Description of service activities:

The Zoological Medicine Service of the University of California Davis School of Veterinary Medicine proudly supports the school’s overarching mission to advance the health of animals, people, and the environment by providing high quality veterinary care and educational training opportunities in the field of zoological medicine.

Through its long-term partnership with the Sacramento Zoo, the service provides high quality on-site comprehensive veterinary care for the Sacramento Zoo’s animal collection, which is overseen by board-certified specialists in Zoological Medicine™.

Veterinary students, residents, and veterinarian trainees with interests related to the diagnosis and treatment of zoological species receive unique hands-on training at the Sacramento Zoo’s veterinary hospital during supervised clinical rotations offered through this partnership.

Don Low fellows work directly with the Veterinary Health Services team of the Sacramento Zoo. Fellows will gain experience in planning/coordinating procedures, anesthesia of diverse zoological species, conducting preventive health evaluations, diagnosis and treatment of pathologic conditions in zoo animals, and effective communication within zoos. The fellow also participates in academic and case rounds.

Learning objectives:

1. Gain hands-on experience and proficiency in preventive care, animal handling, procedure planning, anesthesia, performing diagnostics, and medical management of a variety of species housed in a zoo setting using safe and evidence-based medicine principles.
2. Become familiar with husbandry, exhibit design, emergency response, reproductive planning/management, infectious disease risk management, dietary analysis, and regulatory/professional guidelines as they pertain to zoological medicine.
3. Learn how to source and critically evaluate resources (textbooks, professional organizations, journal articles, etc.) for conducting high quality zoological medicine using an evidence-based approach.