

# Special Species Health Service

*Expert Care for Exotic Pets*



**UW Veterinary Care**

School of Veterinary Medicine  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

[www.uwveterinarycare.wisc.edu](http://www.uwveterinarycare.wisc.edu)

# Special Species Health Service

- **Rotation Emphasis:**
  - **Nondomestic pet species (“exotic pets”)**
    - Small mammals (ferrets, rabbits, rodents)
    - Pet birds
    - Reptiles
    - Amphibians, fish
    - Sometimes: Primates, zoo animals, wildlife

- **Why should I take this rotation?:**
  - Small animal practice
  - Mixed animal practice
  - Zoo/exotic/wildlife



# Personnel

- **Faculty:** Kurt Sladky, Christoph Mans, Grayson Doss, Mary Thurber, Shawna Hawkins
- **Residents:** Neta Ambar, Chelsey Tournade, Katie Hausmann, Kara Hiebert, Ivana Levy
- **Technicians:** Sara Kennedy, Charisma Chadwick, Phong Yang, Kristen Richards, Tammi Walsh

# Special Species Health Service

- **Best time to take: Anytime**
  - If doing zoo externship, try to take before going
- **Clinic Schedule:**
  - Receiving-M-F, Procedures M-F, Emergencies 8-5 M-F
- **On-Call Schedule/Weekend Duty:**
  - Arranged amicably with your fellow students
  - Hospitalized cases & ER transfers



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- **What should you expect to do:**
  - A “hands on” rotation; you will get to do a lot with patients
  - History taking, physical examinations, sample collection
  - Formulating a differential diagnosis list, selecting appropriate diagnostic tests, deciding the most effective therapeutic plan for your cases.
  - **Client communications**
  - Interacting with other services
  - Case rounds and topic rounds



# Special Species Health Service

- **Service Specific Clinic Work Expectations:**
- **Study Expectations:**
  - Completion of records, discharges, and client communication
  - Active participation in rounds
  - Be proactive about hands-on learning opportunities



# Testimonials - What Former Students Have Said:

- “Awesome rotation”
- “I want to spend 52 weeks on Special Species”
- “The faculty and residents are soooooo excellent”
- “It doesn’t get any better than this”
- “What more can I say....Special Species Rocks!”

# Questions?

## **Special Species Health Service**

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