Husbandry Training Program Intern

The Marine Mammal Care Center Los Angeles (MMCC) is a hospital for seals and sea lions located in San Pedro. Our mission is to rehabilitate marine mammals with the goal of releasing them back to their natural environment, and to educate the public about our patients and ocean conservation. The National Marine Fisheries Service depends on MMCC to carry out the important goals of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. As a non-profit organization, MMCC's primary funding is provided by individuals, charitable foundations, private businesses and corporations. MMCC operates with dedicated volunteers and staff working diligently to rehabilitate sick, injured, or malnourished seals and sea lions who are rescued on beaches from north of Zuma all the way to Seal Beach.

Role Description:

The Husbandry Training Program offers undergraduate college students, college graduates, veterinary students and other individuals an opportunity to learn how a hospital for seals and sea lions provides medical care, housing and food to seals and sea lions in distress.

Husbandry Training Interns will assist the Husbandry staff in the patient care and husbandry tasks necessary to provide our patients a second chance at life. This volunteer intern reports to the staff shift lead(s) on their scheduled shifts as well as the Husbandry Manager and will be on-site at the hospital in San Pedro. Duties may include:

- Thawing and sorting frozen fish
- Making gruel for patients not eating whole fish
- Washing dishes
- Doing laundry
- Cleaning pen areas
- Assisting in feeding of patients
- Physically restraining patients as needed
- Assisting in the intake exams of new patients

Commitment:

The Husbandry Training Program is a 10 week program, with interns completing approximately 30 hours per week between four regularly scheduled shifts. Interns will work alongside husbandry staff and Animal Care Volunteers on both morning and afternoon shifts. The morning shift runs from approximately 5:00am-1:00pm. The afternoon shift runs from approximately 12:00pm-8:00pm. Exact shift times will vary based on patient load.

Participants will commit to start the 10 week program on a given month between January and May as selected upon acceptance. The final shift schedule will be selected within 6 weeks of the participant's start date. The participants will commit to the same 4 shifts each week through the completion of the program.

Requirements:

The Husbandry Training Intern must be 18 years or older. This is a non-paid internship, and no compensation will be given to participants. Students may apply for credit hours, but the participant is responsible for completing all necessary paperwork required by his or her school. Participants must have their own housing and accommodations, as well as reliable transportation throughout the internship period. The intern should be competent in all of the following areas:

- Personal Effectiveness/Credibility
- Time Management
- Flexibility
- Self-Starter
- Stress Management/Composure
- Collaboration Skills

The selected candidate will participate in a full screening and on-boarding process including an interview, background check, orientation, and training.

Position Impact:

The Husbandry Training Intern plays a vital role in the care of our patients through the busiest time of the year. Interns progress through the training rapidly due to the high number of shifts per week and will likely work with all three of our most common species: California Sea Lions, Northern Elephant Seals, and Pacific Harbor Seals. They also build lasting relationships with fellow interns, volunteers, and staff members. Interns have the opportunity to stay on as Animal Care Volunteers at the completion of the internship if interested.

Contact:

To apply for this important volunteer role, complete an application online at http://www.marinemammalcare.org. Applications are open from June through September for the following spring season. For questions, contact the Volunteer Services Manager at hturkes@marinemammalcare.org.