

Adam Watson

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To the Cheetah Conservation Fund:

I am pleased to submit my application for the veterinary internship position at the Cheetah Conservation Fund. I am in the midst of my second year in the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program at the University of Calgary and I hold an undergraduate degree in ecology with a focus on molecular ecology and conservation genetics. I have a keen interest in wildlife conservation, field work, and conservation medicine all of which have become the focus of my career path to date, and I continually look for ways to meld my interests in conservation and my skills in veterinary medicine.

In reflecting on this opportunity I am confident that I would make a unique contribution to your team because of my molecular ecology background and exposure to wildlife veterinary medicine. In the summer of 2018, I participated in one of the Canadian Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians wildlife immobilization courses, which gave me a valuable head start on a clinical skill crucial for wildlife veterinarians. I am also an active member of my veterinary school community, recently becoming the vice president of the ecosystem and public health club. This club is designed to allow students to explore their interests in areas ranging from exotics and wildlife medicine to One Health and the role veterinarians play in public health.

During my undergraduate degree I completed an honours research project in the Rogers molecular ecology lab, in collaboration with the Assiniboine Park Zoo on their Burrowing Owl (*Athene Cunicularia*) reintroduction program. I used PCR based genetic analyses to characterize genetic diversity and levels of inbreeding within the Burrowing Owl captive breeding and release program at the zoo.

Over the past two summers I have also worked in the conservation department of the Calgary Zoo on their Burrowing Owl head starting field program. Through this job I have gained valuable experience working and living at remote field sites for extended periods of time as well as handling wildlife for necessary biological research and husbandry. One of my key responsibilities was setting up a field genetics lab for this project, and designing protocols to allow the conservation team to conduct genetic assays on these birds in the field.

I know that if given the opportunity I would excel in this position and make a meaningful contribution to cheetah conservation at the Cheetah Conservation Fund. I look forward to discussing this exciting opportunity further. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Adam Watson