



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Position posting for: Summer Undergraduate Research Opportunities

Project title:	UCVM Reindeer Herd Health Study
Faculty mentor:	Robert McCorkell
Department:	NA

Position posting date:		Position start date:	May 8, 2023
Application deadline:		Position finish date:	August 25, 2023

Summary of research project and specific role of trainee:

Research using reindeer makes an important contribution to the research effort of UCVM. Recently there have been significant scientific advancements by the research labs of Dr. Jeff Biernaskie and Dr. Hermann Schaeztl using UCVM's reindeer herd. These advancements require further investigation which will put increasing demands on the reindeer herd. To manage the demand the herd needs to grow in numbers. This can be done through breeding, which is ongoing, but it is a slow process. To more rapidly increase the herd size additional new animals could be brought in. Before new animals are introduced it is important that the current conditions and disease status of the resident reindeer herd be understood. The goal of the student summer position is to collect and organize basic information needed to undertake an epidemiological investigation and to initiate this analysis.

Specifically, the person taking this position will be compiling health information on the reindeer herd focusing on time, place and individual going back for all the years we have records. The goal is to create a detailed description of the health of the reindeer herd that can be easily communicated with tables, graphs, and maps. The student will also assist with collection of new health information from reindeer in our current herd through individual animal examinations and biological sampling (e.g. blood). Finally, this experience will provide the student with additional large animal wildlife veterinary experience, observation of field surgical procedures and to assist with post-surgical care.

The position is for 16 weeks of employment and the it will be co-supervised by the Principal Investigators (Schaeztl, Biernaskie) using reindeer in their research work.

Is this position contingent on receipt of external funding?

If not, what salary would be provided (source, amount)?

****we encourage all students to apply for external funding****

Are any special skills required? Yes No

Is this position specific for a Veterinary student? Yes No

Interested individuals should submit a current curriculum vitae and an outline of their areas of research interest along with the names of three references to:

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
University of Calgary 3280 Hospital Drive NW,
Room _____