

# **Veterinary Externship**

## **Program Outline**

Vancouver Aquarium

January 2011

## **Mission Statement of the Vancouver Aquarium**

The Vancouver Aquarium is a self-supporting, non-profit association dedicated to effecting the conservation of aquatic life through display and interpretation, education, research, and direct action.

## **General Statement**

Located in the heart of beautiful Stanley Park in Vancouver Canada, the Vancouver Aquarium is internationally recognized as one of Canada's foremost centers for aquatic education, research and conservation. We have an exciting opportunity for veterinary students to work in our Animal Health Department. Veterinary externs will work closely with the Vancouver Aquarium's veterinary staff, which includes a board-certified veterinarian and two veterinary technicians, in the medical management of a large captive display collection that includes marine mammals, terrestrial mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and a large variety of native and tropical fish. The veterinary extern will also assist the veterinary medical staff in providing medical management for approximately 120 live-stranded marine mammals (mostly harbour seals) which are cared for by the Vancouver Aquarium.

## **Program Description**

Externships are offered from April 1 to September 15 of each year. Students should plan to spend two to four weeks at the Vancouver Aquarium. Priority for choosing time slots is according to rank during the selection process. Please contact Dr. Martin Haulena for more information at [Martin.Haulena@vanaqua.org](mailto:Martin.Haulena@vanaqua.org). Please email, fax (604-659-3469) or mail completed resumes/applications to:

Dr. Martin Haulena DVM, MSc, Dipl. ACZM  
Staff Veterinarian  
Vancouver Aquarium  
PO Box 3232  
Vancouver  
British Columbia, Canada  
V6B 3X8

## **Essential Responsibilities**

### Veterinary Medicine

Assist veterinarians and veterinary staff with monitoring cases, participating in daily rounds, developing treatment options, and diagnostic and surgical procedures as required. Maintain complete patient records. Students should be aware that the number of clinical cases requiring hands-on care is low at a public display facility and the majority of time is spent developing health management programs for the collection animals. Students should

be prepared to take advantage of unsupervised "down time" to read relevant literature and to pursue learning objectives.

### Project

Students will be responsible for doing a literature review on a veterinary topic of their choice relevant to the Vancouver Aquarium externship experience. They will present their findings to the husbandry staff during their last week in the form of a noon hour PowerPoint presentation.

### Husbandry

Each student is required to assist husbandry personnel with their duties.

### Science

Each student is required to participate in necropsies including record keeping, data entry, sample taking and storage, and cleaning. The student is also invited to assist with ongoing research projects.

### Laboratory

Duties include processing blood samples, water quality analysis, and performing routine laboratory analyses.

### Stranding

Assist the Marine Mammal Rescue program with the rescue, transport and care of stranded marine mammals as required. The student will spend at least one day every week at the rehabilitation facility.

## **Requirements**

The veterinary externship program is open to students that will be in their third or fourth year of veterinary studies at the time of their stay at the Vancouver Aquarium. The student is encouraged to develop and pursue a learning objective that can be carried out at the aquarium over their stay and include those ideas in the letter of intent. Students will be notified of their acceptance into the program by April 30<sup>th</sup>, one year prior to the planned externship.

## **Accommodation**

All candidates are expected to find their own accommodations in Vancouver. For more information on accommodation and maps, please find resources like the "Student Guide for Living in Vancouver" on our intern webpage:

<http://www.vanaqua.org/volunteer/internships.html>

## Application Deadline and Number of Positions

Internship Placement Dates	Number of Positions	Application deadline
April 1 – Sep 15th, 2012	12 unpaid	March 30, 2011

Resumes/applications for externships are due by March 30, ONE year prior to the planned externship. For example, applications for 2012 externships are due by March 30, 2011.

Please note these dates are subject to change.

### How to apply

Please send resume, letter of interest, and two reference letters to [Martin.Haulena@vanaqua.org](mailto:Martin.Haulena@vanaqua.org). Your letter of interest should include what experience you have, what you hope to gain from the placement, how you heard about the placement and your career goals. The student is encouraged to develop and pursue a learning objective that can be carried out at the aquarium over their stay and include those ideas in the letter of intent. Students will be notified of their acceptance into the program by April 30<sup>th</sup>, one year prior to the planned externship. Successful applicants will be contacted. Good luck to all our applicants. Thank you for your interest in the Vancouver Aquarium's Internship program.