



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

Position Description

Rotational Intern

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
Position Grade	3 ; background check includes Criminal Background, Social Security Number Verification and Sex Offender Registry
Focus of the Internship	Introduce intern to wildlife care, rehabilitation and medicine
Learning Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic knowledge of animal care and handling, wildlife medicine, and wildlife rehabilitation and release • Knowledge of 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 • Knowledge of humane coexistence with wildlife • Knowledge of animals' habitats
Orientation/Training	Orientation includes the following: history and tour of the SFWC, description of rules and overview of programs. Interns should attend the orientation wearing closed shoes. Interns will be trained on the particular aspects of their role and will be given access to a list of Standard Operating Procedures for reference.
Intern Responsibilities	<p>Rotate through several departments including rehab, medical, outreach, and rehab/release.</p> <p>Rehab Rotation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn the care and husbandry challenges of the animals in our care • Clean enclosures/habitats • Prepare diets, feed animals and record appetite • Handle animals • Assist with routine care and physical therapy • Observe and record activity • Convey potential problems to staff <p>Medical Rotation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about the initial steps of animal intake and triage, gain a basic understanding of medical problems the center encounters, and get introduced to various medical tests and procedures • Handle and help restrain animals • Assist with performing diagnostics and surgical set-up • Help administer fluids and medications • Assist with data entry • Assist technicians with various other tasks throughout the day

	<p>Outreach Rotation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn to communicate with the public regarding emergency and non-emergency animal interactions • Enter patients into the database • Ride along with the ambulance staff and assist in wildlife rescues (if available) <p>Rehabilitation/Release Rotation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about rehabilitation and release challenges and potential solutions; learn specific parameters used to assess release readiness, how we choose sites for release and how a release is performed • Inspect and prepare habitats • Observe and evaluate animals for release • Assist in daily care and inspection of animals • Participate in enrichment programs for animals • Assist with data entry • Assist in releases as needed including filming events <p>At the end of the internship, complete and present a 1-2 page paper which is either a case study for an individual animal or an overview of the care of a species. The paper must include aspects from all four rotations.</p>
<p>Level of Difficulty 1=easy/5=demanding (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 3; requires learning and following procedures and protocols • Emotional difficulty is level 4; requires understanding decision-making concerning quality of life issues and euthanasia for animal patients
<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 Intern Applicants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 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 • Minimum second-year college undergraduate with some coursework completed in biology, pre-veterinary or related field OR non-student pursuing wildlife rehabilitation certification • 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 • Should have access to a computer and ability to login into an online volunteer communication site to receive updates •

Internship Start Date	Spring session begins the first Monday in February. Summer session begins the Monday after Memorial Day. Fall session begins the Tuesday after Labor Day.
Internship Time Commitment	20-32 hours/week for 10-12 weeks
Internship Scheduling Guidelines	Interns will be assigned to shifts that are 6-10 hours in length and occur between the hours of 8:30am and 5:30pm. We do our best to accommodate school schedules. Priority may be given to interns with flexible schedules who are available nights and weekends.
Tools/Equipment Provided (including Personal Protective Equipment)	Any medical equipment or other equipment necessary for animal care, calculator, computer for occasional use, scrubs, gloves, mask, protective goggles or particulate respirator provided as needed
Optional Tools/Equipment	n/a
Supervisor(s)	Antonia Gardner, DVM, Medical Director: 954.524.4302 x30; agardner@southfloridawildlifecenter.org
Additional Mentor(s)	Julie D'Errico, Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator: 954.524.4302 x25; jderico@southfloridawildlifecenter.org Animal Care Team Supervisors: Mari Diaz, Rehabilitation and Release mdiaz@southfloridawildlifecenter.org Jessica Sonzogni, Nursery jsonzogni@southfloridawildlifecenter.org Christel Fiddyment, Clinic cfiddyment@southfloridawildlifecenter.org
Number of Concurrent Internship Openings	1-4
Additional Information	
Updated	28 January 2021