



**Veterinary Student Wildlife Medicine Externship
For Ojai Raptor Center
Full or part time, Unpaid**

The Ojai Raptor Center is a state and federally permitted, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of birds of prey and other wildlife, and to providing educational programs about wildlife and our shared environment. The Ojai Raptor Center is located in Southern California and treats over 1,200 native wildlife yearly, 600-800 of which are birds of prey. While the Ojai Raptor Center specializes in treating birds of prey, we also receive or triage a variety of other native wildlife. About 85 - 90% of our patients are avian species.

Reports to: Staff Veterinarian

Summary:

Veterinary students currently enrolled in veterinary school are welcome to apply for this 2 to 6 week position. Students do not need to be in their clinical year to apply. Applicants are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis and can apply at any time. The length of the externship is dependent on the applicant's availability and the Ojai Raptor Center's schedule.

Full-time externships are only available for the months of March through October.
Part-time externships may be arranged for the months of February through December.

Housing and transportation are NOT provided.

The Ojai Raptor Center is staffed by one full-time wildlife veterinarian, as well as animal care assistants that specialize in the field of wildlife rehabilitation, volunteers, and animal care interns. Veterinary Student externs will primarily be working one-on-one with the wildlife veterinarian, but may also be supervised by and working with animal care assistants, as well as volunteers and interns on occasion.

Veterinary students will gain experience in the following areas:

Identification of the common wildlife species of Southern California and have some understanding of their natural history.

Techniques used to restrain wildlife, in particular birds of prey.

Husbandry (diet, caging, etc) of native Southern California wildlife undergoing rehabilitation.

Physical examination of wildlife.

Venipuncture, oral and injectable medication administration, intraosseous and intravenous catheter placement in avian species.

Performing and interpreting basic diagnostic procedures such as hematology, cytology, and radiography.

Administering both inhalation and injectable anesthesia on wildlife, primarily birds, and anesthetic monitoring.

Ophthalmologic examination and treatment in avian species.

Performing surgical procedures such as wound repair on appropriate cases, and assisting in more complicated surgical procedures such as fracture repair.

Performing avian bandaging techniques.

Gain practice performing fracture repair surgeries on cadavers, if time permits.

Performing humane methods of euthanasia used in wildlife species.

Performing gross necropsies on wildlife.

Gain knowledge of the important infectious diseases commonly seen in Southern California wildlife.

Understand the medical and ethical issues regarding the treatment, rehabilitation, and conservation of wildlife, and the maintenance of non-releasable wildlife in captivity for educational purposes.

Understand release criteria of native wildlife undergoing rehabilitation.

Understand the concept of conservation medicine, and the role a wildlife center can play in wildlife disease monitoring, ecosystem health, conservation, and public education.

Physical Requirements and Work Environment:

There is a frequent need to stand, stoop, twist, walk, lift animal crates and other objects (up to 50 pounds), and stand on a concrete floor for up to 10 hours/day.

Will be handling/restraining sick, injured and orphaned native wild animals; exposure to zoonosis, bites, scratches and other potential injury.

Physical Demands:

Medium strength demands include exerting 20-50 pounds occasionally, 10- 25 pounds frequently, or up to 10 pounds constantly. Requires handling, using vision and hearing, and talking.

Frequently requires standing, fine dexterity, walking, lifting, sitting, reaching, pushing/pulling, balancing, and twisting. Occasionally requires carrying, kneeling, foot controls, bending, and crouching. Rarely requires climbing.

Proficiency in written and spoken English is required.

EEO Policy Statement:

It is the policy of Ojai Raptor Center to afford equal employment opportunities to all qualified individuals without regard to their race, color, ancestry, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, citizen status, veteran status, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic or status that is protected by federal, state or local law.

Application Process:

Please submit the following to kathryn@ojairaptorcenter.org:

CV, with at least two references

A letter of intent, explaining career goals

Proof of rabies vaccination or an adequate titer level within two years of the externship, if applicable (rabies vaccination is NOT required for this externship)

Proof of COVID-19 vaccination (COVID-19 vaccination IS required for this externship)