



**South Florida
WILDLIFE CENTER**

In partnership with The Humane Society of the United States

Intern Position Description

Veterinary Extern

| <i>Nothing in this position description restricts management's right to assign or reassign duties and responsibilities to this position at any time.</i> | |
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| 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 extern to wildlife medicine in a high-volume, fully-functional veterinary hospital and well as expose extern to the basics of wildlife husbandry and rehabilitation |
| Learning Opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training in triage, physical exam, diagnostic testing and surgery in a variety of species • Knowledge of many common diseases and injuries seen in wildlife • Basic knowledge of wildlife husbandry and rehabilitation • 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. Externs should attend the orientation wearing closed shoes. Externs 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>Weeks one and two:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on emergency triage of sick, orphaned, injured and abandoned animals • Shadow the primary triage doctor and triage technician • Become familiar with the center's computer system during first week • Become familiar with the handling and medication of a variety of species, the various areas where the animals are housed, and the administration of other treatments such as physical therapy • May have primary case responsibility for selected cases during second week <p>Weeks three and four:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on rounds with the doctor: go over cases in the hospital, formulate plans for further diagnostics and treatment, and carry out various tests • Work with technicians: perform procedures such as drawing blood; perform routine tasks such as assisting with surgical instrument cleaning and pack wrapping • May be asked to perform routine surgeries such as laceration repairs, assist with anesthesia for surgeries performed by doctor, perform |

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| | <p>anesthetized radiographs, and assist with necropsies of patients</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May accompany doctor on more extensive rounds and perform routine physical exams <p>Weeks five and beyond:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May choose whether to focus on triage or rounds, or will be placed where needed • May be given more case responsibility and allowed to do more advanced procedures • Request more experience in a routine task, field or procedure, if applicable, and receive additional training when possible <p>At any time, assist in off-site work such as visiting a veterinary specialist or assisting in the release of rehabilitated wildlife. Will spend at least a half-day biweekly in the rehabilitation/release department, and will also rotate through the nursery seasonally.</p> <p>Complete and present a 1-2 page paper each week (for up to six weeks) discussing the pathophysiology, species affected, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of diseases (where applicable) on topics selected by the center. Alternately, the supervisor may allow extern to complete a single project that is more comprehensive and covers a topic that is currently under discussion at the SFWC.</p> |
| <p>Level of Difficulty 1=easy/5=demanding <small>(physical, mental, emotional)</small></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 4; requires veterinary knowledge and engaging in training and its application at a very high level • Emotional difficulty is level 5; requires understanding decision-making concerning quality of life issues and euthanasia for animal patients; requires accepting failure for a significant number of cases |
| <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"> • Basic knowledge of all facets of veterinary medicine and able to read and understand veterinary literature • Able to do basic math for dosage calculations • Able to work well with others • Able to take direction and feedback well from veterinarians, technicians and other staff members • Able to speak English well enough to communicate under pressure and understand basic medical terminology • Adaptable to change and able to remain calm under pressure • Able to tolerate outdoor temperatures up to and at times above 95 degrees F with high humidity for short amounts of time • 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 • Able to understand The HSUS's policies and positions regarding animal |

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| | protection issues and able and willing to appropriately and accurately represent those policies when interacting with the public or otherwise representing The HSUS |
| Restrictions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be at least 18 years old • Must be in the final two years of veterinary school or have graduated from a veterinary program within the last year • Rabies vaccine highly recommended; non-vaccinated externs will not be able to work with rabies-vector species • Must submit the required paperwork and pass a background check before being assigned • Must learn and follow all guidelines and policies of The HSUS and the SFWC, and follow directions given by staff • Must wear closed shoes • Must work in designated area; no entering other habitats • No cologne/perfume • The extern must agree to not publish any articles, case reports, procedures, experiences, etc. in connection with the SFWC unless approved by the veterinarians and co-authored by them or another member of the veterinary staff. • Should have access to a computer and ability to login into an online volunteer communication site to receive updates |
| Internship Start Date | Flexible |
| Internship Time Commitment | Externships are available year-round for a minimum commitment of 3 weeks up to 8 weeks, approximately 48 hours per week. |
| Internship Scheduling Guidelines | Externs will be assigned to shifts that are 8-10 hours in length and occur between the hours of 7 am and 8 pm. Externs will be expected to work hours assigned by supervisor, including one weekend shift per week. |
| Tools/Equipment Provided (including Personal Protective Equipment) | Any medical equipment or other equipment necessary for animal care, calculator, computer for occasional use, 2 scrub tops for the duration (to be returned at the end of the externship), gloves, mask, protective goggles or particulate respirator provided as needed |
| Optional Tools/Equipment | n/a |
| Supervisor(s) | Staff Veterinarian |
| Additional Mentor(s) | Director of Clinic Operations |
| Number of Concurrent Internship Openings | 2 |
| Additional Information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-site housing is available. • Externship ideal for those considering wildlife, zoo or exotic animal medicine. |
| Updated | 10/31/2014 |