Veterinary Externship General Program Description

Objective:
Humane Alliance of Western North Carolina (HAWNC) is a nationally recognized high-volume, high-quality spay/neuter non-profit organization located in Asheville, NC. We offer a veterinary externship program for the purpose of exposing senior veterinary students to a veterinary practice that concentrates in the area of companion animal surgical sterilization and to introduce them to a business that functions as a non-profit organization. We focus on the principle that the terms “high-volume” and “high-quality” are indeed compatible as long as the rules of sound medicine and surgery are strictly enforced. The big picture here at HAWNC is “animal population control through surgery, not through euthanasia.” It is the choice that saves lives.

Description:
The externship is offered for a maximum of two weeks (ten regular business days, 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM) at our campus in Asheville. The student will be expected to participate in the training of all medical positions (veterinarian, technician, assistant). Our 13,000-square foot facility has six surgery suites and can accommodate 250 patients. Our routine daily case load ranges from 80 to 160 surgeries. There were 22,994 sterilizations performed at this facility in 2008. Seven veterinarians and twenty-one support personnel comprise our full time staff. No stipend is awarded for this position. Housing is provided on the premises at no cost.

Duties/Expectations:
1. Participate in the multi-positional (defined under description) training program with an open mind and good attitude.
2. Maintain a daily journal.
3. Contractually commit to the HAWNC “pay back” program (one week volunteer veterinary service to a spay/neuter clinic approved by HAWNC instructors to be performed within one year of graduation).
4. Any additional expectations required by the individual veterinary college.

Goals:
Our desire is to provide the student with “hands on” experience and practical knowledge in all areas of our medical process. This encompasses every aspect of a patient’s experience with us including disease control, patient assessment and selection, behavior, patient preparation, mechanics of sterile surgical technique, record keeping, anesthetic and pain management protocol, and patient monitoring and support. We provide service to healthy animals that are good surgical candidates. Medical cases and compromised patients are referred back to their regular veterinarian.
Application / Request Process:
1. A senior veterinary student who has completed their surgery labs.
2. Submission of HAWNC program application and acceptance of program rules and regulations.
3. A personal statement describing what attracted the candidate to the program.
4. Two letters of recommendation from faculty that are of the rank of assistant professor or higher (one from the Department of Surgery).
5. Successful application to the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board for a temporary “veterinary student internship” license, including submission of a dean’s letter to the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board confirming university enrollment and tentative graduation date. This form can be found here: http://www.ncvmb.org/assets/Forms/INTERN.pdf
6. Candidates should submit application materials via email.
7. Phone interview (optional)

Evaluation:
The instructor in charge will complete a HAWNC evaluation and any requested university evaluation upon completion of the program.

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