

Cat Depot Internship Program

Overview:

During an internship with Cat Depot, most of a student's time will be spent working under the direct supervision of a veterinarian in the Shelter Medical Department and/or the Cat Care Clinic. The Cat Depot Clinic is open to the public serving the general, and the underfunded populations of our community. In addition, some time may be spent with veterinary nurses, support staff, and customer service representatives to gain a full appreciation of the wide range of shelter activities and functions.

General Internship Information:

- Cat Depot offers 2-6 week internships. Days and times will be set closer to the time of the internship.
- We do not provide a stipend
- Interns will complete a 6 hour orientation on their first day with the Cat Depot veterinarians and other staff. They will be given the Safety & OSHA Manual. Applicable policies will be reviewed
- Interns will have supervised opportunities to participate in spays/neuters, microchipping, vaccinating, x-rays, abdominal surgeries, dentistry, and various other surgeries and procedures as available, under the guidance of our veterinarians and/or veterinary nurses.
- A locker for personal items will be provided, along with use of the employee break room with access to a refrigerator, microwave, oven, coffee maker, and silverware.
- Interns will be evaluated by the supervising veterinarian and/or veterinary nurse, along with the Sr. Director of Operations.
- Submit your university's/college's evaluation and/or agenda
- Students should apply at least 3 months in advance of desired start date

Requirements for veterinary assistant interns:

- Fulltime enrollment at a certified veterinary assistant program at an accredited university or technical school
- Availability of a minimum of 200 hours, preferred

Requirements for veterinary technician/nurse interns:

- Fulltime enrollment at a certified veterinary technician program at an accredited university
- Availability of a minimum of 200 hours, preferred

Requirements for veterinarian interns:

- Full time course enrollment at an accredited university
- University sponsored externship/internship
- Availability of a minimum of 2-6 weeks
- 3rd or 4th year veterinary student

Requirements for all interns:

- 1 year of previous veterinary experience
- Must be available during shelter hours of operations, 8:00am-6:00pm, Monday-Sunday (exceptions to be discussed at time of application)
- Reliable transportation
- Copy of your health insurance card and/or university/college health coverage
- Observe and actively participate in medical surgical procedures performed by Cat Depot staff as opportunities arise, including, but not limited to surgery, treatments, and wellness care
- Ability to communicate effectively and amicably with staff and with clients



- Wear scrubs or polo and slacks, each day. No jeans or shorts. Wear non-slip, close-toed shoes.
- A demonstrated commitment to excel in feline medicine
- Fluency in electronic medical record keeping and information retrieval
- Abide by all applicable Cat Depot conditions, policies, and protocols
- A positive attitude, excellent work ethic, and ability to conduct oneself as a medical professional at all times

Preferred, but not required Veterinary assistant interns

- Students in their final year will be given priority

Preferred, but not required Veterinary technician/nurse interns

- Previous rotations through clinical pathology, radiology, and surgery
- Active student membership in AVMA, NAVTA, state VMA, AAFP, or AAHA
- Students in their 4th year will be given priority

Preferred, but not required Veterinarian interns

- Previous rotations through clinical pathology, radiology, and surgery
- Active student membership in AVMA, NAVTA, state VMA, AAFP, or AAHA
- Students in their 4th year will be given priority

Reasons to complete your internship/externship with Cat Depot:

This is what one of our staff says about Cat Depot:

"One of the most meaningful aspects of Cat Depot for me (besides the cats) has been the people. I've been a veterinarian for over 40 years and worked with some outstanding individuals, but at Cat Depot, it's not just one or two outstanding people but the whole team. These people truly believe that they are going to work for the sake of the cats, not just a paycheck, and they love their job. That kind attitude is refreshing, contagious and inspiring. Additionally, the medical staff that I work with are highly skilled and competent. I look forward to going to work each day and at the end of the day, we might be tired, but we're satisfied with work that means something to the cats and their families, and the knowledge that we are appreciated for that work by the clients and the organization's leadership. This place is not an ordinary shelter operation - it is an outstanding model of what a shelter can and should be." ~ Don Kalt, DVM

From one of our relief veterinarians:

