

HATTIESBURG ZOO VETERINARY EXTERNSHIP



The purpose of the veterinary internship is to introduce veterinary technician students and veterinary students to the specialty of zoo veterinary medicine. The extern will assist the veterinarian and technician daily with procedures, treatments, hospital maintenance, etc.

The Hattiesburg Zoo is a small but steadily growing zoo in MS home to 100+ species of animals. The hospital team consists of one full-time veterinarian and certified veterinary technician.

Duties:

- Assist veterinary staff with routine procedures (immobilizations, physical exams, treatments, etc) as well as emergency procedures.
- Collect diagnostic samples.
- Assist veterinary technician with lab work (parasitology, urinalysis, in-house blood work, preparing samples for outside laboratories).
- Assist with hospital maintenance (equipment cleaning, sterilization, inventory, etc).
- Care for animals in hospital holding/quarantine when needed.
- Enter data into ZIMS program and scan/file records.
- Dispense medications under supervision of the veterinary technician or veterinarian.
- Assist with necropsies.
- Assist with animal diet preparation when needed.
- **Responsibilities will be dependent on the applicant's experience and skills.**

Requirements:

- Students should be enrolled in their clinical year of an accredited veterinary technology program or veterinary school with a long-term interest in zoo/wildlife medicine.
- Students should be willing to learn, eager to create and complete projects and have a respect for wild animals. Students should also work well with others. It is preferred that the student have some previous animal experience.
- Applicants must be available to work at least 24 hrs/week (40 hrs/week preferred) and must be able to work a flexible schedule.
- Candidates must be able to lift 50lbs., climb in and out of truck beds, remain bending/standing/stooping for long periods of time, and work in adverse weather conditions.
- A negative tuberculin test within the past year is required. Current rabies and tetanus vaccinations are recommended

Duration/Availability:

Extern opportunities are limited to a minimum of 2 weeks and a maximum of 6 weeks. We will only accept one extern at a time. Externships are not available during the months of October, November, and December.

Compensation:

Externs will work as volunteers for the duration of their term and will not receive a stipend. The zoo does not offer housing to externs but alternative options may be available upon request, however, they are not guaranteed.

To apply:

Please submit a resume, cover letter, and one letter of recommendation from a professor or veterinarian.

Email all documents and specified dates to chunter@hattiesburg.org

Application Deadline: At least 3 months prior to the desired externship date