

SOUTH FLORIDA WILDLIFE CENTER

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION INTERNSHIP CURRICULUM

Program Length: 12 Weeks

Commitment: 24 Hours Per Week (288 Hours Total)

Department: Wildlife Rehabilitation Department

Program Overview

The Wildlife Rehabilitation Internship provides hands-on experience in the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of native Florida wildlife. Interns work alongside licensed wildlife rehabilitators to develop practical skills in animal care, husbandry, species identification, nutrition, enclosure management, and rehabilitation techniques.

Learning Objectives

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

- Identify common South Florida mammal, reptile, and bird species
- Demonstrate safe wildlife handling and restraint techniques
- Prepare species-appropriate diets
- Administer medications under supervision
- Maintain proper sanitation and biosecurity standards
- Assess patient behavior and rehabilitation progress
- Understand release criteria and rehabilitation goals

Weekly Topics

Weeks 1–2

Orientation, safety procedures, wildlife laws, species identification

Weeks 3–4

Animal husbandry, diet preparation, enclosure maintenance

Weeks 5–6

Wildlife handling and restraint techniques

Weeks 7–8

Medication administration and patient monitoring

Weeks 9–10

Rehabilitation planning and enrichment strategies

Weeks 11–12

Release assessments and final project

Internship Completion Requirement

As part of the successful completion of the South Florida Wildlife Center Wildlife Rehabilitation 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
- Challenges and successes encountered
- Wildlife rehabilitation concepts learned
- How the experience contributed to your academic and professional goals
- Advice for future interns

OR

Option B: Professional Presentation

Prepare and deliver a 10–15 minute presentation on a wildlife rehabilitation topic, patient case, species encountered, rehabilitation technique, 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%