"I've encountered several different hospital/shelter experiences throughout my career, but this has by far been one of the best. The staff was wonderful, the technicians are knowledgeable and extremely helpful, and the facility is beautiful, well kept, and modernized. It's hard to find a shelter/rescue that not only offers full blood work, medical treatments, and dental procedures to their patients, but also has an ultrasound and can provide complicated surgeries and more advanced work-ups for their senior cats as well. (It) did not feel like a shelter, but rather a warm and welcoming space (where)



cats are so loved and well cared for. I would have loved to stay, but we moved out of state - I will miss working here dearly!" ~ Julia Campbell, DVM

How to apply:

- Email letter of intent, available weeks, and a copy of your curriculum vitae or resume, including clinical rotations that would precede your internship, and reasons for seeking an internship with Cat Depot to **larrym@catdepot.org**
- Reference letter or letter of recommendation written and signed by a DVM or CVT member of your university/college
- Documentation regarding the internship process required by your college/university
- If approved, we will ask you to:
 - Confirm, in writing, your proposed internship dates
 - Provide any document your college/university will require from us in support of internship completion
 - Contact Cat Depot within 2 weeks of sending the above information to confirm receipt and acceptance into our internship program
 - Application of \$90 will be paid at this time, and volunteer forms will be emailed to you to be completed before the start of your internship

Evaluations:

All interns will be evaluated on:

- Interpersonal skills – verbal communication, non-verbal communication, teamwork and collegiality, etc.
- Professionalism – reliability, punctuality, self-motivation and initiative, self-awareness of strengths and limitations, respectfulness, professional appearance, ethical conduct, objectivity, demeanor, etc.

Veterinary Assistant interns will also be evaluated on:

- Ability to multi-task, attention to detail, fear free handling skills, cleaning, observation of cats, etc.

Veterinary technician/nurse interns will also be evaluated on:

- Medical knowledge – anatomy/physiology, diseases, therapeutics, etc.
- Clinic skills – history taking, physical exam, technical or procedural skills, fear free handling skills, patient care, case management, record management, organizational skills and efficiency, written communication, etc.

Veterinarian Student interns will additionally be evaluated on:

- Medical application - manual dexterity & mechanical skills, use of laboratory/ diagnostic tests & interpretation, surgical techniques, basic anesthesia/ sedation, pain management, emergency & intensive care skills, fear free handling skills, etc.
- Problem solving – development of problem lists, assessment and reasoning in case management, appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic plans, etc.



- Animal Health Promotion – formulating clear plans for wellness based on life stage, application of disease prevention and control strategies, promotion of food security and safety, practicing good biosecurity
- Medical knowledge – anatomy/physiology, diseases, therapeutics, etc.
- Clinic skills – history taking, physical exam, technical or procedural skills, patient care, case management, record management, organizational skills and efficiency, written communication, etc.

A few of the skills all interns should obtain by the completion of their program include, but are not limited to:

- Communicate effectively and professionally with medical team members, clients, and referral community
- Advancement of technical veterinary skills
- Real-world, hands-on experience
- Understand the issues of animal homelessness, risk factors for relinquishment, and pet reunification
- Understand and apply the concepts of population management in shelters and in the community
- Apply concepts of quality of life and environmental enrichment in shelters
- Understand the principles of infection control, including surveillance, isolation, vaccination, cleaning, and disinfection
- Develop skills in animal handling and examination
- Participate in shelter preventive health care protocols

Additional skills veterinary interns should obtain include:

- Scrub in for spay/neuter surgeries and other surgeries and dentistry, when appropriate
- Create an initial diagnostic and treatment plan for an ill patient with an unknown condition
- Amend treatment plans of a hospitalized patient based on patient information and best practice
- Prioritize treatment and diagnostic plans based on client resources and/or patient status
- Maintain accurate, timely medical records
- Manage minor wounds and lacerations
- Perform medical and behavioral assessments

International Students:

Due to U.S. State Department visa restrictions, Cat Depot is NOT able to accept non-U.S. citizens in our internship program at this time. You may wish to check this site from time to time, as we will reinstate this program should the U.S. State Department visa restrictions change. We're sorry for the inconvenience.

For inquiries please contact: larrym@catdepot.org