheduled volunteer is unavailable.

Special Schedule For Covid-19

1 volunteer spot is available for each shift. This is the schedule we will be using for the foreseeable future. Meaning we will need at least 21 volunteers to help assist with animal care/cleaning/husbandry. Additional volunteers may be added on a waitlist, and if desired, they can be substitutes covering for any shift which opens up while a regularly scheduled volunteer is unavailable.

Apply

If you have not already done so, please fill out the volunteer application at:

<https://www.thinkwildco.org/education/volunteer/>

Questions?

Please email our Director of Wildlife Rehabilitation, Pauline Baker, with any questions.

Pauline@thinkwildco.org

Thank you so much for your interest in helping us conserve our Central Oregon wildlife.