

WILDLIFE HEALTH EXTERNSHIP POSITION DESCRIPTION

TITLE: Veterinary Extern

SECTION/SUBSECTION: EAR / Fish and Wildlife Health

The entry-level knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs) needed to perform job duties are:

Position is limited to third and fourth year veterinary students. Prior rabies vaccination is required with proof of titer within 1 yr. A valid driver's license is required. Extern must be able to work unsupervised in often hot, humid, and inclement conditions, and must possess basic skills in necropsy and proper sample collection. Other requirements include basic knowledge of wildlife ecology; knowledge of office procedures and practices, and methods of data collection; skill in use of personal computers, spreadsheet, and word processing software, particularly Microsoft Office products; ability to understand and apply applicable rules, regulations, policies, and procedures; utilize problem solving techniques; plan, organize, and coordinate work assignments; communicate effectively verbally and in writing including good communication with the public and FWC stakeholders; establish and maintain effective working relationships; and the ability to work as part of a team.

JOB DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (estimated % time commitment)

(30%) Assist with the investigation of wildlife mortality events and disease monitoring by coordinating with the public, other biologists, and Fish and Wildlife Health (FWH) staff to collect and transport carcasses for necropsy; assist with immobilization, transport, and euthanasia of sick/injured wildlife; assist with wildlife necropsies, assist with data collection and entry; process and ship diagnostic samples and ensure return and re-archiving of unused samples from diagnostic labs when applicable, prepare necropsy reports, and maintain medical records.

(25%) Assist with field or lab research and monitoring projects both with Wildlife Health team and with other FWC programs.

(25%) Conduct student research project, assist with preparation of Wildlife Health webpages, and prepare protocols, necropsy guides, and/or other educational/outreach materials.

(10%) Assist with teaching wildlife disease lab classes and other outreach.

(10%) Provide administrative assistance including data entry, scanning medical records, and assisting with sample archiving.

Position will be based at the Lovett E. Williams Wildlife Research Laboratory (Wildlife Health, FWH Health subsection, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, Gainesville, Florida). The position will be supervised by a wildlife veterinarian.

The extern will gain knowledge and experience in wildlife disease surveillance, important diseases in wildlife, necropsy techniques, and wildlife disease investigations. Depending on ongoing projects, the extern may gain knowledge and experience in research design, radio-telemetry, and capture and immobilization.