

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore Veterinary Technician Internship Position Description

Position Title: Veterinary Technician Intern

Department: Hospital

Supervised By: Veterinary Technician

Dates: Spring (February-May) Summer (May-August) Fall (August-November)

Time Commitment: Interns must be able to volunteer 8 hours per day at least three days a week (5 days a week is recommended), Sundays through Saturdays, for a minimum of 144 hours within a chosen semester. Interns may be expected to work additional hours or weekends as needed.

Overview: The Maryland Zoo veterinary team is responsible for the medical care of the zoo's animal collection. Healthy zoo animals are vital to the zoo's mission of conservation, research, and education. Interns will gain insight into the operations of a zoo veterinary hospital through training, shadowing and hands-on experiences. This position is intended to provide veterinary technician students or recent graduates of a veterinary technology program valuable experience into the specialty of zoo and wildlife veterinary technology. Interns should have knowledge in the areas of clinical pathology, pharmacology, anesthesia, surgical preparation, nursing, anatomy and physiology, medical terminology, medical math, and disease processes. Previous small animal clinical experience is highly recommended. Preference will be given to those who have a strong interest in becoming a veterinary technician in the field of zoological medicine. Hands-on experience during the internship will be based on the student's current school semester, classes completed, professionalism and demeanor during the internship, and clinical experience. Due to the nature of zoo veterinary medicine, hands-on experience may be more limiting than small animal internships. If the internship is needed for school credit, prior authorization from the school is required before starting the internship program. This program is not suitable for individuals in a pre-vet program, going to vet school, or wanting to be a veterinarian. **Internships are unpaid, and there is no reimbursement for transportation or housing.**

Responsibilities:

- Assist veterinary staff with routine exams and emergency procedures, routine treatments, and care of hospitalized patients
- Monitor anesthesia and patient vitals during anesthetic procedures under the supervision of the veterinary technician
- Assist veterinary technicians with technical procedures during exams: blood collection, IV catheter placement, fluid administration, medication administration, and radiographs
- Assist veterinary staff with wildlife triage and wildlife surgical procedures
- Assist veterinary technicians with laboratory procedures; prepare and perform lab work including parasitology, urinalysis, hematology, and microbiology
- Assist veterinary technicians with hospital maintenance; daily upkeep of hospital areas and inventory of supplies and medications
- Dispense medications under supervision of the veterinary technician
- Assist veterinary staff with necropsies

- Interns will present a powerpoint presentation on a case study or topic of interest to hospital staff at the end of the internship
- Other duties may include animal observation and assisting hospital keepers
- Assist with hospital/veterinary related conservation and research projects

Qualifications:

- Minimum age 18
- Must be enrolled in an AVMA accredited veterinary technology program or recently graduated within 2 years
- Current students must be in the final year of their program and have completed clinical pathology labs including parasitology and hematology, anesthesia, surgical prep, anatomy and physiology, medical terminology, medical math, disease processes, veterinary nursing, and pharmacology courses
- Recent graduates must be taking the VTNE within a year of graduation or currently a licensed, certified, or registered veterinary technician in good standing with their state's licensing agency
- Must provide proof of current tetanus vaccination and recent negative TB test
- Must provide proof of current COVID 19 vaccination status
- Rabies vaccination is not required but recommended
- Must be able to lift up to 50 pounds and work on feet for prolonged periods
- Must be comfortable with live animals, confined spaces, strong odors, hay, straw, dust, and dander
- Must be comfortable working in all weather conditions: rain, snow, muddy conditions, heat, cold, etc.
- All interns must complete volunteer orientation (2 hours) and a self-guided tour

Benefits:

- The opportunity to learn in an AZA accredited facility
- Hands-on experience, experiential learning and mentoring by our staff
- Maryland Zoo Internships may be applied to receive college credit in accordance with your school's policy
- Free zoo admission, discount on purchases in zoo gift shops, and volunteer newsletter with wildlife news and Maryland Zoo happenings