



## WILDLIFE REHABILITATION SCIENCE

Mondays, January 26-May 4 (no class Feb 16, March 16, April 6; 12 weeks)

11:15am-12:45pm

Ages 11-14

This class gives students an inside look at the real work of wildlife rehabilitation and the science behind animal care. Each week they take on new responsibilities—from studying anatomy and behavior to testing water quality, designing enclosures, preparing diets, and performing mock first aid. The semester ends with a full rescue scenario where students apply their skills to diagnose and treat a stranded sea turtle like true wildlife technicians. All lab costs are included in registration fee.

Instructor: Ashley Blocker, BSc

Location: STEM Lab (suite 211)

Course fee: \$275 OR \$25/lab

10% sibling discount

Register for full semester or individual labs.

### LAB SCHEDULE:

#### **THE ANIMAL KINGDOM** - Monday, January 26

In this introductory class, students learn how wildlife rescue centers categorize animals for medical intake, explore taxonomy, and compare the basic care needs of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and marine animals.

#### **ANIMAL ANATOMY** - Monday, February 2

Students study the structure and function of body systems essential to wildlife health. They examine real specimens and models to understand how anatomy helps veterinarians diagnose injuries.

#### **ANIMAL BEHAVIOR** - Monday, February 9

Students explore how animal behavior helps wildlife staff assess stress, illness, or injury. They practice observation techniques used by rescue teams to evaluate an animal's condition safely.

#### **ANIMAL RESEARCH** - Monday, February 23

This week, students learn how wildlife biologists and veterinary teams collect scientific data on rescued animals. They conduct their own mini research investigation using sample case files.

#### **WATER QUALITY** - Monday, March 2

Students learn why precise water chemistry is critical for aquatic and marine animal rehabilitation. They test water quality parameters and analyze what each means for animal health



### **ANIMAL FIRST AID - Monday, March 9**

Students practice wildlife triage skills as they learn how rescue centers stabilize injured animals. Using a stuffed animal from home, they perform bandaging, splinting, and basic evaluation techniques.

### **HABITAT DESIGN - Monday, March 23**

Students explore how wildlife hospitals design temporary recovery habitats. They use engineering concepts to build their own rehabilitation enclosure model tailored to a specific species' needs.

### **ANIMAL ENRICHMENT - Monday, March 30**

Students learn why enrichment is essential for reducing stress and promoting healing in rescued animals. They design enrichment items appropriate for the species housed at the science center.

### **DIET & FOOD PREPARATION - Monday, April 13**

Students study the nutritional needs of recovering animals and learn how wildlife staff prepare specialized diets. They use math skills to calculate and portion meals for animal care scenarios.

### **ANIMAL TRAINING - Monday, April 20**

Students discover how positive reinforcement training helps veterinary teams provide medical care safely. They practice simple training techniques used for stress-free examinations and treatments

### **DAY IN THE LIFE OF A WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN - Monday, April 27**

Students step into the role of wildlife veterinary technicians, rotating through simulated stations representing real daily tasks in rescue, rehabilitation, and animal monitoring.

### **SEA TURTLE RESCUE – Monday, May 4**

Students apply skills learned throughout the semester to evaluate a "stranded" sea turtle case. They diagnose potential injuries, perform mock treatments, and plan a rehabilitation strategy.