Animal Welfare League of Arlington

Animal Control Wildlife Summer Volunteer Internship

This volunteer internship will take place at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington located at 2650 S Arlington Mill Drive in Arlington County, VA. The volunteer internship will be run through our volunteer program and overseen by the Chief of Animal Control, Jennifer Toussaint. Since 1944 the Animal Welfare League of Arlington has worked to improve the lives of animals and people through resources, care, and protection.

Volunteer Role and Responsibilities

- Assist in dispatching calls to Animal Control Officers in the field and assisting members of the public in resolving wildlife conflicts humanely over the phone
- Assist in calling wildlife rehabbers for orphaned, sick or injured wildlife
- Learn how to help triage and monitor wildlife (non rabies vectors) that are in the League’s care
- Assist in arranging care packages for wildlife rehabbers
- Assist in transporting wildlife to wildlife rehabbers or arranging wildlife transportation with fellow League volunteers
- Assist in transporting shelter animals to vet appointments
- Learn the importance of, and participate in the cleaning and organizing of animal control equipment
- Assist with cleaning and organizing wildlife room and restocking supplies needed
- Learn how to run calls for service alongside an Animal Control Officer when available
- Assist in creating and distributing enrichment packets, resources, and items to member of the public and pets in need
- Assist in creating education materials for the Wildlife Resource Center at AWLA
- Shadow Animal Control Officers in courtroom appearances and prosecutions
- Participate in outreach opportunities as available including summer camps, school events, community events, and flyering
- Additional tasks may be assigned as deemed appropriate

Requirements and Qualifications

- Positive, enthusiastic, and professional
- Energetic, hard-working, and a team player
- Discretion with confidential or sensitive information
- Valid Driver’s License with a clean driving record
- Strong interpersonal skills including excellent customer service and counseling skills with the ability to maintain effective working relationships among community professionals at all levels
- Demonstrated ability to engage and communicate with a diverse group of people
- High school diploma or GED equivalent
- Good physical condition with the ability to safely lift 50 pounds
- Computer literacy
- Must be comfortable around animals
- Commitment to the League’s volunteer requirements
- Must be willing and able to follow social distancing guidelines and masking requirements
Preferred be not required

- Have received rabies pre-exposure vaccine or proof of a rabies titer in the last 2 years
- Have experience answering wildlife conflict questions from members of the public
- Experience handling and restraining wildlife animals

Benefits

Through this volunteer internship you will receive immeasurable experience in the workings of a functional and fast paced animal control department housed within an open access animal shelter serving a diverse and large community. Interns can expect to grow both personally and professionally from this experience and better get to know the safeguards our community has for people and their pets. Interns will be able to grow their local wildlife knowledge and learn more about wildlife rehabbing. Interns will also get to see into the world of humane wildlife management through an HSUS Wild Neighbors partner Animal Control Department. You will get to work alongside the Arlington County Animal Control team which was named Animal Control Agency of the Year in 2020 by the Virginia Animal Control Association.

Duration

This volunteer internship will be a 6-8 weeks long opportunity and is amenable to start and end dates that work for the applicant chosen.

To be considered for this volunteer opportunity, please send a letter of interest to Chief Animal Control Officer, Jennifer Toussaint at mail@awla.org no later than May 14, 2021. Your letter of interest should include information about you, why you are interested in this volunteer opportunity and how you align with our mission. Including a resume is helpful but not required.