

SOUTH FLORIDA WILDLIFE CENTER

WILDLIFE HOSPITAL INTERNSHIP CURRICULUM

Program Length: 12 Weeks

Commitment: 24 Hours Per Week (288 Hours Total)

Department: Wildlife Hospital Department

Program Overview

The Wildlife Hospital Internship is designed for veterinary technician students, recent graduates, and wildlife rehabilitators seeking advanced medical experience. Interns train alongside veterinary staff and assist with patient care, diagnostics, and medical procedures.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the internship, participants will be able to:

- Perform safe wildlife patient handling
- Assist with examinations and treatments
- Administer medications under supervision
- Conduct basic laboratory procedures
- Understand wildlife triage protocols
- Maintain medical records and patient charts
- Recognize common wildlife diseases and injuries

Weekly Topics

Weeks 1–2

Hospital orientation and patient intake

Weeks 3–4

Wildlife triage and emergency stabilization

Weeks 5–6

Diagnostic procedures and laboratory techniques

Weeks 7–8

Medication administration and treatment plans

Weeks 9–10

Medical case management and rehabilitation planning

Weeks 11–12

Advanced case review and capstone presentation

Internship Completion Requirement

As part of the successful completion of the South Florida Wildlife Center Wildlife Hospital Internship Program, interns must complete the following:

1. End-of-Internship Survey

Complete the official South Florida Wildlife Center End-of-Internship Survey to provide feedback regarding your internship experience and help improve future educational opportunities.

2. Final Reflection Project

Choose ONE of the following options:

Option A: Internship Reflection Blog Post

Write a 500–1,000 word blog post discussing:

- Why you chose the internship
- Experiences and skills gained during the program
- Wildlife medicine, rehabilitation, or hospital concepts learned
- Challenges and successes encountered
- How the experience contributed to your academic and professional goals
- Advice for future interns

Selected submissions may be featured on the South Florida Wildlife Center website, newsletters, social media platforms, or educational materials.

OR

Option B: Professional Presentation

Prepare and deliver a 10–15 minute presentation on a topic related to wildlife medicine, patient care, diagnostics, rehabilitation support, species encountered, conservation medicine, or lessons learned throughout the internship experience.

Evaluation Criteria

Attendance and Reliability – 25%

Professionalism – 20%

Practical Skills and Participation – 35%

Final Reflection Requirement – 10%

Supervisor Evaluation – 10%