



## Student Programs in Wildlife and Conservation Medicine

### 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, Certified Veterinary Technicians 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 also 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*.

### Externship for Veterinary Technician Students (6 to 24 weeks)

Veterinary Technician 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, taking radiographs and reading 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.***

### 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.*

### Fellowship Students (6 months/26 weeks)

Fellowship 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 also 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*.



## General Student Program Information

**ELIGIBILITY** - Student programs are open to anyone **over 18 years of age** with an interest in wildlife rehabilitation and medicine. To be admitted into the Veterinary Technician or Veterinary Medicine Externships, you must be pursuing your degree in either of these fields. Fellowship students must provide proof of citizenship along with two forms of accepted identification. All applications are considered as they are received. Placement in our programs is based on the qualifications of the applicant and the vacancies that are available.

**HOUSING** - On-site, furnished housing and utilities are provided for the length of your term at a nonrefundable fee of \$75 per week. Board and amenities, such as transportation to and from CROW, are not included and must be provided by the student. Housing is for program participants only; no over-night visitors, children, or companion animals are allowed. **No smoking or alcohol is allowed on CROW property.**

**IMMUNIZATIONS** - Accepted program applicants must provide proof of current tetanus immunizations and proof of pre-exposure rabies series. **The pre-exposure rabies series is required for all accepted applicants.** This is mandatory so that students may gain understanding and experience working with rabies vector species such as raccoons, otters, bobcats and bats.

**DRESS CODE** - CROW scrub tops (sage green) along with navy blue or khaki knee-length shorts, pants or any color scrub pants are only acceptable work attire. Scrub tops are provided (see Fees). Pants or shorts must be supplied by student.

**LIABILITY, WAIVERS & RULES FORMS** - After acceptance and prior to starting, students must have signed and submitted the following forms: Acceptance letter, Letter of Commitment, Acknowledgement & Release, Non-disclosure, Code of Conduct & Standards of Dress, Use of Electronics, Photo Policies, Zoonotic Disease and Housing Rules forms.

**FEES** - Due back **with your Acceptance packet forms**:

- Non-refundable \$100.00 deposit (to be applied to your fees below)

**Fees that must be paid at least 90 days prior to starting include:**

- Non-refundable Program Fee (\$125.00) Includes administrative fee and the cost for 5 color-coded scrub tops that you are required to wear as part of your uniform.
- Non-refundable Housing Fee (\$75 a week for the length of your stay)

**COMPENSATION** - No monetary compensation is available for Externs. The 6-month Fellowship currently provides a biweekly stipend of \$150 (gross) which includes 3 paid days off "PTO" (paid time off) during the 6-month program and free housing.

**SCHEDULE** - CROW is open 365 days per year. **The workday is long and begins at 8 AM.** The hospital doesn't close for the evening until all patients are cared for and the facility has been cleaned—depending on the time of year, evening infant care / feeding may be necessary. Students routinely work 40 to 60 hours per week.

**COMMITMENT** - All program participants are a very important member of our rehabilitation team. The work of any rehabilitation center and wildlife hospital is **labor intensive**. We depend on our students for many, many functions. Few jobs are glamorous but all tasks are vitally important for the successful release of patients back into the wild. Our center runs smoothly through the cooperation of a dedicated group of staff and volunteers.

Mail to: **CROW Student Program**  
**P.O. Box 150**  
**Sanibel, FL 33957-0150**

**Contact:** Cheryl McCormick, Program Administrative Assistant  
**Phone:** 239-472-3644 ext. 231  
**Email:** students@crowclinic.org



- Undergraduate Externship**  
6 – 16 Weeks
- Veterinary Medicine Externship**  
4 – 12 Weeks

- Veterinary Technician Externship**  
6 – 24 Weeks
- Fellowship**  
26 Weeks (6 months)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TODAY'S DATE \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CURRENT AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ GENDER: M F

PRESENT ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PERMANENT MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS (**Print Clearly**) \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT and RELATIONSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

HOW/WHERE DID YOU HEAR ABOUT CROW (**Be Specific**)? \_\_\_\_\_

ANY PHYSICAL HANDICAPS OR HEALTH ISSUES WHICH MAY PREVENT YOU FROM PERFORMING THE JOB?  
YES  NO  (If yes, please describe)

\_\_\_\_\_

<u>COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY</u>	<u>DATES ATTENDED</u>	<u>GRAD YR or CLASS OF</u>	<u>MAJOR</u>

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Students **generally begin on Wednesdays** and are required to arrive on a Monday or Tuesday in order to move in, complete paperwork and receive orientation. Start dates are not always at the beginning of the month - depending on CROW's needs and housing availability.

Externship Candidate: No. of weeks requested: \_\_\_\_\_

**Months AVAILABLE** 1st CHOICE FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ THROUGH: \_\_\_\_\_

(INCLUDE MO/YR) 2nd CHOICE FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ THROUGH: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE INCLUDE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING WITH YOUR MAILED APPLICATION SUBMISSION:**

- Completed Application Form
- Brief Letter of Intent
- Resume
- School Transcripts (non-official copy)
- Professional References - **include 2 written recommendation letters** with current contact info for our verification. Note: work-related recommendations are preferred to academic. References may email letters directly to students@crowclinic.org, noting the "subject" as "student reference."