

October 31st, 2019

Dear Cheetah Conservation Foundation,

Please accept this cover letter and resume in application for the veterinary internship at the Cheetah Conservation Foundation.

I am a second-year student in the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program at the Ontario Veterinary College. I have experience working in both veterinary hospitals and with wildlife in a research capacity. I have also completed a Masters in Pathobiology which focused on tick-borne diseases found in wildlife. This project required me to handle groundhogs, skunks and raccoons to collect blood samples and ticks. More recently, I have developed a passion for wildlife conservation and plan to continue to pursue this interest throughout my DVM career.

I have been actively involved in field research throughout my university career and have gained extensive experience handling wildlife. At various field stations across Canada in New Brunswick, Ontario and the Yukon, I have handled both wild mammals and birds, including, raccoons, skunks, snowshoe hares, squirrels, deer mice, shrews, chipmunks and sparrows. These positions involved both individual and teamwork, long days, and outdoor work in various, often unfavourable, weather conditions. Working closely with wildlife and fueled my passion for conservation.

In a hospital setting, I have worked with companion animals and horses. I assisted an equine veterinarian by handling the mares during ultrasounds for pregnancy checks, wound dressing, X-rays and dental work. I also helped with foal exams by restraining the animal for a physical exam and ultrasound. At North Yonge Veterinary Hospital, a small animal hospital, I assisted the veterinarian by restraining, handling and monitoring animals during surgeries, annual exams and extended hospital stays. These experiences are what inspired me to pursue a career in veterinary medicine.

As I pursue my studies at the Ontario Veterinary College in the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program, I am continuing to develop my animal handling skills (including the physical examination of raptors, cows and sheep) while cultivating my passion for conservation and research. I believe that my experience makes me a good candidate for your program. I am especially interested in the CCF because of all the work you do to save the cheetah and its surrounding ecosystem. Please find attached my resume. If you have any further questions or inquires, do not hesitate to contact me at 519-803-6633 or ksmith19@uoguelph.ca. Thank you for your time. Sincerely,

Kathryn Smith

HBSc, MSc | OVC DVM Class of 2022

Junior Industry Rep.

Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph

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Kathryn Smith

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519-803-6633

Permanent Address:

5453 Doane Rd.,
Mount Albert, ON, L0G 1M0

EDUCATION**Doctor of Veterinary Medicine**

University of Guelph, Ontario Veterinary College

Graduating Class of 2022

Guelph, ON

Masters of Science

University of Guelph, Ontario Veterinary College

August 2017

Guelph, ON

Department: Pathobiology

Thesis: Powassan Virus and other Tick-Borne Pathogens in Wildlife and Companion Animals from Southern Ontario

Bachelor of Science (Honours)

University of Guelph, College of Biological Sciences

April 2015

Guelph, ON

Major: Biology, Minor: Zoology

International exchange experience: University of Aberdeen, Scotland 2014

VETERINARY EXPERIENCE**Equine Veterinary Assistant**

Rottenberg Equine Veterinary Services

February - June 2018

Schomberg, ON

- Assisted the veterinarian by handling horses during ultrasounds for pregnancy checks, wound dressing, X-rays and dental work
- Documented cases, updated files and created invoices

Veterinary Technician Assistant

North Yonge Veterinary Hospital, Newmarket, ON

October 2017 - May 2018

- Assisted the veterinarian by restraining, handling and monitoring animals during surgeries, annual exams and extended hospital stays
 - Performed duties as an office administrator where I was responsible for answering phones, reporting laboratory tests to clients, organizing files and handling payments and disbursements
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WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE**Field Assistant**

University of Toronto, Arctic Institute of North America,

May - August 2019 and May - August 2015

Kluane Lake, YT

- Worked with a team in a remote field setting to gather physiological data on snowshoe hares through a series of controlled experiments
- Trapped and handled snowshoe hares to collect blood and fecal samples, take measurements on their hind legs and collect tissue samples
- Individually provided care for snowshoe hares that were temporarily kept in enclosures

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WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE CON'T

Master's Research**September 2015 - August 2017***Department of Pathobiology, Ontario Veterinary College**Guelph, ON*

- Conducted lab work including RNA extraction with Trizol, sample collection via dissection of many different mammalian species (i.e. beavers, groundhogs, raccoons), tick identification
- Field work included tick dragging, collecting ticks of live trapped mammals, injecting reversals
- Wrote two scientific papers based on the results of the project [published]

Research Assistant**May - August 2013***University of Guelph, Bowdoin Scientific Research Station,**Kent Island, NB*

- Worked individually and with a team in a remote field setting to gather scientific data on a long-term savannah sparrow monitoring project
- Observed birds' behavioral cues through binoculars to track and record the local sparrow population and to locate sparrow nests
- Used mist nets to capture and handle small birds where blood samples and body measurements, including wing length and tarsal length, were recorded

Field Technician**May - August 2012***University of Guelph, Algonquin Wildlife Research Station**Algonquin Park, ON*

- Worked with a team of three other researchers to gather scientific data for a long-term study on squirrels, deer mice, shrews and chipmunks
- Captured and handled small mammals to employ ear tags, collect DNA samples and record and take measurements including weight and ear length

CERTIFICATIONS

- Wilderness First Aid [in progress]
- Scuba License
- Driver's License
- Pleasure Craft's Operator card

ACTIVITIES

Central Veterinary Students' Association (CVSA)**September 2018 - Current***Junior Industry Representative*

- Liaise with industry representatives to organize and developed industry day, an event to highlight the technologies involved in current veterinary medicine to the Ontario Veterinary College

Intramural Hockey Team**September 2018 - Current****Dog Training****August 2017 - Current**

- Individually trained and worked with experienced trainers to train dogs in agility, obedience and scent