



## Animal Care Training Program Internship

**About Us:** Marine Mammal Care Center Los Angeles (MMCC) is the only year-round organization authorized by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of sick and injured marine mammals in Los Angeles County. Since 1992, MMCC has treated over 10,000 patients suffering from malnutrition, entanglement, domoic acid poisoning, and other human and environmental threats.

In addition to lifesaving care, MMCC serves as a hub for ocean conservation education, offering immersive programs to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards. MMCC's work is grounded in science, compassion, and community engagement, and it plays a vital role in protecting marine life along Southern California's coastline.

By addressing the urgent needs of stranded animals and sharing their stories with the public, MMCC connects people to the ocean and empowers them to take action for a more sustainable future.

**Mission and Vision:** The mission of the Marine Mammal Care Center Los Angeles is to inspire ocean conservation through marine mammal rescue and rehabilitation, education, and research. Our vision is of a healthy ocean ecosystem where people and marine life thrive together.

### ***Role Description:***

The Animal Care Training Program offers undergraduate college students, college graduates, 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 Wildlife Rehabilitation Team on their scheduled shifts and will be on-site at the hospital in San Pedro. Duties may include:

- Thawing, weighing, and sorting frozen fish
- Making gruel and intake formula for patients not eating whole fish



- Washing dishes
- Monitoring water quality
- Cleaning pen areas and hallways
- Assisting in the feeding of patients
- Physically restraining patients as needed
- Assisting with patient admission
- Collecting and entering data into electronic medical records
- Collecting patient information for NOAA and scientific research
- Participation in patient release
- Working side by side with Animal Care Volunteers

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 approximately 2.5 to 4.5 months. Interns can expect to complete approximately 18-30 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 - closing. Exact shift times will vary based on patient load.

Participants will commit to start the 300-hour internship on a given month between January 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 Hashimoto (she/her), at [KHashimoto@marinemammalcare.org](mailto:KHashimoto@marinemammalcare.org) and include a resume and cover letter.