



Veterinary Technician Extern

Nothing in this position description restricts management's right to assign or reassign duties and responsibilities to this position at any time.

Externship Location	3200 SW 4 th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315
Externship Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is an unpaid externship • We cannot provide housing for this externship • This externship is ideal for veterinary technician trainees who desire a rotation in wildlife medicine
Position Grade	3 ; background check includes Criminal Background, Social Security Number Verification and Sex Offender Registry
Focus of the Externship	Introduce extern to the veterinary technician or assistant's role in wildlife medicine in a high-volume, fully-functional veterinary hospital; as well as expose extern to the basics of wildlife husbandry and rehabilitation
Learning Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training in triage, physical exam, diagnostic testing, and anesthesia in a variety of species • Application of techniques learned in school to novel species • Introduction to many common diseases and injuries seen in wildlife • Introduction to wildlife husbandry and rehabilitation • Education on the South Florida Wildlife Center (SFWC) and how the program area fits into the larger picture of animal protection • Exposure to the operations of a wildlife center • Education of humane coexistence with wildlife
Orientation/Training	Orientation includes the following: history and tour of the SFWC, description of rules and overview of programs. Externs should attend the orientation wearing closed shoes. Externs will be trained on the particular aspects of their role and will be given access to a list of Standard Operating Procedures for reference.
Extern Responsibilities	<p>Schedule is roughly based on staffing and case selection. Students will alternate between two shifts on the schedule, with focus given to veterinary assistant shift. We will attempt to provide opportunities for students to perform required skills, although due to our unique patient load this may not be possible.</p> <p><u>Veterinary assistant shift:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work primarily with vet assistant to perform a variety of tasks encountered in a daily shift • Learn how to draw up and administer treatments to patients by various routes, record medications and husbandry notes • Practice techniques such as phlebotomy, medication administration through a variety of routes, assist feeding, and patient care • Learn and perform routine tasks such as surgical set-up and assistance, assisting with surgical instrument cleaning and pack wrapping • Receive hands-on experience with diagnostic and medical procedures such as anesthesia, radiographs, surgical preparation

	<p><u>Triage shift:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on emergency triage of sick, orphaned, injured and abandoned animals • Shadow the triage vet assistant and doctor performing triage • Become familiar with the center's computer system and medical note entry • Become familiar with more common diseases and presentations seen in wildlife • Become familiar with dose calculation, and the uses and side effects of commonly used medications
<p>Level of Difficulty</p> <p>1=easy/5=demanding</p> <p>(physical, mental, emotional)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical difficulty is level 4; must be able to withstand high heat; requires high levels of mobility including animal restraint • Mental difficulty is level 4; requires veterinary knowledge and engaging in training and its application at a very high level • Emotional difficulty is level 4; requires understanding decision-making concerning quality of life issues and euthanasia for animal patients; requires accepting failure for a significant number of cases
<p>Expected Environmental Conditions</p>	<p>Work is both indoors with air-conditioning and outdoors with extreme heat, high humidity and sudden storms. Some work will be in areas where wild plants are plentiful, so knowledge of any allergies to wild plants is important. Exposure to mosquitoes and other small insects is likely.</p>
<p>Qualifications/Requirements for Extern Applicants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of veterinary technician skills and basic animal handling • Able to do basic math for dosage calculations • Able to speak English well enough to communicate under pressure and understand basic medical terminology • Able to tolerate outdoor temperatures up to and at times above 95 degrees F with high humidity for short amounts of time • Ability to tolerate mask-wearing for extended periods of time • Able to read and understand scientific literature • Able to meet the requirements outlined in the Essential Capabilities document with or without reasonable accommodation • Able to learn and demonstrate a familiarity with the SFWC's programs
<p>Restrictions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be at least 18 years old. • Must be in a certified/ licensed veterinary technician program (or equivalent) or be recently graduated from such a program. Exceptions may be made for committed wildlife rehabilitators. • Rabies vaccine highly recommended; non-vaccinated externs will not be able to work with rabies-vector species. • Must submit the required paperwork and pass a background check before being assigned. • Must learn and follow all guidelines and policies of the SFWC, and follow directions given by staff. • Must wear closed shoes. • Must work in designated area; no entering other habitats. • No cologne/perfume. • The extern must agree to not publish any articles, case reports, procedures, experiences, etc. in connection with the SFWC unless approved by the veterinarians and co-authored by them or another member of the veterinary staff. • Should have access to a computer and ability to login into an online volunteer communication site to receive updates.
<p>Externship Start Date</p>	<p>Flexible</p>
<p>Externship Time Commitment</p>	<p>Externships are available year-round for a minimum commitment of 4 weeks up to 8 weeks, 20-32 hours a week</p>

Externship Scheduling Guidelines	Externs will be assigned to shifts that are up to 9 hours in length, with an hour lunch, and occur between the hours of 8:30 am and 5:30 pm.
Tools/Equipment Provided (including Personal Protective Equipment)	Any medical equipment or other equipment necessary for animal care, calculator, on-site computer, gloves, mask, protective goggles or particulate respirator provided as needed. Extern should wear scrubs provided by their specific program.
Optional Tools/Equipment	n/a
Supervisor(s)	Antonia Gardner, DVM 954.524.4302 Ext.26; agardner@southfloridawildlifecenter.org
Additional Mentor(s)	Christel Fiddymment, Clinic cfiddymment@southfloridawildlifecenter.org Julie D'Errico, Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator: 954.524.4302 x25; jderrico@southfloridawildlifecenter.org
Number of Concurrent Externship Openings	2
Updated	31 March 2021