

Binder Park Zoo

Veterinary Technician Internship

Mission Statement: Connect. Inspire. Conserve. Connect people with nature. Inspire them to conserve.



POSITION SUMMARY:

Due to the nature of zoological medicine, the amount of actual clinical practice (“hands on” experience) will be much more limited than what you might experience at a small animal clinic. The internship does offer the opportunity to learn about the practice of zoological medicine in a zoo setting. The Binder Park Zoo Animal Health Department consists of one full-time veterinarian and one full-time LVT. Students will participate in all duties performed by a zoological veterinary technician. These duties will include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting in procedures from a diverse range of animal taxa (avian, reptile, hoofstock, large carnivores, primates, amphibians, etc): anesthesia, monitoring, radiographs (table, portable, dental), ultrasound, physical exams, restraint, dental prophylaxis, sample collection and handling
- Laboratory analysis: fecal exams, urinalysis, in-house bloodwork, cytology
- Sample processing for shipping/send out to various laboratories
- Familiarity with medical records system ZIMS
- Cleaning and disinfection
- Assist in necropsy
- Fill prescription and medicate animals as directed by veterinarian
- Operant conditioning for medical behaviors
- Participate in daily activities in the vet hospital or any other requirement of the staff Veterinarian and Veterinary Technician on duty.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Students must be 18 years of age
2. Currently enrolled in a veterinary technician program with prior approval from school.
3. Must be able to fulfill the time requirements:
 - a. Students are expected to work 40 hrs a week in consecutive weeks until their time requirement is fulfilled and be willing to be on-call
 - b. Time slots available are 3 weeks for in state MSU CVM students only or 10 to 14 week cycles.
 - c. Must be willing to work weekends and holidays
4. Students must dress appropriately as indicated in the zoo's dress code and be aware that work may be outside in varying weather conditions.
5. Must have a strong interest in pursuing a career in zoo medicine.
6. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
7. Must be able to find and provide their own housing, food and transportation.
8. Must be capable of lifting at least 50 lbs and be in good physical condition
9. Must have documentation of a negative TB test within the last year
10. Current Tetanus vaccination within 10 years

OTHER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Complying with all Binder Park Zoo policies and procedures.
- Participating in team oriented zoo projects as needed.
- May be exposed to hazardous materials.
- Relating positively with diverse groups of people (guests, staff and volunteers).

APPLICATION:

Application will be accepted six months to one year in advance. Selection of students will be based on academic background, practical experience, motivation and availability in scheduling. Students not meeting the above requirements will not be considered. Applicants must submit to a background check and drug screen before start date.

In order for your application to be considered, it must include the following:

- a) Resume and Cover letter
- b) Letter of recommendation (minimum of 2)
- c) Three references with current phone numbers

The zoo reserves the right to choose the student(s) that best meet our requirements and successfully complete the interview process. Interested applicants can submit their application papers and direct questions to:

Jeanette Nash LVT
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269-979-1351 Ext: 179