

## 2) California Wolf Center Animal Care Internship

### Job Description

- Help with daily behavior observations, hands off health checks/observations of the resident wolves.
- Help with the routine animal care. This includes removing scat from animal habitats, removing uneaten food, cleaning and scrubbing wolf water tubs, weighing wolf food, and feeding the wolves.
- Keep the animal care and work areas clean and neat.
- Provide the resident wolves with enrichment while working within the enrichment protocol. You will help enrich the daily lives of the resident wolves and help with record keeping for enrichment.
- Help keep the animal food inventory accurate and up to date, help schedule food pick ups and perform food pick ups (this will require you to drive the California Wolf Center's truck).
- Help with grounds and habitat maintenance. This varies from season to season and includes, but is not limited to, helping fix broken fencing or pipes, clearing brush for fire defense, and maintaining trails and access roads.
- Help with upkeep of the center's animal care equipment. This includes, but is not limited to, cleaning freezers, putting away equipment, and cleaning any equipment used throughout the day.
- Help with any ongoing research projects occurring at the center. **Note:** this is infrequent and should not be expected as a guaranteed part of the internship. Applicants are welcome to propose their own projects. However, the approval process can be time-intensive, so keep that in mind when applying. This is an optional component of the internship and is not mandatory.
- Aid in administrative tasks as needed.
- Assist with or possibly lead educational programs.
- Help to create a positive and welcoming work environment for all volunteers, staff and fellow interns.

### Job Logistics

Animal care is performed on set work days, so you will need to be available on Mondays and Wednesdays, no exceptions. One additional day will also be required, which will be somewhat flexible but Friday, Saturday or Sunday is highly desired. There will be an agreed upon weekly work schedule. Internships run three to four months in length depending on time off requests.

**For the animal care internship, applicants must be at least 21 old with a clean driving record. Please note that we will be running a DMV check to verify.** You will be driving the California Wolf Center's vehicle to help facilitate animal care and food pickups.

This internship program is not specialized in one area of animal care such as behavioral research or veterinary care. Instead, it is a general animal care program designed to introduce candidates to the wide range of skills required to work with captive wildlife. If you are looking for a program focused on research or veterinary care, this program may not be the best fit for your goals.

Interns are able to propose their own research projects if that is of interest to you. There is a formal approval process that will require submission of a proposal to the Director of Operations and then to our Board of Directors. The approval process may take several months, and any research considered invasive will also require approval from an

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. Any research involving Mexican gray wolves will require additional approval from the Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan.

Most of our animals are potential release candidates, so they must be kept as wild as possible to give them the best chances for survival if they are selected for release. As a result, we are very hands-off with our animals and do not interact with them. **You will not be allowed to interact with the wolves, handle the wolves, etc.** On rare occasions, interns may be allowed to observe veterinary care, but the actual handling is performed by our experienced staff for the safety of both wolves and humans.

The program is designed for people who have graduated or are about to graduate with a Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) and an interest in biology, ecology, animal behavior, zoology or related fields. **Reliable transportation, a clean driving record, and the ability to lift at least 50 lbs are requirements.**

#### **How to Apply**

To apply for one of the internship programs, please submit a one page resume and one page cover letter to the Director of Operations. Applications are accepted year-round, though typical start dates would be in February or March (Spring), May or June (Summer), August or September (Fall), or November or December (Winter). Please specify ideal start and end dates in the cover letter as well as whether you are applying for the Education and Nonprofit Operations program or the Animal Care program. Please note that we recommend submitting your application at least 60 days before your ideal start date. Submissions may be [emailed to Erin](#) or faxed to 760-888-0333. For more information, please call 760-765-0030 or [email Erin](#).