



Student Programs in Wildlife and Conservation Medicine

**(please read and initial next to your desired program section –
by initialing you are stating you have read and agree to the terms listed)**

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 5,000 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 Undergraduate Students (6 to 16 weeks) **INITIAL HERE:** _____

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, and observe wildlife anesthesia and surgery. They may participate with the rescue and release of various species *as available*. **This externship is more rehab based and students can expect to be scheduled in our baby rooms more often than our ICU floor.**

Externship for Veterinary Technician Students (6 to 24 weeks) **INITIAL HERE:** _____

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), 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, 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. Students will also be scheduled in our baby rooms as needed during the week.***

Externship for Veterinary Medicine Students (4 to 12 weeks, minimum of 20 working days) **INITIAL HERE:** _____

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.***

Fellowship Students (6 months/26 weeks) **INITIAL HERE:** _____

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 will be scheduled outside on a weekly basis with our rehab staff to care for all patients housed outside and may have the opportunity to work with our ambassador animals. 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. They may participate with the rescue and release of various species *as available*. **Fellowships are more rehab based and students can expect to be scheduled in our baby rooms more often than our ICU floor.**



General Student Program Information

(please read and initial below each section – by initialing you are stating you have read and agree to the terms listed)

ELIGIBILITY - Students must be **over 18 years of age** with an interest in wildlife rehabilitation and medicine. Eligibility for our Veterinary Technician or Veterinary Medicine Externships, you must be enrolled in either program. Fellowship students must provide proof of citizenship along with two forms of accepted identification. All completed applications are considered as they are received.

INITIAL HERE: _____

HOUSING - On-site, furnished housing and utilities are provided for the length of your term at a **non-refundable** 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. (see **Student Handbook for all student housing rules prior to initializing**).

INITIAL HERE: _____

IMMUNIZATIONS - Accepted program applicants must provide proof of current tetanus and of pre-exposure rabies series immunizations (you are able to apply if you have not yet vaccinated, but must do so after acceptance). Both vaccines are required as students will be working hands-on with rabies vector species.

INITIAL HERE: _____

DRESS CODE – Color coded scrub tops will be provided for each CROW student. Appropriate bottoms are to be provided by the student (navy blue or khaki knee-length work shorts / pants or any color scrub pants are only acceptable work attire). No jeans, athletic shorts, leggings, etc. are to be worn while working at the hospital.

INITIAL HERE: _____

COMPENSATION - No monetary compensation is available for Externs. The 6-month Fellowship provides a biweekly stipend of \$150 (gross) and 3 paid days off during the 6-month program and no housing fee.

INITIAL HERE: _____

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. The assigned date the forms are to be due will be assigned by the Hospital Training Coordinator.

INITIAL HERE: _____

FEES – All students pay the Program Fee and only externs will pay the housing fee if living on-site. All off-site housing accommodations will be to the responsibility of the student.

- **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). Housing fees will only be refunded if CROW needs to cancel your program.

INITIAL HERE: _____

SCHEDULE - CROW is open 365 days per year. **The workday begins no later than 8 AM.** The hospital does not close until all patients are cared for and the facility has been cleaned—depending on the time of year, evening infant care and feedings may be necessary. Students routinely work 40 to 60 hours per week.

INITIAL HERE: _____

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**. Daily tasks include our daily cleaning list, husbandry, treatments (medicating, feeding, and cleaning cages), admitting new patients, baby care, and more!

INITIAL HERE: _____

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

Contact: Becca Wehmeier, Hospital Training Coordinator
Phone: 239-472-3644 ext. 234
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)

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

DATES ATTENDED

GRAD YR or CLASS OF

MAJOR

Students **generally begin on Tuesday or Wednesday** and are required to arrive at least one day prior to their start date. Start dates do not always begin the 1st of the month – it is dependent on CROW's needs, program availability, and housing availability.

Number of weeks requested: _____

Program Availability 1st Choice: **Start:** _____ **End Date:** _____

(Include month, date, and year if possible)

2nd Choice: **Start:** _____ **End Date:** _____

End Date: _____

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

- Completed Application Form
- Brief Letter of Intent
- Resume
- School Transcripts (can be 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."