



Veterinary Technician Internship Position Description

Position Title: Veterinary Technician Intern (Unpaid)

Supervised By: Certified Veterinary Technician, Veterinary Department Staff

Dates:

Summer: Mid-May through August (application deadline April 1)

Fall: Mid-September through December (application deadline August 1)

Spring: Mid-January through April (application deadline December 1)

*Dates are flexible to accommodate for school semester/quarter schedules

Time Commitment:

Minimum of 20 hours per week Monday-Friday with availability to potentially respond to emergencies after hours and on weekends. Internships and housing are unpaid. College credit may be earned upon request; email agallagher@lszoo.org for more details.

Overview:

This position is intended to offer clinical experience to help current students and recent graduates of an AVMA accredited or State approved veterinary technician program gain the skills necessary to work in the field of exotic animal medicine. The graduate will perform the duties of a veterinary technician under the direction and supervision of the staff veterinarian and veterinary technician.

Responsibilities:

- Set up for procedures in the clinic/in the field and cleaning up after procedures
- Set up and perform laboratory procedures (fecal parasite testing, complete blood cell count, urinalysis, cytology, etc.) and prepare, correctly label and submit specimens for evaluation by outside laboratories
- Position animals for diagnostic radiographs, operate radiograph equipment and produce diagnostic digital radiographs following recommended safety protocols
- Set up and assist in surgical procedures and perform dental cleanings on various species
- Assist with general anesthesia of patients by monitoring physiological parameters - heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure, oxygenation, etc.
- Calculate drug dosages, prepare medications and administer through topical, oral, intravenous, intramuscular, and subcutaneous routes
- Assist with necropsy procedures
- Perform daily care and husbandry of animals in quarantine
- Enter observations and diagnostic results accurately in computerized animal records (ZIMS – Species 360)

Responsibilities (cont.):

- Maintain a safe environment including handling and disposal of sharp objects and biological samples, as well as other Zoo related and animal related safety protocols

Qualifications:

- Currently enrolled or recently graduated from an AVMA accredited veterinary technology degree program
- Eagerness to learn about veterinary care for a wide variety of animals and conservation of endangered/threatened species
- Comfortable working with animals of all species (mammals, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, and fish)
- Effective written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Computer skills including Microsoft Office and internet research
- A negative TB test is required before beginning the internship (test may be within 6 months of internship start date)

Work Environment: The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an intern encounters while performing the essential functions of this position. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. While performing the duties of this internship, the intern is regularly exposed to outdoor weather conditions, and occasionally exposed to adverse environmental conditions such as dirt, dust, pollen, odors, fumes, temperature and noise extremes, toxic agents, disease, pathogenic substances, airborne particles, and animal waste. The intern is frequently in direct contact with exotic animals that may cause injuries – most animals are anesthetized for animal and human safety to avoid this. On occasion, handling of blood from non-human primates may occur – all biosafety measures are to be followed. The noise level in the work environment varies. Occasional loud noises from visitors, animals or equipment are experienced.

Physical Demands: The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an intern to successfully perform the essential functions of this position. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. While performing the duties of this internship, the intern will need the ability to remain on their feet for long periods of time, traverse zoo grounds without a vehicle, perform a variety of physical tasks that include, but are not limited to climbing, bending, stooping, kneeling, twisting, reaching, crawling, and be able to regularly lift and move 30 lb. and occasionally 50 lb. objects. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close, distance, and peripheral vision, depth perception and the ability to adjust focus. Evaluating animal health, diet, or environment requires hearing and smell. Interaction with staff, guests, and animals requires talking and hearing.