



Wildlife Hospital 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 • This internship is most suitable for vet tech students looking for wildlife experience; recent grads from vet tech school and wildlife rehabilitators looking to augment their medical expertise. Interns will spend some time with the veterinarian but mainly train with vet assistants on animal handling, medication administration, patient care, lab techniques such as CBCs and fecals, and triage of incoming injured, sick, and orphaned wildlife.
Position Grade	3 ; background check includes Criminal Background, Social Security Number Verification and Sex Offender Registry
Focus of the Internship	Gives interns a concentrated introduction to the medical care of sick, injured, and orphaned adult or juvenile native wildlife, as well as some non-natives and exotic domestic animals.
Learning Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to common diseases and presentations seen in native wildlife • Training in basic handling, triage, medication administration, and urgent care in wildlife species • Hands-on experience with diagnostic and medical procedures such as anesthesia, radiographs, surgical preparation, phlebotomy, laboratory testing techniques, and fecal evaluation. • 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, overview of programs, and zoonosis information. 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>Schedule will be roughly followed based on case-load and season.</p> <p><u>Weeks One to Four:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn how to draw up and administer treatments to patients by various routes • Learn how to care for patients in ICU. • Learn how to document husbandry and medical care, and convey potential problems to staff in writing and verbally • Learn how to perform fecal testing and identify a variety of parasites. • Handle different species for weighing, treatments, and transfers. • Assist with routine care and physical exams.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain basic knowledge of anesthesia and radiographic position for a variety of species <p><u>Weeks Five to Eight:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform anesthesia and radiographs with minimal supervision • Learn the basics of surgical set-up and preparation, and assist in minor surgeries • Practice phlebotomy and learn to perform diagnostic tests, including complete blood counts and blood chemistries • Learn emergency triage techniques of sick, injured, orphan, and abandoned wildlife • Shadow the triage vet assistant and doctor on triage shifts • Become familiar with the center's patient database <p><u>Weeks Nine to Twelve:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain greater comfort with wildlife triage; may have primary case responsibility for simple cases • Gain more experience in anesthesia, surgical preparation, and assistance, and be primary assistant on surgeries • Gain greater experience with laboratory procedures, especially fecal testing and complete blood counts • Participate in necropsies and learn more about pathophysiology of disease • Assist the doctor and veterinary externs with rounds formulating treatment plans for in-patients • As available, may spend time in the nursery, release, and outreach departments • Complete and present a 20 to 30-minute power point presentation on a specific topic of interest currently under discussion at SFWC, with prior approval of supervisor
<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, must be able to withstand close quarters and be able to spend most of the day standing • 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 patient and will encounter severe injuries to wildlife
<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"> • 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 enrolled in or recently graduated from a veterinary technician program; or completed a previous wildlife internship, with a minimum of 1 year experience with animal care and handling

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, not 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 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. Start dates may be flexible for exceptional candidates.
Internship Time Commitment	Minimum 24 hours per week for 12 weeks
Internship Scheduling Guidelines	Interns will be scheduled 3 shifts per week from 8:30am – 5:30pm with a one-hour lunch break. Preference may be given to interns that are available at least one weekend day.
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, and proper mask.
Supervisor(s)	Clinic Supervisor
Additional Mentor(s)	Medical Director
Number of Concurrent Internship Openings	1-2 per season
Additional Information	This is an unpaid internship; unfortunately we cannot provide housing. This internship is ideal for veterinary technician trainees who desire concentrated training in wildlife medicine
Updated	3/30/21 - CPS