



## **Cheetah Conservation Veterinary Scholarship**

**Opportunity:** Students enrolled at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine are invited to apply for an internship to study at the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) Research and Education Centre in Namibia. This internship provides the opportunity to work under the supervision of renowned Dr. Laurie Marker, CCF Founder and Executive Director, for at least eight (8) weeks during the months of June – August. The internship is sponsored by the CCF and funded in part by a UC Davis alumna who believes in the importance of conservation and saving the cheetah population in the wild for future generations. After visiting CCF in Namibia, it became her mission to create the possibility for students from her alma mater to have an opportunity to train in such a prestigious learning environment.

**Award:** The \$5,000 scholarship is intended to cover costs of housing in the student dorms (sharing with other international and Namibian students), meals, project administrative costs and visa fee plus a \$500 stipend for the period of the internship. Travel expenses for airfare and ground transportation are not covered but scheduling should be coordinated with the CCF.

**Introduction:** This internship opportunity is specifically designed to offer a unique learning experience in a field conservation setting that includes working in CCF's community-based programs with rural farmers, working with domestic animals, farm animals and wildlife. The intern awarded will have the opportunity to work with goats, cows and horses from the CCF model farm, Livestock Guarding Dogs, captive cheetahs and cheetahs in the wild. Interns are required to be tremendously flexible, adaptable and patient. This internship is hard work but offers the kind of experience that will have a lasting positive impact.

The Cheetah Conservation Fund was founded in 1990, and is the global leader in research, education and conservation of cheetahs. The CCF Centre is located in Otjiwarongo, Namibia about three hours north of the capital city of Windhoek. CCF's International Research and Education Centre is a renowned research facility that sets the standard for researchers and students worldwide seeking to

learn more about the cheetah. CCF is also an ecotourism destination, providing information and memorable experiences.

The CCF International Research and Education Centre includes a research facility; a veterinary clinic and laboratories; a visitor center; lecture hall; an interactive education center and museum, and an overnight camping facility accommodating Namibian and international groups participating in CCF programs. CCF also maintains a cheetah sanctuary to care for orphan and injured cheetahs; CCF increased their protected area with the recent purchase of Otjenga, a 7,299-hectare parcel that is key for operations. CCF holds this land in conservation protection as part of its 57,662-hectare private wildlife reserve. Situated in the reserve is CCF's Field Research & Education Centre and Model Livestock Farm. a goat creamery for training agricultural workers; and a 4,000-hectare wildlife holding area, the Bellebeno Game Camp, used for soft-releasing cheetahs before re-introducing them to the wild. In addition, CCF houses the only cheetah genetics laboratory in Africa and a Genome Resource Bank. CCF holds the world's largest wild cheetah database of biological material.



(Please see <https://cheetah.org/about/who-we-are/our-centre/>)

**Eligibility:** Any first or second year DVM student who is currently enrolled in the University of California Davis School of Veterinary Medicine is invited to apply for the scholarship. The student must be in good academic standing with a minimum GPA of 3.0 at the time of the application.

**Timeline for Submission:** Each applicant should email the finalized PDF format of the application and letter of support to SVM Global Programs Office at [VetMedGlobalPrograms@vetmed.ucdavis.edu](mailto:VetMedGlobalPrograms@vetmed.ucdavis.edu). All applications must be received on or before the deadline as determined by UCD SVM, which is usually during the first 2 weeks of February each year. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. See application instructions for more detail.

**Selection Process:** UC Davis SVM team will review all applications and make recommendations for candidate interviews with CCF and the donor, who will make the final selection for the internship/s. These phone interviews will be conducted during the first and second week of March following the submission. Communication of the decision will be announced by Spring Break each year.

**Travel restrictions related to health and safety:** If travel to Namibia is restricted due to health, safety and security risks for the scheduled June-August dates, the CCF may allow students who are selected for this internship to defer the opportunity to the following summer. This would be applicable for 1<sup>st</sup> year student applicants.

**Program Objectives:** The Cheetah Conservation Veterinary Scholarship recipient will travel to Namibia to participate in a career development opportunity for global conservation with a focus on cheetahs. Interns at CCF are required to participate in various tasks as assigned, in addition to being involved in the daily routines that keep the center operating effectively. In addition to cheetahs, there

are many other animals that play a role in cheetah conservation. As a veterinary intern you will gain experience by participating in the tasks necessary to care for both domestic and wild animals:

- Provide medical care (ante & post-mortem) to all animals living at CCF's field headquarters in Namibia, including farm animals (cattle, goats, sheep and horses), livestock guarding dogs, captive cheetahs and any injured wildlife.
- Maintain medical health records for all animals.
- Conduct wildlife health research.
- Participate in CCF's Future Farmers of Africa training programs in the surrounding eastern communal rural areas. This outreach includes herd management education and limited point-of-case medical treatment of any sick homestead animals.
- Participate with the Veterinary Clinic Team in wildlife chemical immobilization for VHF/satellite collaring, biological sample collection and translocations.

### **Internship Requirements:**

- UCD veterinary students are required to have a mentor and a letter of support from a UC Davis SVM mentor must be submitted at the time of application.
- Awarded recipient must register their trip with the CCF Intern Coordinator within 45 days of notice of award to schedule travel dates and complete all necessary documents.
- Develop a question that is explored and answered during their internship at CCF. The question should be something that is of interest to the intern, applies the intern's studies at UC Davis SVM and is pertinent to CCF. The question should be related to the projects that the interns is working on during their time at CCF. The question should be resolved through research, interviews, reading of information and/or hands-on investigations.
- Develop a visual presentation summarizing their time at CCF. The presentation should be in PowerPoint format and the PPT file should be completed and submitted to the intern supervisor before departing. The presentation will be shared with the CCF Team, the Scholarship Donor and the UC Davis Global Programs team. The elements of the presentation should include:
  - Introduction of CCF to viewers
  - Overview of your experience at CCF including programs and tasks you were involved in
  - Inquiry question, answer to question including methods used to answer the question
  - Favorite experiences during your internship
  - Most memorable moments of your experience
- Submit a 1-page report with 5 high-quality photos of the work/activities conducted during the internship with CCF (which will be posted on the website); and make a short video (2 or 3 minutes in length) on the summer international experience that they will present to other students at the Global Programs Film Festival in September 2025.
- Complete an intern blog about your time at CCF that can be used on CCF's website and social media sites to provide an overview and better understanding of what interns can expect. (Please see <https://cheetah.org/news-blog/by-category/intern-stories/>) The blog should include photos and the following information:
  - University name (UC Davis SVM) and year of study
  - Country of origin

- Main project and other task at CCF
- Information about traveling in Namibia during your stay
- Experiences and highlights of internship while at CCF

For additional information about the Cheetah Conservation Fund please visit the website at [cheetah.org](http://cheetah.org). For questions regarding this scholarship opportunity please contact [volunteer@cheetah.org](mailto:volunteer@cheetah.org).

Useful links for more information:

<https://cheetah.org/blog/the-story-of-my-internship-at-the-cheetah-conservation-fund/>

<https://cheetah.org/about/what-we-do/conservation/>