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Externship in Wildlife and Conservation Medicine *for Undergraduate Students*

General Program Description

CROW is a nonprofit hospital and rehabilitation center providing care for native and migratory wildlife on the Gulf Coast of Southwest Florida. CROW's fully equipped wildlife hospital admits approximately 4,000 patients per year including more than 200 different species of birds, mammals and reptiles. The goal of wildlife rehabilitation is to return sick, injured or orphaned wild animals back to the wild.

The Student Program is designed to augment the educational pursuits of natural science, veterinary, and veterinary technician students. Students are supervised and assisted by a full-time, boarded specialist veterinarian, veterinary interns, a Certified Veterinary Technician and many staff rehabilitators and volunteers. Emphasis is placed on the student gaining an understanding of the entire rehabilitation process from admittance through release, evidence-based wildlife and conservation medicine, as well as the One World, One Health concept.

Externship for Undergraduate Students (6 to 16 weeks)

Undergraduate students participate in daily hospital and rehabilitation center activities with a focus on care of orphans and general husbandry. Daily activities include observation, handling, restraint, and physical examination of various wildlife species, nutritional management for wildlife patients, feeding and care of orphaned babies, maintenance and cleanliness of outdoor enclosures and hospital cages with emphasis on stress reduction, disease control and enrichment. They participate in ongoing clinical research and give Education Center presentations to the public. They participate in weekly didactic and case rounds. Dependent on case load, they may observe physical exams and concurrent diagnostics, observe wildlife anesthesia and surgery, and take first responder calls and admit patients. They may participate with the rescue and release of various species *as available*.

Duration

The externship program lasts 6-16 weeks, depending on the student's needs. Program openings are available throughout the year and applications are considered as they are received. On-site housing is available.

Location

CROW operates on a 12.5-acre campus on Sanibel Island, Florida. The organization's hospital and visitor education center are located adjacent to the waterways and mangroves of the J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge. The Gulf of Mexico is a short bike ride away.

Requirements

Applicants must be over 18 years of age. All **accepted** applicants must agree to and sign rules and regulations in regard to commitment, housing, dress code, code of conduct, photo policies, etc. along with liability waivers. Current fees include a \$125 program fee and \$75 per week housing fee. This is an unpaid position. **All accepted applicants must provide proof of current tetanus immunizations and proof of pre-exposure rabies series.**

Apply

Visit our website at www.crowclinic.org and download and return application packet to students@crowclinic.org or to PO Box 150, Sanibel, FL 33957.

For questions not answered on the website or in the application packet, email or call CROW at (239) 472-3644, ext. 231.