



Thank you for your interest in the Veterinary Student Preceptorship program at the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium (PDZA). This is an intense, concentrated non-paid learning experience for third year Veterinary School students.

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

Application Schedule:

Spring:	March/April/May Applications accepted until January 15 th
Summer:	June/July/August Applications accepted until April 1 st
Fall:	September/October/November Applications accepted until June 15 th
Winter:	December/January/February Applications accepted until October 15 th

Placement dates may be flexible depending upon the needs of the student and the PDZA Health Care staff. 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 with-in the last year. As this position is unpaid, participants are considered volunteers so the zoo does not provide any medical coverage for on or off the job injuries or incidents.

Good luck,

Cathleen McConnell
Internship Program Coordinator
Education Department

Dr. Karen Wolf, DVM
Head Veterinarian
PDZA Animal Health Care Team



POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM

Veterinary Preceptorship

Goal of Preceptorship:

Familiarize veterinary student 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 record data entry on MedARKS
- Assist with hospital and medical equipment maintenance in a modern 8,000 square foot health care 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 Qualifications:

- Must be a third year veterinary student enrolled in a veterinary program at an accredited university
- Must fulfill college credit requirements
- On-site or phone interview
- Preceptorship/Internship length of 4-10 weeks
- Must complete a special project chosen by you or zoo vet staff
- Provide proof of negative TB test (current within the last year)

**Preceptorship/Internship Expectations:**

- Work Monday-Thursday 7:30-4:00 pm (Friday may be possible depending on preceptors skills)
- Must be on-time! Many procedures begin first thing in the morning
- Holidays off (please incorporate this into your time requirement)
- Keep an informal journal of daily activities
- Capability of the physical ability required to work with animals (i.e. lift a minimum of 50 pounds, etc.)
- Work safely around animals
- Down time - procedure schedules vary and may not be performed on a daily basis
- Limited animal handling. No cuddling, petting or playing with any of the animals allowed.
- Interactions with zoo visitors - be prepared to answer questions from the public

Dress:

- All clothing must be presentable with no holes or rips or inappropriate logos
- Wear khaki pants (no jeans please) and comfortable shoes.
- A uniform intern shirt will be provided
- Shorts may be worn but no shorter than one inch above the knee
- Be prepared to work in all weather conditions



POINT DEFIANCE ZOO AND AQUARIUM

Veterinary Preceptorship Application

Name _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____

Email Address _____

Primary Phone _____ Secondary Phone _____

College/University _____

Address _____

Attendance/Graduation date _____ Major Field of study: _____

Name of Professor 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 internship applying for: *winter* *fall* *spring* *summer*

Dates available: _____

For office use only:	
Date received: _____	
Date sent to AHC: _____	
Interview date and time: _____	
Interviewer: _____	Accepted: _____
Start date: _____	End date: _____