



INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH OUR BIRDS OF PREY?

The Bird Rescue Center
of Sonoma County



Jujube, American Kestrel

The Resident Raptor Handling, Care and Education Program 2017-18

This rigorous program will teach you how to handle and care for our 18 resident raptors. Trainees will also learn about the anatomy, diets, behaviors and special adaptations of these amazing birds, in order to confidently present them at schools and public events before audiences of all ages.

The training includes hands-on learning and practice of

the many skills necessary to work with our birds of prey—equipment, perching, weighing, holding, transferring between handlers, boxing for transport, and more. The safety of both handler and bird is emphasized at all times.

As your capability and confidence with these skills grow, you will learn to hold the birds for health checks and other procedures. You will also learn to properly clean and maintain the mews (the home aviaries for our raptors)—an essential requirement for the health and safety of the birds. And you will begin to attend our education programs, learning a few presentation skills from seasoned handlers before taking the stage yourself!

It takes a real commitment of time and energy to succeed in our Raptor Handling Program, and it should not be undertaken lightly. The training begins with four three-hour sessions, after which you will be tested (with both a written exam and physical skills demonstration) to determine your interest and ability to continue the training.

The next phase consists of three-hour training sessions, held once a week. During this time you also will take on an assignment such as cleaning, sorting raptor food or feeding—for a combined minimum of 4-5 hours a week. After



approximately six months of training you will become “independent.” At that time the program requires a commitment to actively handle birds for a *minimum* of two hours each week, and continuing your assigned duties. In addition to these responsibilities, all handlers are expected to participate in our public education programs, which are a lot of fun!

Interested? Email cloverdaledave@gmail.com with “Raptor Training” in the subject line. Or call 707 803-1392, and leave a message that you’re interested in the Raptor Training Program. In either case, please supply your name, phone number and email address so we can contact you.*

Initial interviews for all applicants are scheduled for Saturday September 16th to answer questions, determine your level of commitment and suitability for training. If you are selected for the program, you will need to become a member of The Bird Rescue Center, show proof of valid health insurance, and have a current tetanus shot. The training sessions will begin Fall 2017.

***Deadline to contact us is Tuesday, September 5.**

There are many other volunteer opportunities available at BRC, including field rescue and transport, the Phone Team, the Rehab Hospital, and assisting handlers in our public education programs.

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birdrescuecenter.org