

Dear Dr. Karp and Ms. Lauck,

When I saw this opportunity in Dr. Karp's Canvas message, I was excited to see how many of my interests align with the description. As a Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology major, I am very interested in gaining field experience and research experience to prepare for my future career. I have experience with data entry, veterinary medicine, wildlife husbandry, and lab work. I am most interested in fieldwork and research, as that is something I would like to do to increase my experience in the wildlife field. That is part of why I am so interested in this internship.

I currently work part-time at the UC Davis Veterinary Medicine Teaching Hospital as a student assistant in the hematology and chemistry labs. This position has provided me with extensive experience handling blood samples from various species, including birds. I understand the requirements for a viable blood sample and have familiarity with processing samples for research. Understanding how laboratory tests such as these connect to wildlife research intrigues me and will provide me with greater insights into the laboratory aspects of wildlife research.

Over the summer, I participated in an externship at a wildlife rehabilitation center run by the San Diego Humane Society. This experience is what sparked my interest in working with birds, as they make up a majority of the patients. There I learned the proper techniques to handle birds, including nestlings, safely and securely. I also helped place and remove plastic bird bands. Finally, I learned about fecal samples including how to collect samples, perform fecal flotation, and prepare slides.

I believe that my experience with birds and working with blood and fecal samples would be very helpful working in your lab. I believe that both my interests and prior experiences line up very well with your research, and would love to join your team.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely
Maggie Bourda