



**South Florida  
WILDLIFE CENTER**

In partnership with The Humane Society of the United States

## Intern Position Description

### Animal Care Intern

<i>Nothing in this position description restricts management's right to assign or reassign duties and responsibilities to this position at any time.</i>	
<b>Internship Location</b>	3200 SW 4 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315
<b>Position Grade</b>	<b>3</b> ; background check includes Criminal Background, Social Security Number Verification and Sex Offender Registry
<b>Focus of the Internship</b>	Introduce intern to the care of sick and injured adult wildlife and certain domestics
<b>Learning Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn the care and husbandry challenges of the animals in our care</li> <li>• Gain hands-on wildlife experience including proper handling procedures, tube feeding, administering medications and physical therapy procedures</li> <li>• Learn what's involved in preparing an animal for release</li> <li>• Knowledge of the South Florida Wildlife Center (SFWC) and how the program area fits into the larger picture of animal protection</li> <li>• Exposure to the operations of a wildlife center</li> <li>• Knowledge of humane coexistence with wildlife</li> <li>• Knowledge of animals' habitats</li> </ul>
<b>Orientation/Training</b>	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 by meeting one-on-one with staff members, and will be given access to a manual and list of Standard Operating Procedures for reference.
<b>Intern Responsibilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean enclosures/habitats</li> <li>• Prepare diets, feed animals and record appetite</li> <li>• Handle animals</li> <li>• Assist with routine care and physical therapy</li> <li>• Observe and record activity</li> <li>• Provide enrichment</li> <li>• Convey potential problems to staff</li> <li>• Assist with general housekeeping</li> <li>• Develop independent project and complete it by the end of the internship term</li> </ul>
<b>Level of Difficulty</b> <b>1=easy/5=demanding</b> (physical, mental, emotional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical difficulty is level 4; must be able to withstand high heat; requires high levels of mobility including animal restraint</li> <li>• Mental difficulty is level 3; requires learning and following procedures and protocols and using good judgment</li> <li>• Emotional difficulty is level 3; will come into contact with injured or orphaned wildlife, which can be emotionally distressing</li> </ul>

<b>Expected Environmental Conditions</b>	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.
<b>Qualifications/Requirements for Intern Applicants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to tolerate outdoor temperatures up to and at times above 95 degrees F with high humidity for short amounts of time</li> <li>• Able to meet the requirements outlined in the Essential Capabilities document with or without reasonable accommodation</li> <li>• Able to learn and demonstrate a familiarity with SFWC's programs</li> <li>• Able to understand The HSUS's policies and positions regarding animal protection issues and able and willing to appropriately and accurately represent those policies when interacting with the public or otherwise representing The HSUS</li> </ul>
<b>Restrictions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be at least 18 years old</li> <li>• Must submit the required paperwork and pass a background check before being assigned</li> <li>• Must learn and follow all guidelines and policies of The HSUS and the SFWC, and follow directions given by staff</li> <li>• Must wear closed shoes, an SFWC shirt that is provided, and follow the SFWC dress code</li> <li>• Must work in designated area; no entering other habitats</li> <li>• No cologne/perfume</li> <li>• Should have access to a computer and ability to login into an online volunteer communication site to receive updates</li> <li>• Interns who wish to work with mammals in rehabilitative care must receive pre-exposure rabies inoculation.</li> </ul>
<b>Internship Start Date</b>	Spring session begins the first Monday in February. Summer session begins the Monday after Memorial Day. Fall session begins the Tuesday after Labor Day.
<b>Internship Time Commitment</b>	Up to 32 hours per week for 12 weeks
<b>Internship Scheduling Guidelines</b>	Interns must be available to work weekends and holidays; other workdays are flexible.
<b>Tools/Equipment Provided (including Personal Protective Equipment)</b>	All equipment necessary for animal care such as gloves, mask, protective goggles and particulate respirator
<b>Optional Tools/Equipment</b>	Personal knife and knife sharpener, personal hose nozzle, covered beverage container, water resistant shoes; rubber boots are recommended
<b>Supervisor(s)</b>	Animal Care Supervisor
<b>Additional Mentor(s)</b>	
<b>Number of Concurrent Internship Openings</b>	2
<b>Additional Information</b>	
<b>Updated</b>	6.7.2017