Thank you for inquiring about the veterinary preceptorship/externship program at White Oak Conservation Center. Our program serves as a means of instructing veterinary students about zoological medicine and surgery in a hands-on setting. Students are under the direct supervision of Scott B. Citino, D.V.M., Dipl. ACZM, our staff veterinarian, working with one or more resident veterinarians and a staff of veterinary technicians. Students are considered for this program after completion of their third year of veterinary school. The length of the program can be a minimum of four weeks and maximum of eight weeks.

Our collection consists of more than 24 species of endangered ungulates, large carnivores, and birds and our programs concentrate on captive breeding of endangered wildlife, in situ conservation, and medical, reproductive, and behavioral research. Our staff consists of a staff veterinarian, a third year resident in zoo/wildlife medicine from University of Florida, a Ph.D. in reproductive physiology, two full time veterinary technicians, and one technician intern. We have a modern, well-equipped medical and surgical facility that includes digital radiography, ultrasound, endoscopic, and laparoscopic equipment and a fully equipped clinical pathology laboratory. We have strong ties with the University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine and local specialty practices, and students frequently get opportunities to work with specialists from these facilities on our cases.

Topics covered during the program include; capture, restraint, and anesthesiology, clinical medicine, preventive medicine, exhibit design, environmental enrichment, nutritional concerns, medical records using MedARKS, disease control and conservation issues related to zoos and conservation centers. Student will participate in clinical diagnostic evaluations such as hematology, cytology, fecal parasitology, radiography, ultrasound, and endoscopy and will also participate in necropsy examinations. In the event of a medical
situation that requires 24-hour observation, students may be asked to cover the late night or early morning watches while living on property.

Students will spend time assisting veterinary technicians, animal keepers and administrative staff to learn the importance of other technical and professional staff members in the operation of the facility. Each student will identify a topic of interest applicable to the White Oak collection to be covered in a short-term project and give a brief presentation to conservation center staff on this topic at the end of the program. Housing is provided for students on property, but food is the responsibility of the student. Students should have proof of a negative TB test within four months prior to starting the program and a tetanus toxoid booster within the past ten years. Students must also have their own personal medical insurance policy.

To apply for the program, students should send a letter of introduction/purpose, a current resume/CV, a copy of college transcripts, designate at least two time periods when they an come for the externship/preceptorship and a letter of reference from a faculty member or other veterinary professional. Externships are not available during the summer months.

This is just a brief overview of the program offered at White Oak, if you have any other questions please feel free to call Dr. Scott Citino at 904-225-3380, or email him at scottc@wogilman.com.