



## POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM Internship Program

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Thank you for your interest in the **Veterinary Technician** Internship Program at the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium. This is an intense, concentrated non-paid learning experience for senior year students enrolled in a veterinary technology program. It is an unpaid position and there is no housing provided.

If accepted you must provide proof of a negative TB test result occurring 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.

Application deadlines are as follows:

Spring Internship: March/April/May  
Applications accepted until the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in January

Summer internship: June/July/August  
Applications accepted until the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday in March

Fall Internship: October/November/Mid-December  
Applications accepted until the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in June

Winter internship: December/January/February  
Applications accepted until the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in October

Cathleen McConnell  
Education Specialist  
Internship Program Coordinator

Julie Lemon  
Veterinary Technician  
Animal Health Care Team



# POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM

## Veterinary Technician Internship Position

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### Goal of Internship:

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

### Internship 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 a 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).

### 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 & AQUARIUM Internship Application Process

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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 her/his 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. (These may be sent separately.)
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](mailto:cathleen.mcconnell@pdza.org)

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



Date received: \_\_\_\_\_

# POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM

## Veterinary Technician Internship Application

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone \_\_\_\_\_

College/University \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Attendance/Graduation date \_\_\_\_\_ Major Field of study \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Professor sponsoring internship (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of credits received upon completion (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Courses and experience applicable to this internship:

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How did you learn of this internship? \_\_\_\_\_

**Desired season:**                      *Winter*              *Fall*              *Spring*              *Summer*

Dates available: \_\_\_\_\_