

# REHABILITATION ASSISTANT



## Become a Rehabilitation Assistant at the ARCHELON Sea Turtle Rescue Centre!

ARCHELON, a nonprofit sea turtle conservation organization active since 1983, runs several volunteer projects for the protection of sea turtles and their habitats in Greece every year. More than 500 international volunteers per year participate in our projects. Every year we enter in internship agreements with 70 Universities and other educational establishments from all over the world.

Here, we are providing information about a new volunteering/internship opportunity: Rehabilitation Assistant at the ARCHELON Sea Turtle Rescue Centre.

### The Rehabilitation Assistant Volunteer (RAV) position

The Volunteer Rehabilitation Assistant (RAV) assists in all aspects of the rescue and rehabilitation of injured/sick turtles, supervises the rest of the team of volunteers, and organises the daily work.

#### 1. Your contribution will be:

- **Rescue Network:** activities include response to injured sea turtle stranding throughout Greece, and collection of injured sea turtles from the airport, train or bus station, or ports. Understandably these activities are not part of the daily routine, but they may occur quite often, especially during May until October. The RAV must have an EU driving license and might be asked to drive ARCHELON's car for this purpose.
- **Sea turtle rehabilitation:** duties include handling sea turtles, preparation, and administration of food (usually fish) to the turtles, and daily treatment of the animals as determined by the Rehabilitation and Rescue Network Officer and vets (administering medication and simple topical wound treatments can be performed

by the RAV after training), cleaning/disinfection of the rehabilitation tanks, as well as taking biometric data and making behavioral observations. These are some of the main daily activities at the Rescue Centre, since at any given time there is an average of 25 sea turtles under treatment; during summer months the average is 40 animals.

*Please note that these tasks are highly physically demanding ones and must be performed under all weather conditions.*

- **Maintenance:** activities include basic maintenance duties, like cleaning the facilities and equipment.
- **Data entry:** detailed information is kept on each sea turtle case admitted to the Rescue Centre. All data collected is entered into databases so that they can be subsequently used for the compilation of further scientific analysis. RAV might be asked to assist with this task.
- **Emergencies:** After the necessary medical training, the RAV is expected to assist in emergencies regarding new turtles/patients arriving at the Rescue Centre. Since we are working at a sea turtle hospital, these emergencies can occur unexpectedly and at any time during the day and night. The RAV has to provide the necessary medications (e.g. painkillers) to our new patients upon arrival, always under the guidance of the Rehabilitation and Rescue Network Officer. Other emergencies can include checks on turtles that are in critical condition and are kept out of water.

*Please note that most of the injured/sick turtles arrive at the Rescue Centre in the evening, and this is one of the main reasons why the RAV's place of accommodation must be the Rescue Centre.*

- **Keeping track of the volunteers:**
  - Training new volunteers
  - Supervising all members of the team (up to 10 people at a time)
  - Supporting and motivating the volunteers
  - Convey ARCHELON's vision and mission to the volunteers
- **Free time:** For every week of participation in the project, RAVs have a day off. Possibility of a second day off per week after a 3-month participation in the project.

## 2. Your profile illustrates

Minimum eligibility criteria:

1. Age over 20 years old
2. Holder of a Valid EU/International car driving license
3. Fluent in English
4. Basic computer skills in Microsoft Office

5. Participation in sea turtle rehabilitation or other wildlife rehabilitation projects for a minimum of 3 months, experience in rescuing and handling wildlife
6. Experience in living outdoors and in multinational groups
7. Ability to work both independently and as part of a team
8. Hardworking, reliable, organizational person who can perform in a demanding schedule and can adapt to changes
9. Sociable, enthusiastic, committed, supportive, patient, good-tempered with good communication skills
10. Good physical condition and ability to lift up to 40Kg on a daily basis
11. Ability to work under stressful conditions
12. Ability to assist with surgical procedures and wound treatments, ability to withstand the sight of severely injured animals, as a result of animal abuse
13. Endurance in warm weather and ability to work in all weather conditions

### **Other desired competences/experience:**

- Education/training related to the duties described above, such as: Biology, Veterinary Sciences, Animal Behaviour, Zoology, Conservation Biology
- Previous participation in ARCHELON's projects
- First Aid certification
- Experience in the provision of medical care in wildlife

### **3. Our offer includes**

- Being part of an international team with the mission to rescue, rehabilitate, and release endangered marine species; the loggerhead sea turtle and the green sea turtle
- Receiving the necessary guidance and training on the RAV duties, which are based on the continuously evolving husbandry and veterinary practices of a project running for over 25 years now
- Getting hands-on experience in husbandry and rehabilitation of a species under protection (i.e. experience in handling, tube feeding, providing medications, performing simple topical wound treatments, providing environmental enrichment, understanding and recording behavioral data)
- Living in a multi-ethnic group and trying to meet their expectations as a leader
- Experience in managing a big group of volunteers and coordinating the work in one of the largest sea turtle rescue centers in the Mediterranean
- Regarding internships, ARCHELON will provide a certificate according to the internship agreement with your University/ organization
- Provision of accommodation by ARCHELON at the Rescue Centre, as well as private insurance coverage for accidents up to a certain level

- Usage of all communal facilities (WC, shower, washing machine, cooking stove and utensils) provided at the Rescue Centre

## 4. Training sessions

When the RAV's volunteering period starts, introductory information sessions take place on the first two days. During the first weeks, the RAVs are taught by staff and experienced volunteers all the basic and important daily tasks (e.g., handling of animals, cleaning tanks, preparing food, and feeding turtles). In the meantime, the RAV is trained to perform and complete the specific shifts and duties that we have at the Rescue Centre. In the following weeks, the RAV is trained by the Rehabilitation and Rescue Network Officer on how to organize and divide the work in the team, as well as on how to provide medications to sea turtles (i.e., drips and injections) and perform basic wound treatments.

## 5. Further contact and application info

- Application form
- Short Curriculum Vitae (400-900 words)

***Please note that short-listed candidates are contacted, and an online interview is scheduled.***

