



### Veterinary Externship

The Blue Ridge Wildlife Center (BRWC) is a wildlife hospital & rehabilitation center located in Boyce, Virginia, caring for 2,000 native wild animals annually. BRWC provides qualified veterinary students & veterinarians the opportunity to get hands-on experience assisting with the medical management of these animals.

**Learning Opportunities Include:** Learning all aspects of working in a wildlife hospital. This includes gaining competency in topics such as anatomy, wildlife diseases, triage, anesthesia, hematology, radiography, laboratory diagnostics, surgery, wound management, treatments, and necropsy procedures.

### **Extern Expectations & Responsibilities:**

- Admit new patients and interact with finders/transporters
- Fill out intake paperwork, examine new patients, and set up housing following hospital protocols.
- Assist our licensed veterinary technician with day-to-day diagnostic procedures and treatments
- Assist in keeping records on all patients and entering medical records into our database.
- Assist staff with wildlife rescues and releases as needed.
- Gain an understanding & appreciation of the laws & ethics that guide wildlife medicine & rehabilitation

This work is physically demanding and fast paced. Externs must be in good physical condition and able to work outdoors during hot weather conditions.

Veterinary externs are expected to be full-time during their externship. Full-time externs may work 50+ hrs/week. Housing may be available through local homestays (40min or less from the Center). Externships run throughout the year for students in their clinical year or graduate veterinarians, but can be arranged for the summer exclusively for 1<sup>st</sup>-& 3<sup>rd</sup> year students.

**Application Procedure:** Please send a cover letter to:

[DrJen@blueridgewildlifectr.org](mailto:DrJen@blueridgewildlifectr.org)

Dr. Jen Riley  
Blue Ridge Wildlife Center  
106 Island Farm Lane  
Boyce, VA 22620

Please provide dates (if set by your school schedule or if flexible) AND if you require housing.

**NOTE: If an extern wishes to work with rabies vector species (foxes, raccoons, skunks, bats, groundhogs) they MUST have the rabies vaccine and proof of vaccination/titer before working with these animals. Please indicate in cover letter if you are rabies vaccinated.**

\*\*If you are a local veterinarian looking to volunteer with our veterinarian, please email Dr. Jen directly to discuss volunteer options.

Externships are also available for veterinary technician students to work directly with our veterinary team. Veterinary technicians and students should email our veterinary technician directly at [Cara@blueridgewildlifectr.org](mailto:Cara@blueridgewildlifectr.org).