



3883 Sanibel Captiva Road
Sanibel Island, FL 33957 USA
(239) 472-3644
Robin Bast, DVM
Staff Veterinarian

Veterinary Medical Externship in Wildlife and Conservation Medicine

General Program Description

- CROW is a nonprofit wildlife 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 6,000 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, wildlife rehabilitators, and other staff and volunteers.
- Emphasis is placed on the student gaining an understanding of the entire rehabilitation process from admittance to 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 working 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), observing 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.
- After an initial training period, veterinary students may have the opportunity to assume primary case responsibility under the veterinarian's supervision and guidance.
- ***They also help with feeding, cleaning, environmental enrichment, and patient welfare.***
- ***Students will also be scheduled in our baby rooms as needed during the week.***

Duration

- The externship program lasts 4-12 weeks, depending on the student's needs and program availability.
- Program openings are available throughout the year and applications are considered as they are received.
- On-site housing is available for \$75 per week.

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 J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge.
- Beaches and local restaurants are a short distance from campus.
- The mainland of Fort Myers past the Sanibel Causeway is 15 minutes away from CROW.

Requirements

- Applicants must be over 18 years of age.
- Applicants must currently be attending an accredited veterinary medical school to be considered.
- A minimum of 1 year animal care experience is REQUIRED.
- All **accepted** applicants must agree to and sign rules and regulation forms regarding 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.
- **Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination is REQUIRED upon acceptance.**
- **All accepted applicants must provide proof of current tetanus immunizations and proof of pre-exposure rabies series.**

How to Apply

- Visit our website at www.crowclinic.org and download and return completed application materials to students@crowclinic.org or to PO Box 150, Sanibel, FL 33957.
- For questions not answered on the website or in the application packet, please email students@crowclinic.org
- **THERE IS NO DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS.** Applications are accepted year-round and are processed as they are received.