Sea Turtle Hospital at the Whitney Laboratory
Veterinary Technician Internship

Description

The internship at The Sea Turtle Hospital at UF Whitney Laboratory is designed to be a career learning experience. Interns will gain first-hand experience in data collection, sanitation procedures, food preparation, and sea turtle husbandry. Students interested in interning at the hospital should be working towards a degree in marine biology, veterinary medicine or a related field. Recent graduates seeking experience in these fields are also accepted.

Interns will work within all areas that make up the Sea Turtle Hospital, to gain in-depth knowledge of sea turtle husbandry and medical treatment through a unique phase-training program. This allows the individual to become familiar with husbandry and medical procedures used at the hospital. Interns assist our staff with husbandry and treatment of all sea turtle patients in residence. Interns also help with lab procedures, sample processing, and record keeping.

Interns will participate in professional development activities, such as staff meetings, in-house training, seminars, evaluations, and resume-building experiences. Interns will be responsible for completion of an independent project and will present on it at the end of their internship.

Interns also participate in hospital activities, the development of educational and interactive displays, and community programs. Interns will be exposed to all areas of the hospital and leave with a well-rounded knowledge of not only how the hospital operates on a daily basis, but also with an extensive knowledge of conserving our marine ecosystems.

Duties

- Individual food preparation
- Maintenance of animal enclosures (scrubbing, water changes, water/air monitoring, filter maintenance, water quality) under supervision.
- Help maintain life support systems
- Clean food-prep and other back-up areas
- Assist in care for animals undergoing rehabilitation
- Assist in rescue and salvage responses
- Participate in post-mortem work and necropsies
- Assist in weekly sea turtle physicals
- Record-keeping
- Complete an independent project
- Assist and lead public behind-the-scene tours of the hospital (under supervision)

Qualifications

- Currently enrolled in or graduated from college or university
- Must be available to work from May 15 through August 15 (dates may slightly vary pending an individual’s school)
- Interns should demonstrate strong written and verbal communication skills
- Students that are adaptable, responsible, hardworking, willing to learn, and have attention to detail are encouraged to apply
- Must be able to work independently and as part of a team.
- Interns should expect to work 40 hours per week which will include early morning and/or late night.
- Must be able to lift 50 pounds
- Must be able to stand for long periods of time
- Must be able to work in the field during mid-summer months in Florida

If an intern plans to receive school credit for an internship, they must notify staff prior to the internship start date, and it will be the responsibility of the applicant to ensure all required paperwork is completed and submitted.