



**South Florida
WILDLIFE CENTER**
Saving Wildlife in Our Urban Jungle

Position Description

Wildlife Rehabilitation Internship

Nothing in this position description restricts management's right to assign or reassign duties and responsibilities to this position at any time.	
Internship Location	3200 SW 4 th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315
Internship Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is an unpaid internship • We cannot provide housing for this internship • SFWC requires interns to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination to participate in our programs. Proof must be submitted during the onboarding process via email or in-person to the Director of Outreach prior to the scheduled internship/externship dates. Those who are unable to get vaccinated must provide medical exemption, or a religious waiver. • This Wildlife Rehabilitation Internship allows interns to assist rehabilitators in the daily care of animals. Interns will gain experience in species identification and natural history, proper husbandry techniques, animal handling, proper feeding of mammals, reptiles and birds, medication administration and lab work.
Position Grade	3; background check includes Criminal Background, Social Security Number Verification and Sex Offender Registry
Focus of the Internship	Introduce intern to the care of sick, injured, and adult or juvenile wildlife and certain non-natives. Job duties include feeding animals, setting up and cleaning enclosures, preparing diets, administering daily medications, and general cleaning.
Learning Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn the care and husbandry challenges of the animals in our care. • Gain hands-on wildlife experience including proper handling procedures, feeding techniques, husbandry, species-specific diets, and administration of medications. • Learn what is involved in rehabilitating an animal in preparation for release such as flight conditioning, enrichment, waterproofing, etc. • Exposure to the operations of a wildlife center. • Knowledge of humane coexistence with wildlife. • Knowledge of rescues techniques when available.
Orientation/Training	Onboarding is completed by the Outreach Department but Interns will be trained by the Rehabilitation Department on the particular aspects of their role by meeting one-on-one with staff members and being cleared to work in the different areas.
Intern Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean and set up enclosures/habitats. • Prepare diets and supplemental feeding formula. • Hand feed animals using appropriate techniques. • Document all care and observations. • Handle patients for weighing, treatments, and transfers. • Assist with routine care and physical exams.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide enrichment, conditioning, and maintenance of waterproofing. • Convey potential problems to staff both written and verbally. • Assist with general housekeeping/laundry. • Complete independent project assigned by Director of Outreach.
Level of Difficulty 1=easy/5=demanding (physical, mental, emotional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical difficulty is level 3; must be able to withstand close quarters; requires interns to be on their feet most of the day. • Mental difficulty is level 3; requires learning and following procedures and protocols and using good judgment; also requires intense multitasking and strong levels of time management. • Emotional difficulty is level 4; will encounter severely compromised and orphaned wildlife, which can be emotionally distressing.
Expected Environmental Conditions	Work is mainly outdoors, with extreme heat, high humidity and sudden storms. Some work will 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. Exposure to strong odors and allergens is expected.
Qualifications/Requirements for Intern Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to tolerate outdoor environment with high humidity for duration of shift. • 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. • Able to understand policies and positions regarding animal protection issues and able and willing to represent those policies when interacting appropriately and accurately with the public or otherwise representing to the SFWC.
Restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be at least 18 years old. • 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-toed shoes, an SFWC shirt that is provided, and follow the SFWC dress code. • Hair must be tied back. • Must work in designated area, no entering other habitats. • No cologne/perfume. • Should have access to a computer and ability to login into an online volunteer communication site to receive updates. • Interns who wish to work with rabies vector species in rehabilitative care must receive pre-exposure rabies inoculation (not paid for by SFWC).
Internship Start Date	Spring/Summer- Early April through late June Summer/Fall – Early July through late September
Internship Time Commitment	Minimum 24 hours per week for 10 weeks
Internship Scheduling Guidelines	Preferred schedules Sunday-Tuesday, 9AM – 5PM Tuesday-Thursday, 9AM – 5PM Thursday - Saturday, 9AM – 5PM
Tools/Equipment Provided (including Personal Protective Equipment)	All necessary equipment such as gloves, mask, protective goggles, etc. will be provided.
Optional Tools/Equipment	Covered beverage container, spare change of clothes, bug spray, sun block, poncho/rain jacket and hat.
Supervisor(s)	Eileen Cottone

Additional Mentor(s)	Carolina Montano
Number of Concurrent Internship Openings	2-3
Additional Information	
Updated	3/18/2022 - CPM