



TOUCAN RESCUE RANCH / THE SLOTH INSTITUTE INTERN DESCRIPTION

DURATION OF INTERNSHIP

6 to 12-months, a longer duration is preferred. Starting May 2017.

LOCATION OF INTERNSHIP

The Toucan Rescue Ranch (TRR)
San Isidoro, Heredia, Costa Rica

THE TOUCAN RESCUE RANCH (TRR)

Toucan Rescue Ranch (TRR) focuses on the care, rehabilitation and study of Costa Rican toucans and other wildlife. We receive and care for confiscated, sick and injured wildlife from government agencies. TRR gives them a loving home with the goal of providing appropriate medical treatment, rehabilitation and then, when possible, returning them to its natural environment. The Toucan Rescue Ranch is a licensed Costa Rican wildlife rescue facility and a 501(c)3 charitable organization in the United States (EIN: 80-0516453).

THE SLOTH INSTITUTE (TSI)

The Sloth Institute Costa Rica (TSI) was founded in 2014 for the purpose of enhancing the welfare of captive and wild sloths through research and educations and to collaborate with sloth rescue programs to assist with the care, raising and release of orphaned sloths.

INTERN DESCRIPTION

Toucan Rescue Ranch (TRR) has two internships that involve working for the Toucan Rescue Ranch and The Sloth Institute. Both internships will support our daily care and rehabilitation activities with the animals in the clinic and will work with baby sloths being raised for release.

Internship 1: This internship will work under the direction of Leslie, the founder of TRR, and has primary responsibility for the clinic animals and baby orphans. This person provides support to Internship 2, covers their days off, and shares in nighttime monitoring activities.

Internship 2: This internship will work under the direction of Sam Trull of TSI, and will have primary responsibility for the baby sloths being prepared for release. This person provides support to Internship 1, covers their days off, and shares in nighttime treatment activities.

Both of these internships are conducted at TRR with day-to-day supervision being provided by Leslie and direction from Sam being provided via text, email, and periodic visits.



CLINIC ACTIVITIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Reporting to and in partnership with Leslie, the Intern will have an opportunity to participate in the following activities:

Animal Husbandry

- Feed and medicate clinic animals
- Feed orphaned animals such as sloths and toucans
- Keep rehab cages sanitized and prepared
- Assist in exams, treatments and surgeries
- Manage clinic animal enrichment

Administrative Clinic Work

- Matching computer orders with specimen labeling; sorting species; checking labeling; logging species; arranging reports for delivery; keeping work surfaces clean and orderly
- Open and close clinic daily
- Manage cleanliness and order of both inside and outside of clinic
- Evaluate and perfect quality of rehab animals' diets
- Complete thorough record keeping, and detail observations as needed

Animal Specialist Focus

- Initiate approved care plans related to treatments, procedures, medications and continuing care requirements
- Identify and communicating abnormal patient conditions by alerting supervisory personnel
- Develop interdisciplinary care plans by coordinating information and care requirements with other care providers and resolving issues that could affect smooth care progression
- Monitor delivery of care by completing patient rounds, documenting care, identifying progress toward desired care outcomes
- Review the care plan with wildlife in conjunction with the direct care providers

We are always open to suggestions. Let us know if you have a special skill you think will be useful.

SLOTH RELEASE PROGRAM

This person must be extremely dedicated to sloth conservation and willing to forgo personal comfort for the benefit of the animals. You will be hot, sweaty, eaten by mosquitos, sleepy, sore, and tired but you'll still feel that there is no other place in the world that you would rather be than watching sloths in the jungle. The ideal person will eat, sleep, breathe and dream about sloths!

Research and fieldwork

- Assist in fieldwork/post-release monitoring at night
- Assist in maintaining records
- Assist in analyzing data

Animal husbandry

- Assist in preparing food/collecting wild food items for sloths



- Assist in feeding, cleaning and enriching sloth cages
- Assist in rescue and release of sloths
- Assist in medical treatments when needed
- Assist in communicating with community about sloth release project

REQUIREMENTS & QUALIFICATIONS

All applicants must have experience in a veterinary setting, have excellent communication skills, a strong interest in animal welfare and conservation. Coursework in veterinary studies, primatology, zoology, environmental education, wildlife ecology or a related field is required. Experience traveling to a tropical country, living in remote conditions are preferred.

Must complete required vaccinations and a tetanus vaccination. Must purchase current international health insurance while in Costa Rica.

Basic Requirements:

- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Provide proof of health insurance and current tetanus vaccination
- Basic Spanish proficiency
- Moderate degree of fitness
- The ability to follow directions with attention to detail
- A positive “can-do” attitude and the ability to work well in a team environment
- Experience working with wildlife or animals is a plus

Ensuring *Best Practice* Implementation:

- Fostering practices that support and improve the Ranch’s philosophy, goals, and standards of care.
- Maintaining quality medical care by establishing and enforcing organization standards.
- Maintaining the TRR patient care database by entering new data and verifying findings and reports.
- Maintaining and sharing professional and technical knowledge by reviewing professional publications, establishing personal networks, benchmarking state-of-the-art practices and participating in professional societies.

WORK SCHEDULE

The Animal Specialist Intern typically works **six days a week** with one day off. Days off normally will not be on weekends as these are often the busiest days at the Ranch. Workdays begin with animal feeding at 7:00am and end at 4:00pm. You may be asked to adjust your hours for longer days and night time activities.

You will learn about your schedule and days off during your orientation at the Ranch. If you have any specific requests, please email Carol at carol@toucanrescueranch.org to submit your request.



INTERNSHIP PROGRAM BENEFITS

Internships are voluntary self-funded positions. You will be responsible for all travel expenses/flights and immigration expenses.

Housing: Provided by TRR. Includes utilities.

Meals: Meals 6 days a week. Meals will be vegetarian. We will show you the local stores where you can buy additional food to supplement your meals.

Service Fee: As an intern you will not be asked to pay the \$50-per week volunteer donation. This fee has been waived.

Other: All other costs are to be paid for by the intern. This includes travel expenses, medical insurance, entertainment expenses, and a 3-day trip out of the country every three months to renew your visa.

I'D LIKE TO APPLY

If you would like to be a part of the TRR team, please send the following documents to info@toucanrescueranch.org

- One-page cover letter of interest – specify which internship(s) you are interested in and when you are available to start
- CV or resume
- 3-5-minute video explaining why you feel you're the right candidate for the position (MOV file)
- Contact information for three professional references

We will promptly contact you to schedule a Skype interview after reviewing your application. If you have any questions we are always available via email to answer any questions.

CONTACT

Toucan Rescue Ranch

www.toucanrescueranch.org

info@toucanrescueranch.org

Carol Friesen

Business Administrator & Volunteer Coordinator

carol@toucanrescueranch.org