The Koval Foundation Veterinarian Internship Program
at the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre

Position: Veterinary Intern (1yr contract)
Location: Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre @ 2785 Television Rd. Peterborough, Ontario
Reports to: Medical Director

Program Purpose:

The Koval Foundation Veterinarian Internship Program at the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre is designed to provide immersive clinical training for licensed veterinarians in the field of native Ontario turtle trauma medicine and surgery at our CVO-accredited hospital and MNR-licensed rehabilitation facility. This one-year internship offers the opportunity to acquire skills in the management of turtle road traumas and other forms of injuries and illnesses encountered in our wild turtle populations. Our fast-paced, high-volume hospital offers a unique on-the-job training opportunity to participate in the management of over 2300 intakes per year as well as an incubation and hatchling program that manages over 9000 eggs and 4-5000 hatchlings, making a true and meaningful contribution of animals back to their ancestral wetlands where they belong.

Please note this is NOT part of the Veterinary Internship Residency Matching Program

About OTCC:

The Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre operates the only CVO-accredited turtle hospital in Ontario. We are a licensed rehabilitation centre and at any one time will have well over 1000 turtles in our care. Our year-round veterinary staff includes a full-time veterinarian, casual and volunteer veterinarians, and 2 RVTs, as well as animal care staff and volunteers who provide ongoing care to the turtles in recovery. We are now operating out of a brand new medical centre with digital radiography, a large surgical suite designed for teaching and public observation, and an in-house lab.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- The intern will be an integral part of the veterinary team, participating in all aspects of veterinary care at OTCC and taking primary responsibility for cases over time as experience allows. They will:
- Acquire skills in shell and soft tissue surgeries, sedation and anesthesia, diagnostic testing and interpretation, long-term case management, physiotherapy, health assessments and release assessment.
- Learn a shelter-type approach to high-volume traumas that balances the needs of a large number of admissions at one time. The type and volume of work varies greatly by season. Strong mentorship will be provided in the winter months to familiarize the intern with processes, procedures, routines and our team to facilitate more independent work during the summer surge in intakes, mostly alongside other clinicians. Veterinarians providing mentorship at OTCC have extensive experience in the field of turtle rehabilitation and medicine.
- Communicate and work closely with volunteers, veterinary and veterinary technician student placements, other staff.
- Participate in/lead literature reviews and regular rounds with other wildlife veterinarians; have the opportunity to complete a small research project or case report/series with support, depending on candidate's interest.
- Assist in the implementation of a digital records system.
- Other duties as required to support the OTCC team.

Qualifications:

ONTARIO TURTLE
CONSERVATION CENTRE

- Must possess a DVM degree and have a minimum of 1yr of post-graduate clinical experience.
- Must possess a license to practice veterinary medicine in Ontario and be legally eligible to work in Canada.
- Demonstrated interest in wildlife (preferably reptile) medicine and conservation. Experience in a high-volume hospital or conservation medicine is valuable.
- Must possess a valid G license and have access to a vehicle.
- Valid First Aid training, or the willingness to obtain training.
- Must be available to work holidays and weekends, notably in summer, on an irregular schedule.

Competencies:

- Must be able work independently and with minimal supervision over time; must also be a supportive team member to other staff and volunteers at the Centre.
- Must have a calm demeanor in a fast-paced and high-stress environment.
- Must have a strong work ethic in times of both high and low admissions.
- Must be highly adaptable and willing to assist in various aspects of turtle care and husbandry.
- Must be able to meet the physical demands of the job, including long hours standing, heavy lifting of animals and tubs (up to 40lbs), bending, twisting and kneeling and repetitive surgeries.
- Must have excellent verbal and written communication skills to communicate with staff, volunteers, members of the public and other veterinary professionals.

Compensation (full-time position*):

- $50,000/yr salary for full-time (40hrs/week)
- 2 weeks paid vacation per year
- CVO license fees paid for the year
- 24hrs of paid time off for related CE
- **note that 32hrs (4 days) per week can be negotiated*

Application to the Program:

Applications will be reviewed beginning Nov 1, 2026 and will continue until the position is filled.
Flexible start date between Jan 1st and Feb 15th, 2027.
Please send your CV and cover letter in a single PDF addressed to hospital@ontarioturtle.ca to be considered for this position and indicate if you prefer a 32- or 40-hr position. Please note that only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.