



P.O. Box 150, Sanibel, FL 33957
239 472-3644 Fax 239 472-2334
Email: students@crowclinic.org

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in CROW. Enclosed please find the information for CROW's Externship and Fellowship programs. Both programs are open to candidates interested in the field of wildlife rehabilitation and positions rotate throughout the year. They are designed to augment the educational pursuits of both natural science and veterinary students.

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. A phone interview is the final portion of the application process.

Please feel free to call or email if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ava Hinojosa
Managing Director
(239) 472-3644, ext 227
ava@crowclinic.org

EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM—4 to 12 weeks
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM—6 months (26 weeks)

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 4200 patients per year including over 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. At CROW patient handling and human noises are kept to a minimum in an effort to reduce stress and maintain respect for the wild animal's space. All Externs and Fellows participate with the staff in the daily activities of the rehabilitation center. Students are supervised by staff rehabilitators and one full-time veterinarian, trained in both Western and Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine. Emphasis is placed on the student gaining an understanding of the entire rehabilitation process from admittance through release. Morning and afternoon activities focus on cage cleaning, diet preparation, and patient care. Facility upkeep and care of nocturnal patients complete each day's agenda. Please be aware that "medical procedures" are a small, albeit critical, part of the rehabilitation process for each patient. Good husbandry is good medicine and the majority of work done by everyone, including the veterinarian, involves feeding and cleaning. Whether assisting in the ICU or the outside enclosures, students are expected to help monitor each patient's progress and provide feedback to the staff. Therefore, attention to detail and enthusiasm are imperative. Patient records are available to assist in the learning process and questions are encouraged, especially during morning rounds.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Maintenance, cleanliness, and basic design of outdoor enclosures and hospital cages with emphasis on stress reduction and disease control

- Observation, handling and restraint of various wildlife species
- Nutritional management for wildlife patients.
- Feeding and care of orphaned babies
- Introduction to integrative medicine—acupuncture, herbs and homeopathy
- Clinical pathology—assisting with fecal exams and necropsies
- Public relations in the wildlife rehabilitation setting—working with volunteers
- Rescue and release of various species *as available*
- Observe physical exams and concurrent diagnostics *as available*—emphasis is on recognizing "normal" in different wildlife species, as well as diseases common to particular species.
- Observe wildlife anesthesia and surgery *as available*
- 1st responder rescue calls/patient admissions
- Participate in weekly student-led discussion (optional)

Both the Extern and Fellowship programs provide housing on the CROW property for a nominal fee. The Fellowship program also provides a bi-weekly stipend.

General Program Information

ELIGIBILITY

Student programs are open to anyone **over 18 years of age** with an interest in wildlife rehabilitation and medicine. Fellowship students must also provide proof of citizenship and a social security card.

COMPENSATION

No monetary compensation is available for Externs.

The 6-month Fellowship currently provides a biweekly stipend of \$250 (gross) which includes 3 paid “ET” (Earned Time) days off during the 6-month program.

HOUSING

On-site, furnished housing and utilities are currently provided for a nominal fee ranging from \$250 to \$400, covering your length of stay. 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 allowed on CROW property.**

IMMUNIZATIONS

Tetanus immunization must be current for *all* program applicants. Proof of **pre-exposure rabies series** is required from Externs who are currently enrolled in veterinary school and from all Fellowship applicants.

Note: While the pre-exposure rabies series is *not required* for 6-week “natural science” Externs, rabies vector species (i.e.: raccoons) can *not* be handled without that vaccine. Any student who wishes this additional scope of experience *or* who wishes to participate beyond 6-weeks is encouraged to complete the series and submit proof with application.

LIABILITY

All students are required to sign a waiver exempting CROW from liability for injury and illness occurring during program participation.

SCHEDULE

CROW is open 365 days per year. The workday is long and may begin as early as 7AM. 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.

THINGS TO DO on your day off

There are many nature-oriented facilities and activities on Sanibel. Brochures and information are available upon your arrival. Bike paths line most major roads on Sanibel with easy access to beaches, kayaking, and "birding". The island's main shopping district, with a public library, post office, movie theater, restaurants and stores, is within easy biking distance. Bikes are available at CROW for student use. Recreation/Fitness Center is across the street from CROW.

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. ***Remember that every experience is what you make it.***

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



EXTERNSHIP APPLICATION

FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____ TODAY'S DATE _____

BIRTHDATE: _____ CURRENT AGE: _____

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)

AVAILABLE DATES 1st CHOICE FROM: _____ THROUGH: _____

(INCLUDE MO/DAY/YR) 2nd CHOICE FROM: _____ THROUGH: _____

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY **DATES ATTENDED** **GRAD YEAR or CLASS OF** **MAJOR**

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 and References may email letters directly to students@crowclinic.org, noting the "subject" as "student reference."