



2023 Internship Program Job Description and Requirements

Featherhaven is located in Enumclaw, Washington and cares for Washington's native Passerines and Birds of Prey. We hold Rehabilitation Permits from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service. We are a registered 501c3 non-profit organization. *"Our mission is to provide quality compassionate care, rehabilitation and release to Washington's sick, injured or orphaned songbirds and birds of prey. In addition we strive to educate the public about the many perils these diverse avian species face. We recognize that it is a privilege to care for wildlife and our goal will always be to release healthy birds back into appropriate habitats so that they may continue to live a free and wild life."* On average we receive 500 birds yearly into care, everything from Hummingbirds to Pileated Woodpeckers to Bald Eagles. We specialize in the care of aerial insectivores, predominately swallows and swifts. Though passerines are our primary focus, we received 57 Birds of Prey in 2022. For the most part we stabilize and transfer the larger raptors to permitted facilities better equipped to handle their long-term rehabilitation. The volume of birds we are able to admit is dependent on our staffing for the season. It is imperative that we have a team of well-trained interns and volunteers committed to our mission.

By focusing our efforts on *Passerines*, we believe that allows us to provide a higher standard of care. We receive over 50 different species of birds every year, each having specific requirements. It is our job to provide the appropriate diet, housing and enrichment based on their age and specific case history. In other words "one size does not fit all." The majority of birds we receive are related to a negative interaction with humans; nest destroyed, free roaming cats, window strikes, hit by a car, glue traps, etc.

Our busy season is May thru August, also known as baby bird season. It is fast paced and demanding. As an intern you will be entrenched in the rehabilitation process, from intake to release. You will see first-hand the many perils that our avian patients face and the joy of seeing them released to live a free and wild life. Initially you will work closely with the director, learning a wide variety of skills before working independently.

Job Responsibilities:

Interns will assist in the day-to-day operations of the clinic and the care of our birds. Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Intake of Birds from the public
- Set-up species and age-appropriate housing
- Preparing appropriate diets and feeding birds
- Preparing and administering daily supplements
- Administering medications as required
- Setting up, cleaning and providing food, water and enrichment to birds in the aviaries.
- Assist during intake exams.
- Maintain patient care/medication charts
- Assist in keeping the facility and work environment in a clean and professional state including but not limited to washing dishes, folding laundry, sweeping and mopping the floors, etc.
- Assist/train our Volunteers as needed.

Interns will also learn tips for identifying birds and research their natural history. This is critical information required for us to do our job effectively. Interns will be given the opportunity to participate in veterinary visits as needed if staffing permits. Depending on the intern's course of study they may have the opportunity to job shadow our Board-Certified Avian Veterinarian for a total of 4 hours during their internship.

Training and Exam:

In addition to your initial training classes, we will provide reading material and have discussions regarding the material and cases in our care at Featherhaven. During the final week of your internship, we will give you an exam, based on the reading material, discussions, cases and what you have experienced from your time at Featherhaven. At the completion of the internship and final exam you will receive a certificate from Featherhaven and be eligible for a letter of reference from the director.

Time Commitment, Housing and Transportation:

The internship is for 10 consecutive 28 hour weeks, 4 days a week, 7 hour shifts plus 1 hour for lunch/breaks, including evenings, weekends and holidays. Our internships run May thru August and operate with 3 days on 3 days off. Start and end dates will be discussed and mutually agreed upon by the director and intern. Upon completion of the 10-week term, additional week(s) may be available dependent on Featherhaven needs and intern availability. This is a voluntary training position that includes a **weekly stipend of \$150.00** to offset expenses and is disbursed bi-weekly. We currently are offering up to 6 full time internships with a stipend. Once the available full-time positions are filled there may be potential for a few unpaid part-time internships.

Interns are responsible for their housing and transportation. There is no on-site housing available. Please consider the commute between your living quarters and the center when researching places to stay. Interns must have their own transportation. Featherhaven does not reimburse for gas.

Qualifications:

- Must be a minimum of 18 years old.
- Must be currently enrolled in or have completed an undergraduate degree in Biology, Animal Science, Environmental Science or other wildlife related program or field of study. Or be actively pursuing a License in Wildlife Rehabilitation in the state of Washington according to the state requirements in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 220-450-070.
- Must provide proof of a current Tetanus Vaccine
- Must have proof of Medical Insurance. If you have an auto-immune disease, you will be required to provide a release from your physician. Pregnant women should not work with wildlife.
- Must Consent to a State Background Check.
- You must be able to: frequently climb stairs as our clinic is located upstairs, stand for extended periods of time, walk on uneven ground, bend and stoop, lift 25 pounds.
- Must not have sensitivities to bird dander, mealworms, plant material, bleach or dish soap.
- Read, write and speak English proficiently.
- Must respect wildlife and follow the policies & procedures of Featherhaven.
- Must understand and accept that euthanasia is a reality of wildlife rehabilitation.
- Must be able to multitask, work independently and as a team member.

Application process:

If you are applying as a undergraduate student. Please fill out the [application](#), provide a current resume, a cover letter detailing your career goals and what you hope to gain from the internship, and college transcripts. (Unofficial accepted)

If you are pursuing a Wildlife Rehabilitation License please fill out the [application](#), submit a cover letter detailing your aspirations for wanting a license, resume detailing your volunteer experience in wildlife rehabilitation, other animal related volunteer work and any formal schooling pertaining to animal sciences. You must also submit a letter of recommendation from the wildlife facility you volunteered with if applicable.

Submit the complete package to director@featherhaven.org with Internship Application in the subject line or mail complete package to Featherhaven P.O. Box 242, Enumclaw, WA 98022. The deadline is April 15th. If you qualify, an interview by phone or in person will be scheduled. If you have any questions, please send your inquiry to director@featherhaven.org Thank you for your interest in Featherhaven.