

Participating Agencies:

- Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)
- National Park Service (NPS)
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD)
- USDA APHIS National Wildlife Research Center



Rocky Mountain Wildlife Veterinary Externship



Captive and free ranging wildlife research

Who: Eligible students will be in their 4th year of veterinary training during the time of the externship. **Six to eight** students will be accepted each year.

What: This **four week** externship will include one week of group activities, providing exposure to each of the participating agencies. During the following three weeks, each of the participating agencies will host one or two students for a more individualized experience. Each student will be required to complete a project to be presented at the end of the rotation. The rotation is expected to include lectures, field trips, and hands-on experiences dependent on opportunities that arise during the course of the rotation. However, the majority of time spent by a wildlife veterinarian is in the office. This externship will reflect the real-world experiences and responsibilities of a wildlife veterinarian, including paperwork and communications that sustain veterinary clinical and field work.

Where: Students with CPW, USDA, and NPS will be based in Fort Collins, Colorado. Students in Fort Collins will be responsible for all travel, housing arrangements, and associated costs. Students with WGFD will be based in Sybille Canyon, Wyoming, and will be provided housing but will be responsible for their own travel arrangements. Additional details will be provided to successful applicants.

Why: This collaborative approach to veterinary student training in the Rocky Mountain region is designed to provide students with broad exposure to the numerous wildlife veterinary professionals present in the region. Student projects will be designed with host agencies to provide a real-world experience for the student.

When:

Rotation dates: **August 31 - September 25, 2026**

Application deadline: **October 5, 2025 (11: 59 pm MST)**

How: Please submit applications by email to: rmwildlifevetexternship@gmail.com

Applications must include:

One-page cover letter /letter of interest

Curriculum vitae

One letter of recommendation

Short (one page or less) example of previous writing (published or unpublished) to demonstrate writing style for projects related to public communication. To capture the diverse range of experience that students may possess, applicants are scored based on:

free ranging wildlife experience, captive wildlife experience, involvement in wildlife organizations, laboratory experience, research and/or publications, policy and/or education experience, leadership and community involvement, writing and communication, and letter of recommendation demonstrating student's suitability for this externship.



Wildlife necropsy and pathology



Wildlife disease diagnostics



Education and outreach