



## PRIMATE REHAB & RESEARCH INTERNSHIP

### THE TOUCAN RESCUE RANCH

The Toucan Rescue Ranch's (TRR) mission is to rescue, rehabilitate, and release Costa Rica wildlife. TRR works with a model that focuses on conservation, education, and research to ensure a brighter tomorrow for Costa Rica wildlife.

TRR's emphasis is on the care, rehabilitation, and release of national wildlife. We receive and care for confiscated, sick, and injured animals from government agencies. The Toucan Rescue Ranch works closely with the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica (MINAE) who brings injured and displaced wildlife to the center. TRR provides sanctuary while giving treatment and rehabilitation. Whenever possible the animal is released to their natural environment.

The Toucan Rescue Ranch is a licensed Costa Rica wildlife rescue facility, Costa Rica foundation (300667701803) and a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization (EIN: 80-0516453).

### INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION

The Release Site focuses on the rehabilitation and care of animals that are almost ready to return back to the wild. The Primate Rehab & Research Intern's primary responsibilities include feeding, cleaning up after, monitoring, and collecting enrichment for baby and juvenile howler monkeys. Your focus will be on monitoring these patients, observing and reporting any changes or abnormalities such as in behavior or eating habits. You will also be expected to observe howlers in the wild to see what fruits are in season that we can collect, as well as tracking and observing recently released candidates. If there are babies to feed, you will assist the clinic intern with their care. You will live in close contact with nature and wildlife, working outdoors all day to ensure that the howlers under our care have their best shot at survival in the wild. You will not only be working with monkeys. You would be also assisting with all animals received at TRR and animal's recovery in the clinic as well as pre-release enclosures, serving as backup to our Animal Care interns to help in the daily care of the rest of our animals at the release site.

### DURATION OF INTERNSHIP

About 4 months. See the specific dates on our website.

### LOCATION OF INTERNSHIP

TRR Release Site, Nazareth de Sarapiquí, Costa Rica

### SKILLS YOU WILL LEARN

- Teamwork
- Exposure to the running of a wildlife rescue center
- Animal restraint techniques
- Proper husbandry techniques
- Diet management
- Animal behavior

- Enrichment

## ACTIVITIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Primate Rehab & Research Intern will have an opportunity to participate in the following activities:

### Animal Husbandry

- Feed and monitor monkeys and other animals at the Release Site
- Clean enclosures, repair and general maintenance
- Animal enrichment

### Primate Rehab & Research Intern Focuses

- Identify and communicate abnormal animal conditions by alerting supervisory personnel
- Monitor delivery of care of rescues received at the Release Site 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
- Preparing food/collecting wild food items for howler monkeys and other animals if needed
- Assist in scanning and opportunistic capture of monkeys and sloths in pre-release
- Aid clinic intern in treatments, feeding, and daily care of patients
- Daily status report of observations on the howler monkeys in outdoor enclosures and monitored released howlers

### Other Activities

- Assist in triage of animals received at the Release Site. Triage will determine if the animal can be treated at the Release Site or needs to be sent to the TRR Headquarters for clinic care or is an emergency requiring immediate direction from the Vet Director and TRR Founder.
- Evening or nighttime animal feeding/monitoring
- General facility maintenance (yard work, cleaning)

## REQUIREMENTS & QUALIFICATIONS

### General Requirements:

- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Provide proof of emergency health insurance while in Costa Rica
- Provide proof of current tetanus and rabies vaccinations
- 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 primates is preferred
- Experience in the field with monitoring
- Knowledge of how to conduct behavioral studies with ethograms

- Patience and the ability to spend all day out in the jungle with monkeys!

**Specific Requirements:**

- Fluent in EITHER Spanish or English.
- Coursework in Zoology, Animal Welfare, Animal Husbandry, Wildlife Management, Wildlife Biology
- Have excellent communication skills.
- Have a strong interest in animal welfare and conservation.
- Moderate degree of fitness
- First Aid course is highly recommended
- Preferred experience in zoo or animal rescue center setting
- Willingness to be sweaty, tired, and dirty but have a positive spirit!

**Other Valuable Skills:**

- Experience traveling to a tropical country, living in remote conditions are preferred.
- Experience working with wildlife is a plus
- Experience handling animals

**Ensuring Best Practice Implementation:**

- Fostering practices that support and improve the Ranch’s philosophy and goals
- Maintaining quality by establishing and enforcing organization standards

**WORK SCHEDULE**

The Primate Rehab & Research Interns work 5 days a week with two days off, typically from 7am-4pm. Evening shifts and night work is required when necessary. Daily schedule needs to be flexible depending on the animals under your care - sometimes you will work very long hours. You are expected to be ready for emergencies on the days you are scheduled to work. You will learn about your schedule and days off during your orientation.

**INTERNSHIP PROGRAM BENEFITS AND COSTS**

We have tried to keep our internships free to make them available to the widest range of people. But as costs keep increasing and income from tourism varies, we must implement fees in order to maintain our operations. The fee is about \$25 a day and covers room and board costs as well as the education you will receive. We continue to improve and expand our facilities and staff providing you with an excellent learning environment. Your fee contributes to the medical care, food, and general husbandry of the animals in our care.

- Cost**           \$3000, about \$25 per day
- Housing**       Provided by TRR. Includes utilities and Wifi.
- Meals**           Meals are provided 7-days a week. We will show you the local stores where you can buy additional food to supplement your meals. Please let us know if you are vegetarian, vegan, or have special dietary requirements.

**Other** All other costs are to be paid for by the intern. This includes travel and immigration expenses, medical insurance, and entertainment expenses.

### I'D LIKE TO APPLY

If you would like to be a part of the TRR team, please go to <http://toucanrescueranch.org/internships/> , scroll down and click the APPLY HERE button.

You will be asked for:

- One-page cover letter of interest – specify which internship you are interested and the start date
- CV or resume
- Contact information for three professional references

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

### CONTACT

[www.toucanrescueranch.org](http://www.toucanrescueranch.org)

[applications@toucanrescueranch.org](mailto:applications@toucanrescueranch.org)