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## Externship in Wildlife and Conservation Medicine *for Veterinary Medicine 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 over 3,000 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 Veterinary Medicine Students (4 to 12 weeks, minimum of 20 days)

Veterinary Medicine students participate in daily hospital and rehabilitation center activities with a focus on providing medical treatments and care to patients in critical care. Daily activities include giving all the medical treatments to patients, caring for neonatal wildlife (including assisted alimentation), surgery, administering anesthesia, learning to do venipuncture in a variety of species, giving parenteral and oral medications and fluids, admitting emergent wildlife patients and performing physical exams, reading radiographs and cytology slides, learning routine husbandry, rescuing and releasing wildlife *as available*. They participate in ongoing clinical research and give Education Center presentations to the public. They participate in weekly didactic and case rounds. ***They also help with feeding, cleaning, environmental enrichment, and patient welfare.*** *Students in their final year of veterinary school will get primary case responsibility and may also perform surgical procedures.*

### Duration

The externship for Veterinary Medicine program lasts 4 to 12 weeks or a minimum of 20 days. 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 and currently be enrolled in a post-graduate veterinary program. 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. Fees required are \$75.00 program fee, \$50 a week housing fee and refundable \$50 cleaning 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](http://www.crowclinic.org) and download and return application packet to [students@crowclinic.org](mailto: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. 221.