



Animal Care Training Program Internship

About Us: The Marine Mammal Care Center Los Angeles (MMCC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and a leader in the field of marine mammal health and conservation. MMCC is the only organization authorized by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to respond to marine mammals in distress along the entire Los Angeles County coastline from Malibu to Seal Beach, Catalina Island, and at sea. MMCC has rehabilitated nearly 10,000 marine mammals and returned them to their ocean home since its founding in 1992. Located in San Pedro, MMCC operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with a staff of 18 and 200 actively engaged volunteers.

Mission and Vision: The mission of the Marine Mammal Care Center is to inspire ocean conservation through marine animal rescue and rehabilitation, education, and research. Our vision is of a healthy ocean ecosystem where people and marine life thrive together. Marine mammals are ecosystem indicators, and these animals provide insights into human and ocean health threats. We are taking action today to support a network of professionals and stewards to protect our shared ocean environment for future generations.

Role Description:

The Animal Care Training Program offers undergraduate college students, college graduates, veterinary students, and other individuals an opportunity to learn how our wildlife hospital provides medical care, housing, and nutrition to seals and sea lions in distress and to participate in their rehabilitation. It is designed to provide maximum exposure to pinniped rehabilitation in a short period of time. Frequent participation allows for the observation of changes in animal health in response to treatment.

Animal Care Training Program Interns will assist in the patient care necessary to provide our patients with a second chance at life. This volunteer intern reports to the lead Wildlife Rehabilitation Technicians on their scheduled shifts 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
- Monitoring water quality
- Cleaning pen areas
- Assisting in the feeding of patients
- Physically restraining patients as needed
- Assisting with patient admission



- Collecting patient information for NOAA and scientific research
- Participation in patient release

All intern duties will be taught per staff discretion based on patient caseload, confidence in the applicant's skill level, and availability of staff to properly, safely, and effectively teach new skills.

Commitment:

The Animal Care Training Program Interns will volunteer 300 hours over the course of two to three months. Interns can expect to complete approximately 30 hours per week between three to four regularly scheduled shifts. Interns will work alongside Animal Care staff and volunteers on both morning and afternoon shifts. The morning shift runs from approximately 7:00 am - 1:00 pm. The afternoon shift runs from approximately 11:00 am - 7:00 pm. Exact shift times will vary based on patient load.

Participants will commit to start the 300-hour internship on a given month between September and May as selected upon acceptance. The participants will commit to the same shift schedule each week through the completion of the program unless changes are mutually agreed upon between MMCC and the participant.

Requirements:

The Animal Care Training Program Intern must be 18 years or older. This is an unpaid internship, and no compensation will be given to participants. Participants must have their own housing, medical insurance, and accommodations, as well as reliable transportation throughout the internship period. A background check will be required upon acceptance into the program. The intern should be physically capable of standing for long periods, squatting and kneeling, lifting up to 50 pounds, and be comfortable in the following areas:

- Quick learner
- Time Management
- Flexibility
- Following instructions and ability to take initiative
- Stress Management/Composure
- Team player

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



Position Impact:

The Animal Care Training Program Intern plays a vital role in the care of our patients. Interns progress rapidly through the training 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.

Contact:

For questions or to apply for this important volunteer role, contact the Volunteer Services Manager, Kelsey Wong (she/her), at kwong@marinemammalcare.org and include a resume and cover letter.