Thank you for your interest in the Veterinary Technician Internship program at the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium. This is an intense, concentrated non-paid learning experience for senior year students enrolled in a veterinary technology program.

If you would like to apply for the internship, you will need to submit the application, a concise resume, letter of intent (with availability/preferred month included), and three letters of recommendation.

Application Schedule:

Spring Internship:	March/April/May Applications accepted until the 3rd Friday in January
Summer internship:	June/July/August Applications accepted until the 1st Friday in March
Fall Internship:	October/November/Mid-December Applications accepted until the 3rd Friday in June
Winter internship:	December/January/February Applications accepted until the 3rd Friday in October

The summer session is the most competitive, we encourage you to consider other times of year.

If accepted you must provide proof of a negative TB test, given within the last year and have had a tetanus vaccine within the last five years. As our internships are unpaid, interns are considered volunteers so the zoo does not provide any medical coverage for on or off the job injuries or incidents.

Cathleen McConnell
Internship Program Coordinator
Education Department

Julie Lemon
Veterinary Technician
Animal Health Care Team

INTERNSHIPS AT POINT DEFIANCE
Application Information

The internship program at the Aquarium of Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium is designed to provide individuals with practical learning experience while gaining valuable knowledge related to his/her career goals. Requests for internship positions are evaluated on experience - professional and/or volunteer, academic achievement, interview success, and positions available.

To apply for a Veterinary Technician internship within the Animal Health Care department at Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium you must:

1. Be a senior student enrolled in a veterinary technology program with an accredited college or have just recently graduated
2. Fulfill college credit requirements if still enrolled in school
3. Be capable of the physical abilities required to work with animals (i.e. lift 50 pounds, etc.).
4. Submit an application.
5. Submit a cover letter. (including your career goals)
6. Submit a resume.
7. Submit three letters of recommendation from an advisor or supervisor. Each letter should specify the internship position for which you are applying.
8. Undergo a phone or on site interview.
9. Able to commit to 32-40 hours a week for at least 10 weeks.
10. Be willing to complete a project supervised by vet staff.
11. Once selected, provide proof of a negative TB test within the last year.
12. Once selected, provide proof of a tetanus vaccination within the past 5 years.

Please mail OR email completed application materials to:
cathleen.mcconnell@pdza.org

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
Internship Program Coordinator – Education Department
5400 North Pearl Street
Tacoma, WA 98407

Please note: Incomplete application packets will not be considered. However, letters of recommendation may be sent separately. Please make sure that each letter of recommendation specifies the internship for which you are applying.

POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM
Veterinary Technician Preceptorship/Internship

Goal of Preceptorship:
Familiarize veterinary technician student or recent graduate with all aspects of animal health care at a zoological facility.

Preceptorship Offers:
- Introduction to basic husbandry and nutrition of zoo animals
- Aid with sample collection and laboratory processing
- Exposure to a variety of immobilization techniques (including dart systems)
- Assist with anesthesia/surgical procedures and exotic animal treatments
- Participate in diagnostic radiographic techniques and film development
- Learn medical data entry on MedARKS
- Assist with hospital and medical equipment maintenance in an modern 8,000 square foot facility
- Involvement with necropsy procedures (when applicable)
- Observe animal training techniques
- Rotate ½ day with keeper staff in animal area of choice (pending area approval)

Preceptorship/Internship Expectations:
- Work Monday-Friday 7:30-4:00 pm
- Arrive on time each day
- Plan to have holidays off (account for that with your required # of hours)
- Keep an informal journal of daily activities
- Work safely around animals
- Be prepared for occasional down time as procedures schedules vary and may not be performed on a daily basis
- Limited animal handling (petting, playing or cuddling the animals is not permitted)
- Be prepared to answer questions from the public when on grounds

Dress:
- A uniform shirt will be provided
- Provide your own khaki or tan pants and comfortable work shoes (no open toes)
- Shorts may be worn but no shorter than once inch above the knee
- All clothing must be presentable with no holes, rips or inappropriate logos
- Be prepared to work in all weather conditions

POINT DEFIANCE ZOO AND AQUARIUM
Veterinary Technician Preceptorship/Internship Application

Name_____ Date_____

Mailing Address _____

Email Address _____

Primary Phone _____ Secondary Phone _____

College _____

Address_____

Attendance/Graduation date _____

Name of Professor/Instructor sponsoring internship_____

Number of credits received upon completion of this internship_____

Courses and experience applicable to this internship:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

How did you learn of this internship?_____

Circle season applying for: *winter* *fall* *spring* *summer*

When would you need to know if you are accepted for this position? _____

*Dates available to work:*_____

For office use only:

Date received:_____

Date sent to AHC: _____

Interview date and time: _____

Interviewer: _____ Accepted: _____

Start date: _____ End date: _____